The Influence of the “Hayah Karima” Initiative on the Standard of Living of Egyptian Citizens: Evidence from the Menofia Governorate

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The Influence of the “Hayah Karima” Initiative on the Standard of Living of Egyptian Citizens:

Evidence from the Menofia Governorate

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Abstract
Abstract

Social protection programs have been used in several developing countries in order to aid in their development efforts. In Egypt, “Hayah Karima”, an initiative which represents a developmental initiative endorsed by Egypt’s President Al-Sisi, aims to minimize the developmental gaps among citizens in terms of standards of living. “Hayah Karima” is based on governmental finance in partnership with the private sector. This paper covers this initiative and its different aspects as well as their possible impact on the standards of living for citizens in El-Menofia Governorate. The paper also includes 71 surveys conducted with different partners and beneficiaries of the initiative.

The conducted interviews with the selected sample took place through different mediums such as face-to-face interviews, phone calls, emails, and via mail. The sample consists of citizens, non-governmental organizations, private sector and governmental bodies within sectors such as healthcare, education, civil services, and infrastructure. The results show that villages, Ashmoun and El-Shohada, in El-Menofia governorate were among those that benefited the most from “Hayah Karima” initiative in all its aspects of service, especially in education as well as the decentralization of access to civil services (issuing birth certificates...etc.). However, delays in the implementation of some of the planned interventions were reported. ‘Hayah Karima’ initiative is relatively not studied intensively in development research, hence more focus towards it is recommended for future research in the field of social protection in Egypt.
Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 An introduction to social protection programs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

The role and scope of social protection programs have increased significantly through time in the developing world. "Safety net programs cover about 2.5 billion people." (Banerjee et al., 2022, 1). NGOs play a key role acting as a connector between partners, whether with individual donors, private and public sectors, government or any other organization whether national or international (OECD, 2019)

Designing social protection programs is challenging and the context in which the programs are implemented is of key importance due to the difference it entails in the design of programs (Banerjee et al., 2022). While we can find plenty of successful social protection programs around the world, it is important to consider that a program being successful in one country, or context does not guarantee its success in another. A number of countries have started to invest in designing efficient social protection programs targeting poverty elevation and increasing equality. In South Africa, for example, the government launched the National Development Plan (NDP), aiming at reducing poverty. The plan is divided into 5-year Medium-Term Strategic Frameworks (MTSFs) to provide a guiding path for implementation of the plan. ‘’The Medium-Term Strategic Frameworks provided a prime avenue for the government of South Africa aligning national and sectoral development plans with comprehensive international goals, in this case the SDGs’’ (OECD, EU-SPS, 2019, 15).

It is closely related to how well it relates to a social program may fit a context is the role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play (Gobary, 2018). Since their inception, NGOs have had an essential role in the development sector worldwide through interventions that connect to the people in need (Banks & Hulme, 2012). In Egypt, NGOs have been a significant
player for a long time, especially the charitable type (Adly, 2014). The Islamic Charity Association was established in 1878 and the Coptic Charitable Endeavors Association was established in 1881, which set forth charitable work to be one of the primary objectives of NGOs in Egypt. However, many associations that were primarily established for charitable purposes have recently begun shifting their focus towards developmental projects or combining charity and development. Contemporary developmental thinking is based on the active involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in development as part of an institutional partnership between the state and the private sector. “For the first time in the history of relations between NGOs and the Egyptian state after 1952, a new philosophy for the relationship between the two parties was considered. This new relationship is characterized by larger space of freedom and higher degree of confidence, which can be a reasonable base for a real effective and influential development partnership.” (Adly, 2019, p.1).

“Egypt’s NGO sector quickly have taken advantage of the political opening. Human rights organizations have initiated projects related to constitutional reform, judicial reform, and transitional justice.” (Herrold, 2016, p.189). The number of NGOs registered with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity has dramatically increased in recent years, from 37,500 in 2012, to 43,500 in 2013 and 50,572 in 2019 (Adly, 2019). This growth demonstrates that the increase occurred within the framework of Law No. 84 of 2002, which contained provisions that somewhat restricted civil work, so it was widely criticized by workers in the civil sector. Odd enough is that Law No. 70 of 2015 amending certain provisions of Law No. 79 of 1975 on social insurance, the new law witnessed an increase of 2,992 associations in 2017 (ILO 2021). This shows that NGOs continue to grow in numbers regardless of the legal framework, or how much freedom of movement laws can provide. The fact of the matter is that this crucial point is the appropriate entry
point for the transition to the type, quality, and extent to which civil work can actively participate in the developmental process, either independently or through the formation of partnerships with state institutions (Adly, 2019, 1).

Egypt’s government launched “Hayah Karima” in 2019 as a presidential initiative and then it evolved into a national project/institution in 2021 (Hayah Karima, 2019). “The initiative targets the poorest villages with a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach” (Egypt Today, 2021, 5). The foundation of this program started after the Egyptian revolution of 2011, in which the change of the political system immensely affected the economy and created a growing gap among citizens. Therefore, such an initiative was important for achieving social protection for a category of the Egyptian citizens. The initiative was established for the purpose of developing the neediest villages in Egypt that suffer from lack of the basic services such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure including electricity and water (The British University in Egypt, 2021).

The main purpose of “Hayah Karima” initiative is to minimize the development gaps among citizens in terms of rights and standard of living. This could be achieved through investing in the quality of life of Egyptian citizens, as explained at the first conference of the "Hayah Karima" initiative, which took place at the 7th National Youth Conference on July 30, 2019, and as a result the ‘Hayah Karima’ Institution was later established with the help of youth volunteers (Hayah Karima, 2019). The institution seeks humanitarian intervention to preserve Egyptian citizens' dignity and their rights to a decent life, as well as develop and recognize whose potential. This is targeted towards establishing a measurable shift and devoting all charitable and development efforts mainly based on voluntary work. It is notable that for the first time at the public level, 23 civil society organizations and more than 20 ministries and agencies have met to put this important project into action, with the help of Egyptian volunteers for charitable and
development work through the Hayah Karima institution to serve as a model for all citizens in the volunteering sector (The British University in Egypt, 2021).

Moreover, the Egyptian government established other programs such as “Takaful and Karama”, which was established mainly for financial aid purposes. The program aims to provide the family in need with a monthly aid of money. While “Hayah Karima” initiative differs in adding non-financial aspects beside the financial aid, the program works through the Egyptian government to address the needs of these villages through gathering data and conducting surveys. After considering all factors for achieving the projected equity and social justice among all citizens.

The Egyptian government monitors the implementation of “Hayah Karima” initiative through an internal committee, which ensures that financing and expenditure is aligned to the planned the budget that is reliant on several sources such as local donations, international donations from the World Bank, and partnerships with the private sector (Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, 2021).

As reported by Adly (2016), “Hayah Karima” covers many disciplines, including education, healthcare, civil services, the state’s administrative services, and infrastructure. The initiative considers details of housing and its requirements that range from apartments, land, green areas, facilities, and appliances; all would upgrade the quality of life to those citizens (Hayah Karima, 2022).

On the other hand, “Hayah Karima” initiative has built a network of affiliated clinics, health centers, and hospitals in the covered villages. Moreover, “Hayah Karima” initiative provides civil services for the citizens in their villages instead of the suffering effort and time for obtaining those services at centralized cities far from them and hence paves the way towards decentralization (Hayah Karima, 2022).
Thus, it was necessary to move on a larger scale and within the framework of integrating and unifying efforts between Egyptian state institutions, private sector organizations, civil society and development partners. For the first time, this initiative aims to provide a comprehensive set of services that address a variety of health, social, and living issues; and that is regarded as a significant responsibility. The responsibility will be coordinated and shared by various sectors and organizations for providing these services to Egyptian citizens, particularly members of the most in-need-of-assistance individuals and groups; so that they can live the better life they deserve. Hence, in order to be able to study the initiative and its effects on the quality of life, we need to assess the dimensions on which the program is focused (Hayah Karima, 2022).

1.2 Definitions of terms

- **Quality of life**: quality can be defined through three pillars; social indicators, subjective well-being indicators and economic indicators. The social indicators are mainly health and crime levels, while the subjective wellbeing could be measured through the evaluation of people towards their lives and societies. The economic indicator assesses the ability of people to select the goods and services that meet their needs (Diener and Suh, 1997).

- **Influence**: having an effect whether directly or indirectly on the wellbeing of an individual. (Beder, 2011)

1.3 The research question and sub-questions:

The main research question is: To what extent does “Hayah Karima” initiative influence the quality of living of Egyptian citizens?

This research question could be divided into sub-questions as follows:
- What is the possible influence of the healthcare aspect of “Hayah Karima’ on the quality of living of Egyptian citizens?
- What is the possible influence of the educational aspect of “Hayah Karima’ on the quality of living of Egyptian citizens?
- What is the possible influence of the civil services aspect of “Hayah Karima’ on the quality of living of Egyptian citizens?
- What is the possible influence of the infrastructural aspect of “Hayah Karima’ on the quality of living of Egyptian citizens?

1.4 Contribution of the current thesis

This research contributes to the literature by measuring the impact of “Hayah Karima” initiative on the standard of living and the quality of life of the Egyptian citizens in El-Menofia governorate, which opens a new area of research for evaluating and monitoring the governmental initiatives for the social protection in Egypt. So far, no study has investigated or analyzed the influence of “Hayah Karima” initiative in all its aspects. However, there are studies which investigate the evaluation and monitoring of the budget of “Hayah Karima” initiative, they focus on this pillar only. “Hayah Karima” initiative achieves more progress in this year for different services such as civil service, infrastructure, healthcare, and housing, which are aspects that were not covered before.

The larger scope of this study features interviews with constituencies rather than only analyzing the official numbers for “Hayah Karima,” especially with NGO’s and private sector. The governmental bodies have issued statistical reports of the results of “Hayah Karima” initiative
1.5 Outline of the thesis

This thesis is divided into six chapters. In the beginning, Chapter One deals with the introduction to this paper, discussing social protection programs, ‘Hayah Karima’ initiative and its history. Chapter Two reviews the literature on the topic in details, the chapter is divided into 6 subsections that cover literature on development in general as well as social protection programs and their benefits, in addition to a more contextual related literature to Egypt and its development environment. Then, Chapter Three describes the contextual framework of this paper, which focuses on the variables used to measure the change in living standards according to previous literature and other contexts where it was similarly applied.

Chapter Four outlines the methodology used in this paper, which includes the sample description, the ethical considerations, as well as the data collection process and the challenges that were faced. Chapter Five presents the findings of the data collection process, where a detailed explanation of the data is provided. Finally, Chapter Six concludes this paper through highlighting the major takeaways from all chapters, as well as providing a way forward for future research on the topic.
Chapter 2: Literature Review

This literature review discusses relevant research in the areas of social protection initiatives, sustainable development, and human rights. It will also tackle studies done on Egyptian developmental initiatives, with a special focus on the initiative of “Hayah Karima.”

