

## UN EGYPT COVID-19 INSIGHTS SERIES

### DATA SNAPSHOT ON COVID-19

#### IN EGYPT: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

No. 6/2020

#### 1. Overview

The Data Snapshot provides a brief on how COVID-19 is expected to affect the well-being of children and young people in Egypt, using the latest available evidence and data, and presents the programmatic interventions that UNICEF has made and plans to make to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic.

#### 2. Key vulnerable groups or sectors in focus

Children and young people (0-24 years), who make about 52% of the population are considered to be among the most vulnerable groups to COVID-19's social and economic impact. However, even within this group there are specific sub-groups who are more vulnerable and are likely to be impacted more by its impact. The data brief, while mentioning the negative impact of pandemic on children and young people, digs deeper to explain its effect on the sub-groups who are more vulnerable to its shock, like that of migrant, refugee, homeless, disabled, poorer and marginalized children and young people.

#### 3. Key insights from the knowledge product

The Data Snapshot highlights the need for prioritizing children and youth in our response on COVID-19 and provides the ways in which the pandemic is affecting the children and youth is likely to affect them in the near future. It also discussed the steps that the UNICEF is taking and has planned to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis.

1. School closures have affected an estimated 25.3 million students in Egypt. Disruptions in learning and lack of peer interaction may affect social and behavioral development and the suspension of school feeding programmes may affect children's nutritional status.
2. Poverty: Poverty affects young people's access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, and decent jobs. The global economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 crisis is expected to hinder Egypt's economic growth, leading to job losses and a decrease in household income.
3. Exposure to violence: With 93% of children 1-14 exposed to violent disciplinary practices, quarantining and lack of access to protection services may increase the prevalence of violence against children, youth and women.
4. Refugees and migrants: Egypt is host to more than 5 million refugees and more than 256,000 refugees and asylum seekers, who are vulnerable to poverty and violence, have limited access to quality services and have no access to decent livelihood opportunities. An economic recession can further increase

deprivation of refugees and migrants by limiting livelihood opportunities and the public resources available to support them.

5. **Mental health:** The disruption of young people's daily routines, their exposure to violence, and the fear for their own safety/security as well as the safety of those around them can lead to anxiety, stress, and other long-term mental health issues.

#### 4. Policy Implications

The government of Egypt has been quick to respond to COVID-19 to mitigate the negative impacts on vulnerable populations. Below are some of the measures taken:

- **Social Assistance:** a one-off payment (EGP 500 offered for 3 months to informal workers registered at the database of Ministry of Labor and Manpower) were delivered and an additional 160,000 households were added to Takaful and Karama Cash Transfers programme.
- **Social Insurance:** Exemption of social insurance contributions for few months for all enterprises and promoting payments through e-wallets, structuring of a database of casual workers, expected at 12 million while the currently registered in the National Organization for Social Insurance are only 417,000 workers. The government is also studying the feasibility to extend the same support to 12,424 tour guides who have been negativity impacted.
- **Public health sector support** measures were put in place accounting for 11 billion EGP for medical supplies, risk allowances and exceptional bonuses for medical staff.
- **Suspension of educational facilities operation** and transition to remote learning announcement of initial COVID-19. In parallel, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education is working to accelerate the implementation of the reform, speeding up the roll-out the new curriculum, access to quality early childhood education, and expanding teacher professional development.

#### Programmatic relevance

There is not much of programme relevance, but the Brief provides a good summary of efforts made by UNICEF through its different programmatic interventions to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic using the latest data and evidence as the guiding factor.

#### 5. Partners and Donors

UNICEF organized the production of this brief primarily with its own funding with some support from Allianz. This data brief is a part of the Data Snapshot series that uses recent evidence and integrates data from multiple sources of issues related to children and youth in Egypt.

#### 6. Link to the full knowledge product:

- [https://lnkd.in/ekF44\\_N](https://lnkd.in/ekF44_N) (English version)
- <https://lnkd.in/e5cckPX> (Arabic version)

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