

Background and Purpose

Social protection is globally recognized as a basic human right, stipulated in the United Nation Declaration on Human Rights since 1948. It mainly focuses on empowering the marginalized and vulnerable groups through the provision of different instruments and services that help to improve their situation. Social protection is a step further to social security and it precisely addresses the core meaning of social justice.

Governments are usually hardly capable of providing sufficient social protection to marginalized groups singlehandedly. The contribution of both, civil society and private businesses is indispensable to succeed in such endeavor.

In Egypt, which suffers from a national poverty rate of more than 25%, achieving social protection requires a strong contribution from civil society and the business sector, where both should uphold and integrate with the government efforts aiming to improve the social situation of underprivileged groups in different governorates. In that context, the project aims to support local CBOs in bridging the gap between the needs of the underprivileged groups and the services provided to them.

The project will organize training programs for the CBOs on different concepts and techniques that will allow them to propose plans for social protection projects in their local regions. The CBOs will coordinate with the government officials, local councils and business communities in the Delta region, Central Egypt region and Suez Canal region in an attempt to provide adequate services to citizens of these regions. Furthermore, two training programs will be organized for media figures, and for government and business figures. The aim of the programs is to introduce the notion of social protection and enhance the knowledge of the media, government and business figures regarding its importance and positive societal impact. Upon the completion of the training programs, local government and business figures will be invited to a public seminar, where the participating CBOs will present their plans for different projects and establishments ensuring the social protection of the marginalized groups in their regions. The seminar will be attended by the trained media figures as well as other media figures. The projects presented during the seminar will tackle four main sectors; namely, health, education, infrastructure services and living standards improvement.



Duration and Phases

The project will be implemented in three phases, through the years 2015-2017. In each phase, a certain geographic region will be selected, working along similar lines with CBOs, media figures and business and government officials. The methodology will be as follows:

- Holding training programs for the CBOs, ending with receiving their proposals for social protection projects in the sectors of health, education, infrastructure services and living standards improvement.
- Holding training programs for media figures to explain social protection and its positive impact on society.
- Holding training programs for business and government officials to explain social protection, its positive impact on society and the importance of focusing on it.
- Holding a public seminar where the CBOs will present their project proposals to the local business and government officials.

In phase one, the project will focus on the Delta Region. Phases two and three will focus on Central Egypt and the Suez Canal Region respectively.

Target groups

- **Training programs' target groups**
 1. CBOs working in the field of social work in Delta region, Central Egypt region and Suez canal region
 2. Media figures working on economic and social affairs
 3. Government and business figures working/originating in Delta region, Central Egypt region and Suez Canal region
- **Public seminar target groups:**
 1. CBOs trained throughout the workshops
 2. Government and business figures residing and/or originating in the local governorates of the designated regions

Partners

Egyptian Union for Development Policies and Social Protection

Phase	Time / Period	Step / Activity	Result and Use
One	2015	Training programs for CBOs	Training the CBOs on different social protection concepts and receiving their proposals for social protection projects in the sectors of health, education, infrastructure services and living standards improvement
		Training programs for media figures	Introducing the notion of social protection to media figures and enhancing their knowledge regarding its importance and positive societal impact.
		Training programs for business and government officials	Introducing the notion of social protection to government and business figures and enhancing their knowledge regarding its importance and positive societal impact.
		Public seminar	Showcasing the project proposals to local government and business figures, in an attempt to take the projects to the implementation stage