When investigating researches on sustainable development around the world generally and in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) specifically, there have been many studies conducted (Ministry of planning and economic development, 2021; League of Arab states, 2021; McKenna, 2013). The specific nature of MENA region and other developing countries is quite challenging in terms of focusing on sustainability. This is due to the absence of prior developmental standards and the poor management of resources. Hence, it is more difficult to monitor and track social protection programs as they are intertwined with the local context. However, social programs have an essential importance to the development path of developing countries, hence special attention must be given to studying and understanding the influence of developmental initiatives (Elashmawy, 2021; Damir et al., 2019; Abdelhafez et al., 2019).

Natural resources play a major role in influencing the development process of a country. The main natural resources of each country must include air, water, and energy – such as electricity, gas, oil and others. While there are basic recourses that are essential, other rights and services can be essential for a society; the services provided for citizens in most countries including education, healthcare, and human rights (McKenna, 2013). Recently, due to the increasing environmental challenge that the world is facing, there is a higher importance of working on the sustainability of resources and sustainable development in order to maintain and improve the environmental and social standing of nations. Thus, one of the main pillars of sustainable development for developing countries is maintaining basic services such as infrastructure,
education, and healthcare. In recent years, Developmental initiatives such as “Takaful and Karama” and “Hayah Karima” were established to provide fundamental services and infrastructure developments for all the Egyptian citizens in all governorates and ensure they can live a decent life.

2.1 Social protection initiatives in the global environment

Social protection programs have always proved to be essential in the development programs of any developing countries. There has been a significant increase in the provision of social protection programs, ‘In the past decade, the number of developing countries running conditional cash transfer programs has doubled’ (Benerjee et al, 1, 2022). Cash transfer programs help through increasing the adaptive capacity of the household to face the challenges being targeted by the program (Wouterse, 2018).

However, in specific times, they can comparatively be of more importance. The COVID-19 crisis in Africa shed more light on the increasing social protection need all over the continent as it had severe implications and socioeconomic effects (Benerjee et al, 2022). For example, Negative impacts included inadequate health, poor educational and technological infrastructure, lack of social protection, gender inequality, large informal economies, lack of access to basic services, narrowing of fiscal policy space, and sometimes high risk of debt crisis in many countries. A crisis that disproportionately affected the poorest and most vulnerable citizens. Governments in Africa have realized that social protection programs need to be scaled up to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and to prepare for other unanticipated occurrences in the future. However, another issue comes into picture, which is having the budget for such programs. Through multilateral development cooperation as well as multisectoral national and regional partnerships,
it also encourages development partners to provide financing support to the poorest communities in order to help them create fiscal space to increase public spending on sustainable and equitable social protection. (Hantamalala and Meron, 2021).

Over time, social protection programs have evolved. In case of Latin America, prior to the 1980s, only universal subsidies for roughly food or fuel purchases were provided to people who were not protected by the social security systems, which were mostly available in the metropolitan formal sector (Ferreria, 2010). Since the 1990s, the introduction of conditional cash transfers and non-contributory social insurance programs, such as "social pensions," has greatly improved the incidence of social assistance and expanded its scope. However, the organic expansion of subsidized social assistance alongside the more established social insurance system - mostly funded by taxes on formal sector jobs - has resulted in a dual system that is neither appropriately equal nor effective (Ferreira, 2010).

Nearly all health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean were built upon institutions with distinct organizational segments with a number of unique characteristics. This translates into high out-of-pocket expenses (31 percent of total health expenditures) and inadequate prioritizing of public budgets, which results in deficits in infrastructure and human resources (ILO, 2021). In response to COVID-19 pandemic, there are three distinct health sub-systems, according to the segmented and fragmented organizations: the public system, which is supported by general taxation; the social security system, which is supported by payroll contributions; and the private system, which is supported by direct payments or voluntary insurance (ILO, 2021).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) collaborates closely with a number of international financial institutions, including the World Bank (with which a cooperation agreement in 2020 was signed for specific thematic areas, including social protection), the Asian
Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), altogether in order to assist nations in search for novel mechanisms that can increase the fiscal space available for social protection extension strategies and policies. Beneficiary countries are countries with limited financial capacity to invest in social protection or with increased needs as a result of crises, natural disasters or climate change. The ILO will investigate various options and develop specific proposals for a new regional financing facility, such as the Regional Social Protection Fund for Africa that would complement and support domestic resource mobilization efforts to achieve universal social protection. (ILO, 2021).

2.2 The sustainable development in Egypt

The second section of literature reviews is concerned with the sustainable development in Egypt.

There have been significant advancements in human development in Egypt over the past few decades, including expanding access to education, decreasing the incidence of communicable diseases, and increasing life expectancy. Egypt has one of the fastest-growing middle classes in the Middle East and North Africa and has one of the largest economies in the Arab world. This expansion has brought with it its own challenges, which are typical of developing and expanding nations. For instance, a growing middle class will have higher expectations for the provision of public services, and a population with more education will anticipate better employment opportunities. Additionally, a few factors in Egypt add to these difficulties; following the social unrest that started in 2011, economic growth slowed down, while both informality and unemployment rates remain high. The population is still relatively young and growing. Additionally, the government's capacity and transparency are inadequate, which limits its ability to provide services appropriately. As one of the Sustainable Development Goals and Egypt's
Vision 2030’s central tenets, implementing an integrated development strategy can produce greater returns than the sum of their individual effects, and this can result in remarkable advancement across all development spheres. Over the past few decades, Egypt has made significant advancements in human development (UN, 2020). Even though the individual scenarios still have trade-offs, the interventions work together to make those trade-offs less restrictive. The nation is well-positioned to accomplish numerous additions to its SDG and Vision 2030 objectives by successfully implementing this comprehensive strategy.

McKenna (2013) concentrates on assessing the effectiveness of Egypt for performing policies of development especially water sustainability. McKenna (2013) concludes that there is a remarkable waste of agricultural water, so it is important to initiate a new Egyptian policy for sustainable development of resources, especially after the revolution of January 25. While Badawy (2012) targets the aspect of financing for getting resources and improving services and social protection through conducted surveys by global experts and social inspectors, the findings assign that Egypt could control its administrative and cash aspects through compliance and eligibility for ensuring that social protection is directed as planned. Moreover, a paper studied inequality for women in terms of gender, economic, social, and power relation in education, especially in specific governorates in Upper Egypt (Hosny, 2015). Hosny’s survey was conducted over a sample that included educators, practitioners, and policy makers and the findings concluded that there is a need for building social accountability within the villages communities (Hosny, 2015). This is seriously considered in the objectives of “Hayah Karima.”
2.3 Reports of development and human rights

The third section of the literature review is related to the international and local reports for development. Some of these reports are prepared by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development such as the report of “Development is right for all” (Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, 2021). This report is focusing on the right of all Egyptian citizens for decent life. The human development reports are coping with the 2030 Egypt vision which mirrors the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs emphasize the importance of partnerships, “leaving no one behind,” and collective action to achieve a common objective. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the world with a comprehensive framework for addressing the most pressing social and environmental issues of our time. In collaboration with NGOs, the private sector, and the UN agencies, Egypt has developed a vision for the year 2030. This vision is designed as an action plan with indicators, baselines, and goals.

Egypt has implemented reforms in a variety of areas to move in the direction of its vision for the year 2030; building highways and infrastructure expansion and reforming the public sector. To achieve Vision 2030, Egypt must consider overcoming several obstacles, including a growing population, an increasing lack of water resources, corruption, and political unrest in neighboring nations. Partnerships play a key role in overcoming such obstacles (Abdel Latif et al., 2018).

Other reports are prepared by the committee of human rights through determining policies, concepts, and pillars of human rights by building new training strategy for childhood and women in all sectors (Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights, 2021). Also, the League of Arab States publishes a report of financing sustainable development in Egypt regarding inequality and poverty. This report targets the importance of sustainable development especially after Covid-19.
pandemic through studying the role of the business sector in financing foundations like “Takaful and Karama” and “Hayah Karima” for providing social protection through education, healthcare, and other services for the Egyptian citizens in the most deprived villages around Egypt (Abdel Latif et al., 2018).

2.4 Studies related to the Egyptian Initiatives

The fourth section of literature review is related to Egyptian social protection initiatives taking ‘Takaful and Karama’ as an Egyptian example of a cash transfer program. Abdelhafez et al. (2019) examine the community by monitoring and evaluating “Takaful and Karama” foundation through conducting interviews with community monitors and ministry officials. The researchers concluded that the policy alternatives provide guarantees for achieving the initiative goals of development. Through conducting an impact evaluation study, Breisinger et al. (2018) used a quantitative approach by constructing a household survey focusing on household expenditure, wellbeing, health care, schooling, and income. This study found that the program has helped significantly in increasing household consumption and child nutritional status, and it decreased the prevalence of poverty among the beneficiaries (Breisinger et al., 2018).

The Ministry of Social Solidarity supports the initiative of “Takaful and Karama” through borrowing from the World Bank and providing clear guidelines for the committee, which is responsible for achieving quality of the beneficiaries’ education and health. This committee consists of members who are elected periodically (Abdelhafez et al., 2019).

The context for such Egyptian programs is very challenging as the Egyptian villages’ limited resources and high population density will need efficient and smart resources allocation in order to be able to make the targeted improvement (Damir et al., 2019). Generally, the problem lies in the scarcity of resources against the ever-increasing demand. Clearly, there is an alarming
gap between the demand in the local market within Egypt and the requirements of different villages ranging from basic services to all social needs. In order to bridge this gap, Egypt’s government resorts to obtaining loans from the World Bank and it also works on developing and implementing local initiatives to help provide the infrastructure, education, healthcare, and other services for villages in different governorates through concentrating on the pillars of sustainable development (Damir et al., 2019).

2.5 “Hayah Karima” initiatives and the related literature

The fifth section of literature reviews is concerned with “Hayah Karima” foundation in Egypt. The British University in Egypt (2021) conducted a study to determine the opportunities and challenges of “Hayah Karima”, as a substitute financing method to the traditional financing methods for social protection programs. The analysis of numbers in the past two years of “Hayah Karima” program indicates development for the main aspects of social protection in the neediest villages in Egypt. The findings state that the substitute financing methods are limited to partnership with public or private sector, stocks (al-sukuk), and green bonds. Some concepts such as transparency, legal issues, and accountability are perceived critical for financing this kind of program. The availability and updated database help determine the needed aspects and areas of financing (British University in Egypt, 2021). It is reported that in the first phase, around 1.8 million citizens in 11 different governorates across Egypt have benefited from the program, with 71,000 job opportunities to be offered in 9 governorates (Moneim, 2021).

2.6 Research Gap and the contribution of this thesis

After the previous discussion of literature review which consists of studies that are related to the Egyptian initiatives such as “Takaful and Karama” and “Hayah Karima,” the sustainable
development in Egypt and its financing methods, and the local and international reports on sustainable development in Egypt. There is not enough literature and studies found on ‘Hayah Karima’ initiative. Using surveys as the data collection method, this current study is targeted at the stakeholders related to “Hayah Karima” initiative including citizens, governmental bodies, private sector, and NGOs, which was not available in the previous studies. This study may be considered the first study in Egypt to address the aspects of “Hayah Karima” initiative and its consequences based on survey for participants of governmental bodies and citizens.
Chapter 3: Conceptual Framework

While the term quality of life is quite subjective, in this paper we follow Maslow’s theory on quality of life that states: ‘Quality of life is a developmental task that involves satisfying needs in a hierarchical manner starting from the most basic physiological need to an ever more complex social and personal needs’ (Sirgy, 331, 2016). In this paper, we will focus on certain dimensions of quality of life as per European Commission. These dimensions are directly related to the social and personal needs of individuals in a society; material living conditions (income, consumption, and material conditions), health, education, economics and physical safety, governance and basic rights (European Commission, 2023). These interdependent dimensions will assist us in analyzing ‘Hayah Karima’ Program more accurately.

There are certain codependent factors that affect social protection levels and quality of life in Egypt which are poverty, health, education, and inequality. Being able to plan effectively and overcome any sudden decline in the economic well-being of individuals has a significant impact on their quality of life (European Commission, 2023).

Several theories have examined aspects of poverty and tried to understand what exactly makes people poor and how poverty is a multidimensional challenge. These theories discuss the nature of economic underdevelopment, the formation of human capital, structural elements in the nation, cultural elements in the society, and the geographical location. They also explain that absent or insufficient incentive systems could negatively affect the ability of individuals to achieve their full capabilities (Addae-Korankye, 2019). The rate of poverty affects the inclusion of social protection programs in Egypt. In turn, this affects the quality of services that Egyptian citizens receive, which includes education and healthcare (European Commission, 2023).
Education plays a pivotal role in the development process of any country for being a direct contributor to the human capital in society. It is an essential factor that determines how far individuals progress in life, what careers they can pursue and thus affecting their quality of life (European Commission, 2023). The percentage of illiterate individuals depends on the number of schools and the rate of education in villages, which is usually lower when the financial resources are low. As Teese et. al. (2007) concluded from theories of education, both developed and developing nations' educational systems are marked by persistent inequality. The knowledge economy and globalization have increased the importance of significant opportunity and outcome gaps. More people, rich and poor alike, are reliant on successful educational attainment and post-secondary education. However, there is still social division regarding access to high-quality education, academic success, and opportunities for higher education, which has implications for economic opportunities, personal development, and the growth of civic and community life.

Health is an essential variable in the quality-of-life equation, it is a fundamental contributor to human capital (European Commission, 2023). However, access to health care is of equal importance as differences in health care access between citizens from different social classes are known as health inequalities. Since the Black Report of 1980, plenty of research has been done to find out what causes such inequalities and what can be done to reduce them. The Black Report proposed five theories regarding the underlying causes of health disparities, artefact, selection, behavioral, cultural, and structural. The report suggested that the structural theory offered the most effective explanation. Since then, these theories have been developed to include intelligence in selection theory (McCartney et al., 2013). Even when applying different statistical measures of social status (such as income, area deprivation, education, social class, and occupational group),
the wide presentation of disparities in health outcomes severely undermines the theory’s efficacy. (McCartney et al., 2013).

Depending on the forementioned factors, different countries, social classes, and backgrounds usually have varied degrees of health. Socially relevant categories including race, ethnicity, gender, education, caste, income, occupation, and others are used to examine health disparities across the world between countries or states, and within geographies. Psychosocial, material deprivation, health behavior, environmental, and selection explanations are among the various theories that attempt to explain group-level differences in health (Arcaya et al., 2015).

There is a negative coloration between healthcare and poverty as health deteriorates as poverty levels increase. Therefore, the quality and rate of education or illiteracy as well as healthcare services is directly related to poverty and availability of resources. This is also relevant to the issue of inequality, as the poorer citizens are, the lower chances can exist to improve living standards and opportunities. Inequality can be divided into several types due to age, gender, having children, and opportunities. Thus, inequality with all its types is also directly relevant to availability of resources and funding levels (Makram-Ebeid et al., 2021). As per the above-mentioned theories on poverty, health inequality, and education inequality, it can be deduced that such factors directly affect the living standards of societies.

The common denominator that affects all these factors is poverty. As poverty can be measured through different indicators, in this paper we will focus on the multidimensional poverty measure, as we have seen above how poverty is a multidimensional issue. The Multidimensional Poverty Measure is ‘an international measure of acute multidimensional poverty for 100 developing countries’ (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 1, 2022). This
multidimensional measure of poverty complements the traditional monetary measures of poverty, through focusing on health (nutrition, child mortality), education (years of schooling, school attendance) and living standards (cooking fuel, sanitation, housing, assets, ...etc.), hence it helps in forming a complete picture of poverty (Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, 2022). Therefore, Egypt’s major social issue is poverty. In absolute terms, more than a quarter of Egypt’s population are poor. There are numerous factors contributing to Egypt's growing poverty, as in other nations at crisis times. The high susceptibility of many households to social shocks is one of them. After social risks have occurred, many families have fallen into severe poverty. Even though the nation has a wide range of highly developed protection systems, typical social risk groups like the disabled and women-headed households are overrepresented among the poor. While Egypt has made significant progress in education and health, the quality of education and health indicators remains low.

A remarkable progress has been made to literacy programs and access to education in Egypt. However, continuing education for girls continues to be a problem, particularly in Upper Egypt. Traditionally, the Arab family typically raises its children in an authoritarian and overprotective manner. Gender equality attitudes do not seem to be changing as quickly as people would expect. A recent World Economic Forum survey measuring women's empowerment has placed Egypt last of 58 nations. The ratio of girls to boys in primary education and the proportion of women working outside of agriculture are lower in the generally poorer Upper Egypt than in the cities and the northern Egypt, which is a true indicator of gender inequality. Because poverty, healthcare, education, and inequality issues obviously affect the role of social protection programs in Egypt, initiating “Hayah Karima” was essential for the purpose of elevating the living standard of Egyptian Citizens (Makram-Ebeid et al., 2021).
As per the literature review, the above diagram was constructed to demonstrate how the multidimensional poverty might have an impact on living standards. Education, inequality, and healthcare are considered dependent variables which have a causal relationship with the independent variable, poverty. Therefore, as poverty increases, inequality increases, and education and healthcare standards decrease.

 Nonetheless, social protection programs such as “Hayah Karima” serve as a moderating variable that is targeted to decrease poverty, which in turn could have an impact on increasing healthcare and education quality and lowering inequality. This consequently could affect the living standards of individuals.

The “Hayah Karima” initiative began with the eradication of poverty, as the initiative allocated the amount of EGP 103 billion for the development of 277 villages in which the
poverty rate exceeds 70%. Coordinating with 16 NGOs for implementation, they divided the initiative into three stages, which are:

- The first stage: includes villages with poverty rates of 70% or more, the neediest villages that need urgent interventions.
- The second stage: includes villages with poverty rates ranging from 50% to 70%. the poor who need intervention, but to a lesser extent than the first stage group.
- The third stage: includes villages with poverty rates Less than 50%.

The national project for the development of Egyptian rural villages, "Hayah Karima", is one of the most important government programs to achieve social protection for citizens in the cycle of poverty, indicating a decline in poverty rates in Egypt to 29.7% during the fiscal year 2019-2020 from 32.5% for the year 2017-2018, by a decrease of 2.8%. This reflects the success of the state's efforts to achieve social justice in conjunction with the economic reforms implemented by the state to focus on the social dimension of development. (Egypt today, 2021).

Over the past decade, inequality has become one of the most complex and disconcerting challenges in the global economy. Egypt has made remarkable progress in the field of women's empowerment and gender equality locally and internationally over the past six years, thanks to the political will to support women's issues and translate their constitutional rights into laws, strategies and executive programs. The human development index increased in 2019 to reach 0.707, after it was 0.701 in 2018, which is higher than the average for Arab countries. Egypt is ranked 102 out of 189 countries in 2019, according to gross national income per capita, which indicates that Egypt has a vast potential to improve social protection, empower women, education systems, governance, and transform economic growth into investments that lead to
further progress in economic development. In human development, the state has taken several bold measures to reduce inequalities such as: approving the recruitment of women in the Public Prosecution Office and the State Council in judicial work after it was restricted to men only, adopting a gender-responsive sustainable development guide in order to increase women’s participation in economic activity. Implementing the state’s vision of social dimensions for women and children care, as well as considering the social dimensions for people with special needs to get representation in the Constitution Committee and a percentage of the seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, in addition to issuing laws and governmental decisions that secure their jobs and exemptions in public transportation (The17goals, 2021).

The same applies to citizens of all spectrums and groups such as Copts and women in terms of determining a quota in parliaments, which are categories that were not able to obtain fair quotas of seats. Due to launching important initiatives such as Takaful and Karama, Decent Housing (aims to improve the housing and living conditions of poor families), Pension of the Disabled, and Hayah Karima (based on infrastructure reform in Egypt), the Egyptian state is achieving reasonable success over time in areas of reducing inequalities in line with the goals of sustainable development and Egypt's Vision 2030 (The17goals, 2021).

Over the period of eight years, the development of the health sector in Egypt has rehabilitated the health infrastructure and developed healthcare units in villages to keep pace with the development in the performance of the health service provision. In developing and rehabilitating the human element, several health initiatives were launched under direct auspices of the President of the Republic. To raise the efficiency and level of service provided to citizens, the initiatives targeted all groups, from children to the elderly, which caused a breakthrough in the health file to change the status of Egyptians to a more healthy life in light of striving to
provide a high level of health and medical services that provide support for the axis of "building a healthy person". During the period from 2014 to 2020, the Egyptian state was able to complete the implementation of 960 projects in the field of health and population, with a total investment of EGP 81,290 million. It is worth noting that the most important achievements were the implementation of about 200 projects related to the development of hospitals, medical institutes and specialized medical service centers. In addition, Nearly 40 projects related to the Egyptian Ambulance Authority have been implemented, and 19 national projects for model hospitals have been implemented in addition to the development of health units, and the implementation of about 25 initiatives inside Egypt and 13 initiatives to support the health sector in Africa. (Omnia Health, 2023)

The Egyptian state adopted the country wide schooling improvement venture in 2017, and President El-Sisi confirmed its continuation in March 2019. The assignment pursuits to put together a new vision for the educational network, so that scholars become extra willing to examine and innovate. The country has been making remarkable efforts in developing educational curricula since 2017, as the Curriculum Development Center developed curricula for kindergarten, first grade, and even fourth grade. The standards were developed according to a vision based on scientific sequence and accumulation, and in line with international standards, in cooperation with international experts and partners, especially the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund. (UNICEF) (Oxford Business Group, 2023).

Over the past three years, the Curriculum Development Center has been able to benefit from international expertise and partnerships in localizing more expertise in the center and strengthening the capabilities of its cadres, who are now able to compose, modify and develop curricula in all disciplines at the highest level and in accordance with international standards.
Egypt has now not only developed a national curriculum center but also a regional curriculum development center that also serves the needs of friendly countries. In conjunction with the development of the curricula, work is also underway on comprehensive qualification and training programs for teachers to teach the new curricula. Egypt is working to attract more students to its modified system by linking technical education as a whole with the Egyptian, Arab and international labor market, and developing new specializations such as artificial intelligence, jewelry, programming and logistics, to meet labor needs market. The Egyptian Knowledge Bank has been developed over the past years, and it has an important role in scientific research in close cooperation with state agencies, so it has a greater parallel effect with specialized workshops to support scientific research, and it also provides scientific editing services. (Oxford Business Group, 2023).

As quality of life is defined, developmental tasks should involve satisfying the needs of citizens in a hierarchical manner starting from the most basic physiological needs to more complex social and personal needs (Sirgy, 331, 2016). Quality of life comprises a set of requirements that need work to improve and develop various aspects of human capital. This includes improving social, cultural and health environment, which leads to improving their performance, and thus contributes to achieving the objectives of the organizations, the individual, and all relevant parties. Regarding Egypt, the quality of life expresses the policies, procedures, and operations implemented by the state with the aim of developing and improving the career and personal life of citizens, which in turn is reflected in the overall performance positively, and thus the state achieves its goals and aspirations, and at the same time fulfills and satisfies the desires of its citizens. This performance ensures the continuity of the state’s success and progress and raises immunity against potential crises and challenges (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).
Because Egypt's Vision 2030 is based on the principles of "comprehensive sustainable development" and "balanced regional development", its first goal was about the quality of life: it reads “improving the quality of life of the Egyptian citizen and improving his/her standard of living.” It was mentioned in its details that this standard of living is achieved by reducing poverty in all its forms, eliminating hunger, and providing an integrated system for social protection aimed for quality education and health services, improved infrastructure, upgraded civilized appearance, controlled population growth, enriched cultural life, and developed digital infrastructure. Through its national projects in various fields, the new republic seeks to achieve quality of life for all citizens. It works to provide the needy with the elements of physical and psychological health, a clean environment, effective education services, sophisticated means of transportation, and jobs that commensurate with citizens’ skills. Social justice is intended to be achieved through various means of solidarity that guarantee the citizen a decent life and allows him/her democratic practice and responsible freedom. Eventually, this meets the requirements of achieving security and safety, in a way that contributes to the rooting of warmth among citizens, and spreads a state of optimism and positivity in a way that achieves belonging and loyalty to the homeland (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).

Egypt’s political leadership is keen to support the individual's sense of quality of life. It provides him/her with the basics for obtaining civil, political, economic and social rights. For the citizen to enjoy the aspects of life, the political leadership emphasizes the development of the citizen’s awareness of his/her rights and the proper defense of them, which urges the leadership to establish partnership as a main supporter of solidarity between the classes of society and empowers the relations that cause balance and reduce conflicts, and thus leads to a sense of quality life. The Egyptian state, through its various institutions, works to support the
environment to become clean, free of pollutants, and adorned with aesthetic elements. This contributes to the psychological comfort of the individual. The government also provides, with full capacity, economic security, which is one of the components of the quality of life. As the availability of living requirements achieves satisfaction, containment, adaptation, and a sense of security, happiness, and well-being, Egypt’s new republic and its political leadership provide an environment that fosters leadership in its various fields, and provides the required support to achieve it for all its official and unofficial institutions (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).
Chapter 4: Methodology and Data

4.1 Methodology

This research is directed to examine the relationship between two variables which are the “Hayah Karima” initiative and the standard of living of Egyptian citizens in El-Menofia Governorate. The researcher conducted this study through scanning the literature of prior studies which examined sustainable development around the world mainly through global and local social protection programs. Global and local reports for the official institutions such as the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED) were investigated.

In order to study the impact of “Hayah Karima” initiative on the standard of living of Egyptian citizens in El-Menofia governorate, this thesis uses survey technique as a method for data collection, through cultivating the opinions of respondents in the sample through conducting interviews following a survey. As constructed, the survey was based on previous literature and surveys used to evaluate other social protection programs. The sample includes a total of 71 interviews that were conducted with different partners associated with the program as well as citizens in towns and villages in El-Menofia governorate.

Interviews were conducted with NGOs, private sector representatives, and Egyptian governmental bodies in different sectors (education, healthcare, internal affairs, infrastructure), which were responsible for implementing projects of “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate. Interviews were conducted through face-to-face interviews, phone calls, as well as emails due to the challenges faced to reach some
respondents in a face-to-face meeting. The timeframe for data collection took place in December 2021, after the IRB approval.

The constructed survey attempts to measure the impact on the living standards (independent variable) through the change in the living standards of the citizens (dependent variable). Questions were aimed to collect data on the description of the different interventions of the initiative as well as the satisfaction of beneficiaries as well as officials and other constituencies.

The sample was targeted in El-Menofia governorate as it is one of the main governorates heavily targeted by “Hayah Karima” initiatives especially in its main two cities of El-Shohada and Ashmon. Those two cities were selected from the most needed to develop their services and facilities for citizens. In these cities,” Hayah Karima” initiative expanded its work to include all provided services that are ranged from civil services center, technological citizens, hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, water, electricity, and other infrastructure services.

4.2 Sample Description

The sample size is 71, and it consists of citizens, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and governmental bodies who work in sectors such as healthcare, education, civil services, and infrastructure, the nongovernmental organization. The sample attempts to represent various members of the population. Respondents from the private sector were selected from the companies responsible for developing the interventions of “Hayah Karima” initiative within the Egyptian villages in El-Menofia governorate. Furthermore, the governmental bodies – ranging between healthcare, education, civil services, and
infrastructure – were selected according to the provided services for towns and villages in
El-Menofia governorate.

4.3 Ethical Considerations

This study adopted the qualitative methodology through conducting questionnaires
and personal interviews. It is of key importance to protect the privacy of the participants
who answered the questionnaire from any harm or risk and to ensure confidentiality. In
order to achieve this, respondents were told that all their personal information as well as
their personally identifying information (PII) would be private and not shared or published,
and that all the answers they provide will only be used for research and statistical purposes.
It was also clarified that participation in this study is voluntary and the consent of the
respondents was granted before proceeding with data collection. The approval of
institutional review board (IRB) was also granted.

Research ethics are important to scientific integrity, human rights and dignity, and
cooperation between science and society. These considerations work to protect the rights of
participants in research, increase the validity of research, and maintain scientific or
academic integrity. IRB approvals ensure that the research's objectives and methodology
adhere to the institution's code of conduct. They make sure that research procedures and
materials are up to date. The researcher begins collecting data in accordance with the
procedures that have been approved, after the application has been approved by the IRB.
All respondents were free to answer as they wished, with their personal identifiable
information left to be optional, hence not mandatory to answer. Also, the researcher got
the permission from the concerned NGOs, ‘Hayah Karima’ institution, and the private
sector companies included in the sample.
4.4 Data Collection and Challenges

The data comprises personal interviews with 43 members of the sample, while the remaining 28 of the sample are collected by surveys conducted through emails. Some challenges were faced due to the high risk of non-compliance, as the surveys were not conducted face-to-face, hence there was a high chance of non-compliance. The final number of observations dropped to 71 when two respondents did not respond to the survey. Although most interviews were conducted in face-to-face meetings, it is important to highlight that some of the interviewees answered the interview through phone calls, handwritten mail, emails, and face-to-face interviews. The number of responses of phone calls was six, the number for response of emails was 15, and the number of responses of personal interviews was 55.

Voluntarily, some of the respondents wrote their name and positions, while others did not. However, this information was not used in any way. It is also of key importance to highlight that the permission of the “Hayah Karima” NGO to conduct the interviews was granted, as “Hayah Karima” initiative is different from the institution of “Hayah Karima,” which is considered an NGO.
Chapter 5: Policies of social protection in Egypt

5.1 The development of social protection policies in Egypt that lead to “Hayah Karima”

Since the Egyptian state embarked on implementing the economic reform plan, it has sought, in parallel steps, to implement comprehensive social protection programs in order to protect lower-income families from the effects of economic reform. Alleviating the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable, social safety nets have expanded by increasing the amount of food commodities on ration cards. A study by the Egyptian Center for Thought and Studies revealed that Egypt has launched various programs on the social and health level to ensure the achievement of social justice, and expanded social and health credit programs such as Takaful and Karama Program, which aims to support the neediest families under the auspices and supervision of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, in addition to presidential initiatives: Hayah Karima, and the 100 million Seha. (Arab- Reform, 2023)

The Ministry of Social Solidarity developed the first database of the neediest families in Egypt, and coordinated ministerial integration with the relevant ministries, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education and the Ministry of Health. All contributed to reaching the largest database of those who are eligible, and the number of families eligible for social protection programs reached 9.3 million family with a total of 31 million Egyptian citizens during the current year. The Takaful and Karama Program, which began as an initiative, is the building block for the establishment of the social protection policy system, as it contributed to the growth of the volume of support and its access to the beneficiaries, The growth rate of cash support for the neediest families has reached about 120% over a period of nearly five years. The percentage of female beneficiaries of conditional cash support within the Takaful and Karama program and those enrolled in the smart card system has
increased compared to the percentage of males. The budget allocations for cash support have also increased by five folds between 2014 and the current year, to reach EGP 19 billion (UNICEF, EGY-SocialProtection-June2019).

The Ministry of Social Solidarity supports children's rights in general, as the number of children benefiting from the Takaful and Karama program reached 5.3 million children, or 44% of the total number of families. Accordingly, the target children are aided in completing the stages of their education and supported the student with a monthly sum of EGP 80, if he/she was enrolled in the primary stage, EGP 100 for the middle stage, and EGP 140 for those enrolled in the secondary stage, provided that the student continued to attend the actual school at a rate of 80% per month of the total study period. Around 5.5 million students in pre-university education were exempted from tuition fees, and the Ministry paid school fees for more than 1.5 million students who did not benefit from cash support, which contributed to reducing the dropout rate and the child labor rate (UNICEF, EGY-SocialProtection-June2019).

As for community schools in the villages of Egypt, the Ministry of Solidarity provided food and cash support to more than 30,000 students enrolled in about 2,000 community schools. On the other hand, the presidential initiative “Hayah Karima” contributed to providing the right to education, as it achieved in its first phase an improvement of 12 percent in the rate of provision of educational services, according to the results of the report issued by the Ministry of Planning 2021, which prompted the political leadership to announce the launch of the second phase of the initiative to target 4,500 Egyptian villages. This is consistent with the articles of the International Convention on Human Rights “the right to education”, as the objectives of the social protection programs implemented by Egypt confirm its endeavor to provide this right (Hayah Karima, 2019).
On the social level, the first phase of “Hayah Karima” contributed to achieving social justice by raising the standard of living in the most in need villages as the first phase, which ended last December 2020, and included raising the efficiency of 143 villages in 11 governorates, with a total financial appropriation of EGP 5.5 billion: EGP 3.3 billion for the fiscal year 2019-2020, and EGP 2.2 billion for the fiscal year 2020-2021. The number of individuals benefiting from the initiative during this stage reached 1.8 million citizens, according to what was announced by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development within the initiative evaluation report issued last January (Youm 7, 2021).

The results of this assessment came to prove in numbers the contribution of Hayah Karima Initiative to achieving the eleventh principle of human rights, as the poverty rate decreased by 14 percentage points, and the well-being index (quality of life) increased by an improvement of 18 percentage points, and in terms of providing clean water and sanitation as a right In terms of human rights, the report recorded an improvement in sanitation coverage, which amounted to about 46 percentage points. As for the provision of decent work income, the initiative contributed to providing 71,000 job opportunities by providing small projects worth EGP 438 million in the first phase (Youm 7, 2021).

In terms of qualitative support for women, the Ministry of Solidarity, in cooperation with the World Food Organization, has adopted a program that particularly supports mothers who have a maximum of two children, so that food commodities are distributed using ration cards at a value of 100 pounds per month for a period of up to a thousand days from the birth of the child. The cost of this program amounted to about EGP 57 million until 2020, targeting 41,000 mothers. The ministry also supported working women during pregnancy, specifically in the private sectors, as it paid 75% of the monthly wage for a period of 90 days during the maternity leave
period. The ministry also supported 742,000 women in obtaining identification papers such as national identity cards, marriage and divorce certificates, and others (Youm 7, 2021).

On the health level, 116,000 families, with a total of more than one million citizens, benefited from medical convoys, and about 10,000 families with more than 13,000 surgeries and prosthetic devices, and about 19,000 families, with a total of more than 27,000 citizens, performed operations to treat eye diseases, in addition to ophthalmology detection. In addition, the support included providing medical glasses, according to the statements of the Ministry of Social Solidarity. On the other hand, the presidential initiative “100 million Seha” expanded workers under the supervision of the Ministry of Health in detecting noncommunicable diseases. The World Health Organization praised the results of this presidential initiative in combating hepatitis C, describing it as the largest medical survey in human history in terms of quality, speed, efficiency and the number of free beneficiaries, as 60 million citizens in Egypt were surveyed. Only seven months period to detect infection. A large number was infected with C virus and received treatment according to what was announced by the Egyptian Ministry of Health last July 2020 (UNICEF, EGY-SocialProtection-June2019).

The effects of social protection programs contribute more effectively if they are built according to a comprehensive perspective that aims to radically address the causes of the social problem and not seek to mitigate the economic repercussions based on the concept of assistance only. This is evident in the concerted social protection programs and presidential initiatives to turn into a comprehensive and developed system with a new concept of social protection policies according to economic and social strategies, and the goals of sustainable reforms that radically address structural gaps, and become an eyewitness to the improvement of the human rights
growth index in Egypt, which is only hindered in regulating population growth being the main engine for preserving the fruits of development (UNICEF, EGY-SocialProtection-June2019).

“Social protection programs such as “Hayah Karima” serve as a moderating variable that is targeted to decrease poverty, which in turn could have an impact on increasing healthcare and education quality and lowering inequality. This consequently could affect the living standards of individuals. The national project for the development of Egyptian rural villages, "Hayah Karima", is one of the most important government programs to achieve social protection for the poor to get out of the cycle of poverty, indicating a decline in poverty rates in Egypt to 29.7% during the fiscal year 2019-2020 from 32.5% for the year 2017-2018, by A decrease of 2.8%, which reflects the success of the state's efforts to achieve social justice in conjunction with the economic reforms implemented by the state and focused on the social dimension of development” (Egypt Today, 2021).

the state has taken several bold measures to reduce inequalities, such as: approving the use of women in the Public Prosecution Office and the State Council in judicial work after it was restricted to men only, adopting a gender-responsive sustainable development guide to increase women’s participation in the economic growth and implementing the state’s vision of social dimensions for women and children care, taking into account the social dimensions for people with special needs to get representation in the Constitution Committee and a percentage of the seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as some decisions and laws that facilitate them to obtain jobs or exemptions in transportation. The Egyptian state is achieving good success over time, in terms of reducing inequalities, and meeting the goals of sustainable development and Egypt's Vision 2030 media promotion (The17Goals, 2021).
The development of the health sector in Egypt over eight years rehabilitating the health infrastructure and developing healthcare entities in villages to keep pace with the development in the performance of the health service, as well as developing and rehabilitating the human element, as well as launching several health initiatives under the auspices of the President of Egypt. Efforts are exerted to raise the efficiency and level of service provided to citizens, which targeted all groups, from children to the elderly, which caused a breakthrough in the health file to change the reality of Egyptians to a better healthy life considering striving to provide a good level of health and medical services that provide support for the axis of "building a healthy person" (The17Goals, 2021).

The Egyptian state adopted the national project for the development of education in 2017, and President Sisi approved the start of its phases in March 2019 - which aims to prepare a new vision for the educational community as a whole, so that the learners are more. They tend to learn freely in innovation. The country has made great efforts in developing educational systems since 2017, as the Curriculum Development Center developed kindergarten curricula from the first year to the fourth grade of primary school, according to a vision based on the idea of scientific sequence and accumulation, and in line with international standards, in cooperation with experts. International partners, especially the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are external pillars of the network (Oxford Business Group, 2023).

5.2 The Role of the United Nations and its organizations in the programs and initiatives

The United Nations and its organizations provided support in the programs and initiatives implemented and supervised by the Ministry in the various governorates of the
Republic, in addition to the support of the United Nations in hosting the "World Cities Day" conference on the 30th and 31st of October, under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi under the title "Adapting and strengthening the capabilities of cities to combat climate change (Youm 7, 2021).

The United Nations Development Program participates with the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in explaining the importance of Hayah Karima initiative as an example to the world that can be replicated in other countries, in addition to the importance of financing development in the coming period, Alessandro Fracacetti stated. He added that the United Nations Development Program participates in many programs within the "Hayah Karema" initiative through financial funding that exceeds $80 million to implement the programs, explaining that these programs aim to reach marginalized, poor and needy communities through clear plans in partnership with the Egyptian government in all regions (Youm 7, 2021).

The Prime Minister indicated that Egypt has made great progress over the past years, through the participation of its development partners in addressing many development challenges at the state’s level, and the support of the United Nations. Being the most diversified development partner, it has come first in providing development partners with multiple experiences in various sectors. It was explained that the Egyptian state has strengthened its experience in confronting poverty, improving the quality of education and health services, empowering women and youth, and adopting innovative economic systems to enhance social protection programs. Other urgent needs were seriously addressed to provide a decent life for the Egyptian citizen, as Egypt was at the forefront of countries with regional and international efforts to combat terrorism, illegal immigration and human trafficking in addition to its remarkable contributions to support international peace and security (sis.gov.eg, 2023)
Chapter 6: Findings

6.1 Data Description

The data collected is presented in the below tables which summarize the number of participants, and interviews with representatives of the different sectors and institutions involved. Each table focuses on the category that the respondents fall into. The first table shows the responses of citizens, and the second table shows the responses of governmental and organizations representatives.

Table (1): Citizens/Beneficiaries of “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizen</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #1</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #2</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #3</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #4</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #5</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #6</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #7</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #8</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #9</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #10</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #11</td>
<td>Ashmon</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #12</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #13</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #14</td>
<td>Al-Shohada</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fieldwork

All fourteen respondents did not disclose their names or ages, except for one respondent. As the above table entails, there are six male and eight female respondents in the sample. Six of the respondents are not employed, five of them are females and one is male. This might offer a
unique perspective on how the program affected their life in the absence of a stable source of income.

**Table (2): Governmental representatives of “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governmental Bodies</th>
<th>Sector*</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #1</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #2</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #3</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #4</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #5</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #6</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #7</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #8</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #9</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #10</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #11</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #12</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #13</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #14</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #15</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #16</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #17</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #18</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #19</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #20</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #21</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #22</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #23</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #24</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Fieldwork**

The second table is concerned with the governmental representatives working in sectors, such as: education, healthcare, internal affairs, and infrastructure. The respondents of healthcare sector are 5, the respondents of education sector are 6, the respondents of infrastructure sector are **Table (2): Governmental representatives of “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governmental Bodies</th>
<th>Sector*</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #1</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #2</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #3</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #4</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #5</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #6</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #7</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #8</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #9</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #10</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #11</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #12</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #13</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #14</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #15</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #16</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #17</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #18</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #19</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #20</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #21</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #22</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #23</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #24</td>
<td>internal affairs</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source: Fieldwork**

The second table is concerned with the governmental representatives working in sectors, such as: education, healthcare, internal affairs, and infrastructure. The respondents of healthcare sector are 5, the respondents of education sector are 6, the respondents of infrastructure sector are 8.

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*Sectors are healthcare, education, infrastructure, and internal affairs.*
seven, and the respondents of internal affairs sector are six. The characteristics of healthcare sector’s respondents are as follows; four of them are at management level and one is an employee, three of them are males and two are females. The characteristics of education sector’s respondents are as follows; three of them are at management level and three are employees, all of them are males. The characteristics of infrastructure sector’s respondents are as follows; six of them are at management level and one is an employee, six of them are males and one is female. The characteristics of internal affairs sector’s respondents are as follows; three of them are at management level and three are employees, five of them are males and one is female.

Table (3): Private sector companies & NGOs representatives of “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent #1</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #2</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #3</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #4</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #5</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #6</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #7</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #8</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #9</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #10</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #11</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #12</td>
<td>Private sector</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #13</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #14</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #15</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent #16</td>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Hayah Karima NGO</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Constructed by the researcher

44
The third table is concerned with the private sector’s companies and NGO’s which are involved with the ‘Hayah Karima’ initiative. The private sector’s companies are divided into industries, four of the construction industry and four of the banks. The NGOs are divided into financial institutions (3) special funds (2), food (2) and human rights (1) institutions.

6.2 Findings

The results of the personal interviews and surveys show that there are around 1334 projects implemented in El-Menofia governorate through the “Hayah Karima” initiative. These projects are divided into 880 in Ashmon center and 454 in Al-Shuhadaa center. The projects ranged from roads, bridges, water, electricity, natural gas, other services such as technological center, real state registration, social units, and civil services development. The program was scheduled to be completed by December 2022, and certain projects that were specifically concerned with water were supposed to be completed by March 2023.

The results of interview analysis show a glimpse of the possible effect of “Hayah Karima” initiative on the living standards of some villages, through collecting the answers of citizens inside these villages about the status of education, healthcare, and infrastructure. The respondents mentioned some services that were added to those villages which are the water and gas services.

As per the interviews with the representatives working on the initiative and regarding the educational goals for El-Menofia governorate, “Hayah Karima” initiative targeted two main centers in its first phase which are Ashmon (41 villages) and El-Shohadaa (19 villages). The “Hayah Karima” initiative has established 36 schools in Ashmon center and 13 schools in El-Shohadaa. Also, the initiative observed the maintenance of 61 schools in Ashmon and 27 schools in Alshohadaa. All those projects were completed within six months, while maintenance works
took nearly six months. Additionally, the budget of those projects was sufficient for completing them within the deadlines with all the needed requirements for the purpose of providing education for all citizens in both cities and villages in El-Menofia governorate.

All participants of the interview, whether the governmental bodies, private sector, NGOs, or citizens, agreed on points that are related to defining the initiative's tenets and providing a forum for young people to express their thoughts on its implementation.

One of the main observations of “Hayah Karima” was explored through interviewing the vice governor of El-Menofia by telephone call. He ensured that “Hayah Karima” initiative is going to succeed by the participation of all parties especially citizens who appreciate the provided services and the improvements which have been ongoing. The success of “Hayah Karima” initiative depends on its consistency and ability to fulfill all requirements for citizens within El-Menofia governorate. This is related to the continuous partnership with the private sector and the financial support of “Tahya Masr” fund as President Abd El-Fatah El-Sisi has mentioned (Hayah Karima, 2022).

Moreover, the respondents of the governmental bodies of the education sector, healthcare sector, infrastructure sector, and civil services mentioned that some of the interventions have already been completed. These interventions are related to the civil services provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs such as issuing national IDs, family documents, as well as birth, marriage, and divorce certificates, which are now the concern of the technological center for citizens. The real estate centers for citizens are concerned with providing registration services for real estate and cars. Such civil services are now provided for citizens in their villages instead of traveling to the city, hence improving the decentralization of the process (Hayah Karima, 2022).
Some respondents in Ashmon confirmed that 14 technological centers are completed in 14 villages and 14 social units, civil services centers and real estate registration centers are completed in 14 villages. Respondents in Al-Shohadaa confirmed that six technological centers, six social units, six civil service centers, and six real estate registration centers are implemented in six villages and six social units are completed in six villages. However, some respondents mentioned that there were delays on some projects especially in “Saqyet Abu Sharia” village in Al-Shohadaa center (Hayah Karima, 2022).

On the other hand, the respondents from NGOs working with the ‘Hayah Karima’ Initiative focused on illustrating the volunteers’ role in implementing the initiative through coordination with all related associations to achieve the most effective contribution for citizens in those villages. However, there are some obstacles which face the organizations while implementing the interventions of “Hayah Karima” initiative. Such obstacles include the fluctuating exchange rate of the US dollar and the increase in prices of the materials used in those projects.

Finally, the core findings of this study show that “Hayah Karima” initiative focuses on two main cities within El-Menofia which are Ashmon and Al-Shohada. Both cities include numerous small villages. “Hayah Karima” initiative covers the main projects in both Ashmon and Al-Shoahda, including schools, healthcare centers, roads, water, technological centers, and real estate registration centers. Durations of implementing those projects were reasonable and characterized by high rate of achievement within the 6-month duration for each project. The citizens are satisfied with most of the provided services and they are affected positively by them in terms of the saved time and effort. However, they did have some comments related to the need of providing services which are related to infrastructure services such as small canals and waterways. Moreover, there is effective contribution of private sector and NGOs for the purpose of achieving social protection
for all citizens without any form of discrimination, and this will continue for the future planned projects within El-Menofia governorate.

Overall, the results of personal interviews were in line with results of surveys about the developmental projects undertaken by “Hayah Karima” initiative in El-Menofia governorate. There was a consensus among the replies of interviewees and survey participants regarding the main interventions of education and healthcare, especially in the town of Ashmon and its related villages where such interventions were implemented. However, the results of the infrastructure aspect were quite different between personal interviews and surveys regarding waterways and water services. According to responses of interviewees, there is a need for initiating more “Hayah Karima” infrastructure interventions in towns other than El-Shohada and Ashmon for the purpose of maximizing the benefit to all citizens within El-Menofia governorate. While the neediest villages - such as Ashmon and El-Shohada - are prioritized at the first stage, the long-term plan targets the development of all villages in El-Menofia.

“Social protection programs such as “Hayah Karima” serve as a moderating variable that is targeted to decrease poverty, which in turn could have an impact on increasing healthcare and education quality and lowering inequality. This consequently could affect the living standards of individuals. The national project for the development of Egyptian rural villages, "Hayah Karima", is one of the most important government programs to achieve social protection for the poor and get out of the cycle of poverty, indicating a decline in poverty rates in Egypt to 29.7% during the fiscal year 2019-2020 from 32.5% for the year 2017-2018, by a decrease of 2.8%, which reflects the success of the state’s efforts to achieve social justice in conjunction with the economic reforms implemented by the state and focused on the social dimension of development”.
The state has taken several bold measures to reduce inequalities, such as: approving the use of women in the Public Prosecution Office and the State Council in judicial work after it was restricted to men only, adopting a gender-responsive sustainable development guide to increase women’s participation in economic activity and implementing the state’s vision of care Social dimensions for women and children, taking into account the social dimensions, for people with special needs to get representation in the Constitution Committee and a percentage of the seats in the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as some decisions and laws that facilitate them to obtain jobs or exemptions in transportation. The Egyptian state is achieving good success over time, in terms of reducing inequalities, in line with the goals of sustainable development and Egypt's Vision 2030 AD (Hayah Karima, 2022).

The development of the health sector in Egypt over eight years Rehabilitating the health infrastructure and developing health units in villages to keep pace with the development in the performance of the health service, as well as developing and rehabilitating the human element, as well as launching several health initiatives under the auspices of the President of the Republic; To raise the efficiency and level of service provided to citizens, which targeted all groups, from children to the elderly, which caused a breakthrough in the health file to change the reality of Egyptians to a better healthy life in light of striving to provide a good level of health and medical services that provide support for the axis of "building a healthy person".

“According the Education Level The Egyptian state adopted the national project for the development of education in 2017, and President Sisi confirmed the continuation of its steps in March 2019 - which aims to prepare a new vision for the educational community as a whole, so that students become more. They tend to learn and innovate. The country has been making great efforts in developing educational curricula since 2017, as the Curriculum Development Center has
developed curricula for kindergarten and the first grade of primary school until the fourth grade of primary school, according to a vision based on the idea of scientific sequence and accumulation, and in line with international standards, in cooperation with experts. And international partners, especially the World Bank and the United Nations Children's Fund” (UNICEF).

Hayah Karima initiative is one of the most important initiatives witnessed by the villages of Shohada and Ashmoun Centers in the Menofia Governorate. The total number of initiative projects in the two centers reached 1243 service and development projects in various sectors, which included 829 service projects in the villages of Ashmoun Center, with an implementation rate of 65%, and about 414 service projects in the villages of the Martyrs Center, with an implementation rate of 70%. The number of local development projects “service and agricultural complexes” reached 40 projects with a completion rate of 100%, projects for lining canals and waterways 84 projects with a rate of implementation of 69%, 19 projects for irrigation bridges with a rate of implementation of 94%, and 64 projects for youth and sports with an implementation rate of 87%, and in the health sector. The number of projects reached 64 projects with a rate of 80%, and in sanitation there were 104 projects with a rate of 79%. In addition, 150 projects are being implemented in the drinking water sector with a rate of 94%, 137 projects for the educational buildings sector with an implementation rate of 96%, 81 communications projects, 81 natural gas projects with a rate of 53%, and eight Decent Housing projects with an implementation rate of 96%. In addition, 18 library projects are being implemented with a rate of implementation of 93%, 36 postal projects with a rate of implementation of 100%, and 14 ambulance projects with a rate of 100%. The presidential initiative "Hayah Karima" is being implemented in the villages of Ashmoun and Al Shuhada centers, with a total implementation of 1606 service and development projects, with an implementation rate of 79%, where (1078)
projects are being implemented in Ashmoun, with an implementation rate of 75%, and 528 projects in Al Shuhada, with an implementation rate of 80%. The projects vary between water sanitation stations, paving roads, lining canals, establishing agricultural and service complexes, youth centers, parking lots, model markets, schools, police stations, fire and postal units, health and ambulance units, and other important projects that affect the lives of citizens (Cairo 24, 2023).

The total number of schools that were entered into the educational process and the total number of schools that were received from 2014 until 2020 amounted to 272 schools, with a number of 4368 classrooms, and a contract value of EGP 1,409 billion, and the Educational Buildings Directorate confirmed that 30 schools entered service this academic year 2020/2021, with a total of 543 classrooms, and a contractual value of EGP 224.5 million, in addition to 36 schools operated for the academic year 2019/2020, with 516 classrooms, and a contractual value of EGP 250,205 million. The governor of Menoufia affirmed his keenness to develop and raise the efficiency of the educational process by expanding the establishment of many schools, in a way that enhances the position of Menoufia at the forefront of the governorates nationwide, as statistics indicate that students of Menofia usually earn first rankings in education, indicating the need to pay attention to developing the educational process with all its elements, whether in terms of qualified human cadres or facilities including buildings, equipment and requirements required to raise the efficiency of education to build a strong homeland that depends on the minds of its children and their arms in making their civilization (Youm 7, 2023).

In terms of health, 22 medical facilities were established, developed and raised in 12 governorates during the past year, within the framework of the directives of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of Egypt, to develop, raise efficiency and improve services, with the aim
of providing a healthy, safe and decent life for the Egyptian citizens. The central competency has been raised comprehensively for each of Shintna Al-Hajar Fever Hospital, Ashmoun Fever Hospital, and Shebeen El-Kom Fever Hospital. This included changing the gas and electricity networks, applying the civil protection systems and firefighting units, raising the efficiency of the care department and the electricity network, and completing the gas network in the new care and incubators department in Zawyat Al-Naura Hospital. The delivery included provision of a gas chamber and partial installation of a complete gas network for the incubation department and raising the efficiency of the kidney unit building in Sars El-Layan with a capacity of 12 beds, so that the total number of beds in the building becomes 36 beds and raising the efficiency of the operations infrastructure in Shebin El-Kom Hospital with comprehensive efficiency of the brain and nerves building by establishing central air conditioning. The efficiency of the department has been raised dramatically. There are 22 nurseries in Quesna Central Hospital, and in Zawyet Al-Naoura Hospital, with a total of 35 nurseries (El Watan news, 2023).

The developmental task for “Hayah Karima” involves satisfying the needs of citizens in a categorized manner from the most basic physiological needs to a more sophisticated social and personal needs’ (Sirgy, 331, 2016). This requires planned work to improve and develop various aspects of human capital, which would affect the quality of their lives represented in their social, cultural and health environment, which leads to improving their performance and developing their mindsets, and thus contributes to achieving the objectives of the institution or organization and the individual and all relevant parties. Regarding Egypt, the quality of life expresses the policies, procedures, and operations implemented by the state with the aim of developing and improving the career and personal life of its citizens, which in turn is reflected in the overall performance positively, and thus the state achieves its goals and aspirations, and at the same time
fulfills and satisfies the desires of its citizens, which ensures the continuity of the state’s success and progress. Hence, its immunity against many crises and challenges (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).

The goals in Egypt's Vision 2030 are based on the principles of "comprehensive sustainable development" and "balanced regional development". Improving the quality of life of the Egyptian citizen and improving his standard of living is achieved by reducing all poverty forms and providing a cohesive system for social protection to provide education and ensure quality health services, improve infrastructure, upgrade civilized appearance, control population growth, enrich cultural life, and develop digital infrastructure. The current republic seeks to achieve a quality of life for citizens where it provides him/her with the elements of physical and psychological health, and provides him/her with a clean environment, and provides him or her with services in its various fields of education, sophisticated means of transportation, and jobs commensurate with his/her skills, and achieves social justice for him or her through various means of solidarity that guarantee him or her a decent life, and allows him or her democratic practice and responsible freedom. This should meet the requirements of achieving security and safety, in a way that contributes to the rooting of love in him for him and others, and spreads a state of optimism and positivity, in a way that achieves belonging and loyalty to the homeland (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).

“Egypt’s political leadership is keen to support the individual's sense of quality of life. It provides him with the basics for obtaining his civil, political, economic and social rights to enjoy the vocabulary of his life, as the political leadership emphasizes on developing the citizen’s awareness of his rights and his defense of them, and urges the leadership to establish partnership as a main supporter of solidarity between the classes of society, which confirms the strengthening of relations that work on balance and reduce conflicts, and thus leads to a sense of
quality of life. The Egyptian state, through its various institutions, works to support the environment to become clean, free of pollutants, and adorned with aesthetic elements. This contributes to the psychological comfort of the individual. The government also provides, with full capacity, economic security, which is one of the components of the quality of life. As the availability of living requirements achieves satisfaction, containment, adaptation, and a sense of security, happiness, and well-being. The new republic and its political leadership provide an environment that fosters leadership in its various fields, and provides its requirements that help achieve it, for all its official and unofficial institutions” (SIS.gov.eg, 2021).
Chapter 7: Conclusion and Way Forward

7.1 Conclusion

Social protection programs are being implemented more as a tool that is widely used by governments in low-to-middle-income countries in order to assist in their development efforts. Through literature, social protection programs have been usually implemented to target a specific problem, yet always taking into consideration the context and the environment of the targeted place in which the program is being implemented. However, when it comes to Egypt, there is a lack of literature on social protection programs due to the fact that Egypt does not relatively have a long history with various social protection programs (Banerjee et al., 2022).

“Hayah Karima” initiative has received a wide audience in the past couple of years. The initiative is based on governmental finance and partnerships with the private sector. “Hayah Karima” initiative brings a new edge to the social protection arena in Egypt by adding non-financial aids alongside the financial aids, unlike “Takaful and Karama” that focuses on the financial aspect only. Through this study we aimed to study the possible effect of the initiative on the standards of living in El-Menofia Governorate.

This research aimed to accomplish the above objective through studying the impact of “Hayah Karima on reducing the burden placed on citizens in rural and urban slum communities to reach those who are in need regarding poverty. The program was set to provide citizens of the Republic with a decent and sustainable life, boosting the targeted families' social, economic, and environmental status, offering employment opportunities to encourage citizens to raise their family's and community's standard of living.
In conducting the designed survey and communication with the 71 respondents. The sample size is divided into citizens, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and governmental bodies within sectors of healthcare, education, civil services, and infrastructure. The researcher selected a sample of citizens in the survey to reflect the benefits of ‘Hayah Karima’ on their lives. While the nongovernmental bodies are selected for the purpose of its participation for developing and sharing better live for citizens, the private sector sample is selected for the purpose of their “Hayah Karima” initiative contributions as partner of establishing and developing the projects within the Egyptian villages with the desired financial aid.

This research contributes to the literature by humbly shedding the light on an emerging social protection program in Egypt that has not been immensely studied yet. Through attempting to measure the impact of “Hayah Karima” initiative on the standard of living, one of the main findings of the initiative was the decentralization effect that was confirmed by respondents in terms of providing civil services to citizens in their villages.

The results also show that Ashmon and El-Shohada were the villages that benefited most from “Hayah Karima” initiative in all its aspects, especially education.

To conclude, “Hayah Karima” initiative targets key developmental goals on both the local and national levels. On the local level, there is a tangible improvement of “Hayah Karima” initiative on the lives of the targeted citizens and their communities through the combined efforts of the state, the expertise of institutions of civil society, and the support of local communities. The implemented interventions proved to have helped in boosting standard of living for families and communities’ and support their independence and decentralization.

On the national level, the initiative targets the poorest villages, “Hayah Karima” presents an outstanding opportunity for localizing the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable
Development Program Goals. SDG 10, Reduced inequality promotes inclusive development and leaves no one behind.

7.2 Way Forward

Based on the previous sections, it is apparent that more in-depth research with a larger representative sample is needed for this initiative to shed more light on social protection programs in Egypt. It is also of key importance to listen to what the citizens need and to incorporate this in the plans for interventions that are still to be implemented in the near future. There also needs to be an annual report that shows the progress of the initiative, so that it would be easier to track all steps and measures taken. This could serve as a contributor to an ex-post analysis of the interventions implemented as well as a blueprint for any future social protection programs that will take place in Egypt. Creating a feedback system might be worth considering, so that citizens can share their experience. This would create room for continuous improvement for the initiative. To ensure the sustainability of the initiative, it is recommended that there should be diversification in the financial sources for funding the project. As the SDGs promote inclusive development as well as partnering up to achieve goals, it is of key importance that civil society organizations are more involved. Creating communication channels for sharing experiences with other countries who have implemented similar social protection programs in order to learn and grow. Social protection programs are important for an inclusive development process, but they remain a relatively new tool in this context, hence more focus needs to be allocated to studying these programs in order to improve their implementation efficiency.
References


- Sedky, R. H. (2021). Youth and voluntary work: taking the lead to a brighter future Master Thesis, the American University in Cairo. AUC Knowledge Fountain, retrieved from: https://fount.aucegypt.edu/retro_etds/2432


Appendix A

Arabic version of citizens survey:

استبيان المواطنين

الاسم (اختياري): ....................................................          العمر: .............

الوظيفة: ...................................................................... عدد أفراد الأسرة: .............................................

اسم القرية/المركز: ..................................................................................................................

ما تعد قريتكم من القرى المستهدفة لمبادرة "حياة كريمة" بمحافظة المنوفية؟

ما الذي توفره مبادرة "حياة كريمة" للمواطنين قريتكم؟

- سكن كريم: رفع كفاءة منازل، وبناء أسقف، ومجمعات سكنية في القرى الأكثر احتياجًا
- مراقبات: من وصلات مياه وصرف صحي وغاز وكهرباء داخل المنازل
- بنية تحتية: إنشاء ودعم مشروعات متناهية الصغر وتفعيل دور التعاونيات الإنتاجية في القرى
- رعاية صحية: بناء مستشفيات ووحدات صحية وظروفها بالمدع في الكود والkadirya الطبية
- خدمات طبية: إطلاق قوافل طبية بالمحافظات وتقديم أجهزة تعويضية (عكازات وتنسات وكراسي متحركات وعكازات، وغيره من الأجهزة

تمكين اقتصادي: تدريب وتشغيل الشباب والقادرين بمشروعات متوسطة وصغيرة ومتناهية الصغر

- دعم الأيدي العاملة: توفير فرص عمل بالمجمعات الصناعية والحرفية
- خدمات تعليمية: بناء ورفع كفاءة المدارس والحسابات وتجهيزها وظروفها بالمدع عمليه ويشاء فصول محو أمية
- دعم الاجتماعي: توفير سلال غذائية وتوزيعها مدفوعة، وترويج البدأت وتجهيز مدارس وعقد أفراد جماعية

63
تنمية الطفولة: إنشاء حضانات منزلية لتوجيه أوقات الأمهات للدور الإنتاجي و توفير كسوة للأطفال.

تنمية إنسانية: بناء وتأهيل الإنسان المصري عبر مبادرات توعية تستهدف الأسرة والطفل والمرأة وذوي الهمم وكبار السن.

هل تعد الميزانية الحالية للمشاريع كافية من وجهة نظركم؟

هل تعد مبادرة "حياة كريمة" مناسبة لاحتياجات قريتكم؟

هل هناك عوائق بشأن مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟ ما هذه العوائق بشأن المشاركة مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

ما هي الفئات الأكثر استفادة من مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

ما هي الجوانب الإضافية التي من الممكن إضافتها لمبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

تعليقات أخرى:
English Version of Citizens Survey

Name (optional): ................................................................. Age: ......................

Occupation: ................................... Number of family members: .............

Village name/center: ..............................................................

Is your village one of the targeted villages for “Hayah Karima” at Menoufia governorate?

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What does (Hayah Karima) provide for citizens in your village?

- Generous accommodation: raise houses efficiency, roof construction, building housing complexes in the most need villages.
- Amenities: extending water, sewage, gas and electricity connections inside homes.
- Infrastructure: establishing and supporting micro-enterprises and activating the role of productive cooperatives in villages.
- Health care: building hospitals and health units and providing them with equipment’s and medical personnel.
- Medical services: launching medical convoys in the governorate and providing compensatory equipment (stethoscope, glasses, wheelchairs, crutches and other equipment).
- Economic empowerment: training and employing young people and those who are capable in medium, small and micro projects.
- **Manpower support**: providing job opportunities in industrial and craft complexes.
- **Educational services**: building and raising the efficiency of school and nurseries, equipping them and providing them with educational cadres and establishing literacy diets.
- **Social support**: providing subsidized food baskets and distributing them, marrying orphans, preparing their homes and holding collective weddings.
- **Childhood development**: establishing home nurseries to direct mother’s time to the productive role and providing children’s clothing.
- **Human development**: building and rehabilitating the Egyptian person through awareness initiatives targeting the family, children, women, people of determination and the elderly.

Is the current budget for projects sufficient from your point of view?

Is a “Hayah Karima” initiative suitable for the needs of your village?

Are there any obstacles regarding the “Hayah Karima” initiative, from your point of view? What are these obstacles regarding participations?
What are the categories that benefit the most from the “Hayah Karima” initiative?

What are the additional aspects that can be added to the ‘Hayah Karima’ initiative, from your point of view?

Other comments:
Appendix B

Arabic version of NGOs survey

استبيان المنظمات الغير حكومية

الاسم (اختياري): ......................................................................................................................

العمر: .................................................................................................................................

الوظيفة: .............................................................................................................................

المستوى الوظيفي: ............................................................................................................

الجهة/المؤسسة: ...................................................................................................................

دور الجهة/المؤسسة بشأن مبادرة "حياة كريمة": ................................................................

مدة المساهمة بمشاريع مبادرة "حياة كريمة": ................................................................

هل تعد مبادرة "حياة كريمة" مناسبة لإحتياجات القرى أكثر احتياجًا؟ ................................

هل هناك عوائق بشأن المشاركة مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟ ما هذه العوائق بشأن المشاركة مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟
ما العائد على الجهة/المؤسسة التي تنتمي لها من خلال المشاركة بمبادرة "حياة كريمة؟

هل ترى حجم التمويل المقدم من الجهة/المؤسسة التي تنتمي لها كافي أم يحتاج إلى زيادة؟

ما هي الفئات الأكثر استفادة من بمبادرة "حياة كريمة؟

ما هي الجوانب الإضافية التي من الممكن إضافتها لمبادرة "حياة كريمة" من وجهة نظركم؟
تعليقات أخرى:
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English version of NGOs Survey

Name (optional): ......................................................... the age: ..............

Function: ............................................................... Career Level: ..............................

Entity/institution name: .................................................................

The role of the entity/institution regarding “Hayah Karima” initiative:
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Duration of contribution to the projects of "Hayah Karima" initiative
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Is “Hayah Karima” initiative suitable for the needs of the villagers as a necessity?
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Are there any obstacles regarding the "Hayah Karima" initiative? What are the barriers to
participation in "Hayah Karima" initiative?
What is the return on the entity/institution to which you belong by participating in "Hayah Karima" initiative?

Do you see the amount of funding received from the entity/institution to which you belong is sufficient, and how much does it need to be increased?

What are the categories that benefit most from “Hayah Karima” initiative?

What are the additional aspects that can be added to “Hayah Karima” initiative, in your opinion?
Appendix C

Arabic version of private sector survey

الاسم (اختياري): ............................................................... العمر: ............
الوظيفة: ............................................................... المستوى الوظيفي: .....................................................
اسم الشركة/المؤسسة: ............................................................
ما نوع القطاع الذي تعمل به الشركة؟ ...............................................................
 ما هو المشروع الحالي مع مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟...............................
 هل تعد مشاركتك بمبادرة حياة كريمة هي المشارك الأولي بمشاريع مع الحكومة المصرية:
 ما هي المشاريع السابقة؟ ...............................................................
 ما المدة الزمنية للمشروع الحالي؟...............................

هل تعتبر فترة تنفيذ المشروع الحالي كافية أم تحتاج لفترة أطول؟

هل تقوم الحكومة المصرية بسداد الدفعات بصفة منتظمة؟

ما العائد على الشركة من القيام بمشاريع الحكومة المصرية بمبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

هل ساهم المشروع الحالي بتوفير فرص عمل؟

هل تكون الشركة على استعداد لمشاريع الحكومة المصرية بمشاريع أخرى بمبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

تعليقات أخرى:
English version of private sector survey

Name (optional): .............................................. ......................... the age: ...........

Function: ................................................. Career Level: .................................

Entity/institution name: .................................................................

The role of the entity/institution regarding “Hayah Karima” initiative:
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Duration of contribution to the projects of "Hayah Karima” initiative
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Is “Hayah Karima” initiative suitable for the needs of the villagers as a necessity?
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Are there any obstacles regarding the "Hayah Karima" initiative? What are the barriers to
participation in "Hayah Karima" initiative?
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What is the return on the entity/institution to which you belong by participating in "Hayah Karima" initiative?

Do you see the amount of funding received from the entity/institution to which you belong is sufficient, and how much does it need to be increased?

What are the categories that benefit most from “Hayah Karima” initiative?

What are the additional aspects that can be added to “Hayah Karima” initiative, in your opinion?

Other comments:
Appendix D

Arabic version of governmental entities survey

الصحة

الاسم (اختياري): ............................................................................ العُمر: .....

الوظيفة: ............................................................................ المستوى الوظيفي: .....

اسم الوزارة/الجهة الحكومية: .....

ما عدد وأسماء القرى المستهدفة بمحافظة المنوفية

المستشفيات

الوحدات الصحية

ما هي المدة الزمنية لتنفيذ كل مشروع؟

المستشفيات:
الوحدات الصحية:

ما هي طريقة التمويل لكل مشروع؟

المستشفيات:

هل تعد الميزانية الحالية للمشاريع كافية لتنفيذها على الوجه المخطط له أم تحتاج إلى تطوير؟

ما هي أولويات قطاع الصحة بشأن مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟
تعليقات أخرى:

التعليم 2:

الاسم (اختياري): .................................................. العمر: ............

الوظيفة: .......................................................... المستوى الوظيفي: ............

اسم الوزارة/الجهة الحكومية: ..................

ما عدد وأسماء القرى المستهدفة بمحافظة المنوفية

ما عدد المدارس بمبادرة "حياة كريمة" وأماكن تواجدها بقرى محافظة المنوفية؟

المدارس:

ما هي المدة الزمنية لتنفيذ كل مشروع؟

المدارس:
ما هي طريقة التمويل لكل مشروع؟
المدارس:

هل تعد الميزانية الحالية للمشاريع كافية لتنفيذها على الوجه المخطط له أم تحتاج إلى تطوير؟

ما هي أولويات قطاع التعليم بشأن مبادرة "حياة كريمة"؟

تعليقات أخرى:

البنية التحتية

الاسم (اختياري): ........................................................... العمر:
الوظيفة: .................................................    المستوى الوظيفي: ..............................................
ما عدد وأسماء القرى المستهدفة بمحافظة المنوفية

ما عدد المشاريع بمبادرة "حياة كريمة" وأماكن تواجدها بقرى محافظة المنوفية؟

- الطرق والكباري:

- الصرف الصحي والترع:

- الكهرباء والغاز:

- أخرى:

ما هي المدة الزمنية لتنفيذ كل مشروع؟
الطرق والكباري:

الصرف الصحي والترع:

الكهرباء والغاز:

أخرى:

ما هي طريقة التمويل لكل مشروع؟

الطرق والكباري:

الصرف الصحي والترع:

الكهرباء والغاز:

أخرى:
هل تعد الميزانية الحالية للمشاريع كافية لتنفيذها على الوجه المخطط له أم تحتاج إلى تطوير؟

تعليقات أخرى:

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<td>الوظيفة:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>المستوى الوظيفي:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

اسم الوزارة/الجهة الحكومية: 

ما عدد وأسماء القرى المستهدفة بمحافظة المنوفية

ما عدد المشاريع بمبادرة "حياة كريمة" وأماكن تواجدها بقرى محافظة المنوفية؟

- مصلحة الشرق العقاري:

- سجل مدني:
ما هي المدة الزمنية لتنفيذ كل مشروع؟

- مصلحة الشهر العقاري

ما هي طريقة التمويل لكل مشروع؟

- مصلحة الشهر العقاري

- سجل مدني

- أخرى
هل تعد الميزانية الحالية للمشاريع كافية لتنفيذها على الوجه المخطط له أم تحتاج إلى تطوير؟

تعليقات أخرى:
English version of governmental entities survey

1- Healthcare

Name (optional): .......................................................... the age: ..........

Function: .................................................. Career Level: ..............................................

Name of the Ministry/Governmental Entity: .................................................................

What is the number and names of the targeted villages in Menoufia Governorate?

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What is the number of hospitals and health units in “Hayah Karima” initiative, and where are they located in the villages of Menoufia Governorate?

- Hospitals:

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- Health Units:

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What is the time period for the implementation of each project?

- Hospitals:
What are the health sector's priorities regarding "Hayah Karima" initiative?

Is the current project budget sufficient to implement it as planned, or does it need development?

What is the financing method for each project?

- Hospitals:

- Health Units:
2- Education

Name (optional): .............................................. the age: ..............

Function: .............................................. Career Level: ..............................................

Name of the Ministry/Governmental Entity: .................................................................

What is the number and names of the targeted villages in Menoufia Governorate?

What is the number of schools in the “Dignified Life” initiative, and where are they located in the villages of Menoufia Governorate?

- Schools:

What is the time period for the implementation of each project?
What are the priorities of the education sector?

- Schools:

What is the financing method for each project?

- Schools:

Is the current project budget sufficient to implement it as planned, or does it need development?

What are the priorities of the education sector regarding the "Hayah Karima" initiative?

Other comments:
3- Infrastructure

Name (optional): .............................................. ............

Function: .................................................. Career Level: .............................................

Name of the Ministry/Governmental Entity: .................................................................

What is the number and names of the targeted villages in Menoufia Governorate?
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What is the number of schools in the “Dignified Life” initiative, and where are they located in the villages of Menoufia Governorate?

- Schools:
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What is the time period for the implementation of each project?

- Schools:
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What is the financing method for each project?

- Schools:

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Is the current project budget sufficient to implement it as planned, or does it need development?

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What are the priorities of the education sector regarding the "Hayah Karima" initiative?

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Other comments:

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4- Civil Services

Name (optional): ........................................... ......................... the age: ...........

Function: ........................................... Career Level: ...........................................

Name of the Ministry/Governmental Entity: ........................................... ..............................
What is the number and names of the targeted villages in Menoufia Governorate?

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What is the number of projects under the “Hayah Karima” initiative and where are they located in the villages of Menoufia Governorate?

- Real Estate Publication Authority:

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- Civil record:

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- Other:

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What is the time period for the implementation of each project?

- Real Estate Publication Authority:
What is the financing method for each project?

- **Real Estate Publication Authority:**

- **Civil record:**

- **Other:**
Is the current project budget sufficient to implement it as planned, or does it need development?

Other comments: