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International Council on Social Welfare

July 2022

Working Together for a Better ICSW



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Dear ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,

Welcome to the July 2022 issue of our newsletter.

Crises bring into full view what is hidden in our societies, what we do not see or do not want to see. And yet it is growing among us. The confluence of the crisis generated by Covid-19, the crisis generated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and climate change, among other factors, forces us to rethink our models of social welfare. We need to develop good social intervention strategies, which will allow us to face old and new challenges for social inclusion.

And to do so, we have to take into consideration all the actors involved. In a society of citizens, in democracies based on respect for people, it is mandatory to consult them on the projects we

want to carry out. Participation has become the hallmark of democratic societies, and from the local level to large multilateral organizations, participation is a necessary requirement for developing a social welfare system that respects human rights.

Turning our newsletter into a space for participation is one of my priorities. And I would like to thank, in this issue, our colleagues from the Middle East and North Africa region. We have published three interesting contributions in this issue, and I encourage all newsletter readers to read them. All the regions that make up the ICSW are contributing with their articles to a better mutual understanding, to disseminate analyses, strategies, good practices, and thus enrich the view of each one of us. Thank you very much.

As I reminded you in the June newsletter, we are working intensively on SWESD22, hand in hand with our sister organization, the IASSW. We have extended the deadline for paper submissions until July 30, 2022. I encourage you all to submit your proposals. After the Covid-19 pandemic, this first hybrid congress, virtual and physical, is a good proof of the resistance, resilience and commitment of ICSW, an organization with almost 100 years of history.

Thank you all for your commitment to ICSW.

Take care and stay healthy!

**Rethinking the approach
to tackle the new challenges**

Driss Guerraoui and Bachir Tamer, The International Council of Social Welfare - MENA Region

MENA economies and communities are evolving within national contexts marked by the rise of new and unprecedented socio-economic costs, generated by the Covid-19 Pandemic and compounded by a highly volatile international environment. The latter is causing new cases of insecurity that require overhauling the approach to social action, which is deemed more important. In fact, these costs and cases have deteriorated the purchasing power of the population of the Inter Region, increased the state's indebtedness, and caused the scarcity of resources to finance the economic growth and social solidarity. These factors are part of the context of the impacts generated by the intensification of water scarcity, the worsening of extreme natural phenomena (drought, floods, earthquakes, etc.) and heightened energy, food and health crisis throughout the countries of the region.

Hence, social action in the Region is facing several challenges that require an adequate

approach, which takes into account the new changes experienced by the Region.

The relevance of this approach lies in the sustainability of social policies, that each country will adopt in the future, and in its ability to meet the challenges ahead.

The first challenge is that the above-mentioned communities are undergoing changes in their demographic structures, which are generating new balances between cities and rural areas, moving towards an acceleration of anarchic, non-inclusive and unsustainable urbanization. These communities are also faced with a new demographic reality, characterized by the predominance of the youth population aged between 15 to 24 and a concomitant and growing number of elderly people. Moreover, while the former class must absolutely remain large, the latter will gradually increase in the overall population of the region. These same communities are also seeing increasing sociological changes manifested in the emergence of new generations of poverty, vulnerability and exclusion.

These generations are mainly low-ranking civil servants, low-wage employees working on fixed-term contracts, retirees, informal sector workers, abandoned children, and female breadwinners living in difficult conditions. They also include peasants without arable land, rural dwellers who leave the countryside for the large industrial cities holding indigent jobs, and emigrants who have lost their rights. Furthermore, larger social groups, composed of middle-classes crippled by debts and the various effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic and a large part of the population is surviving with the help of overabundant informal sector and annual large-scale illegal activities, belong to the same generations.

The shared characteristics of these new social phenomena are a lack of tools to analyse their underlying causes and unavailability of studies to assess their impacts on the living and working conditions of the population concerned. They may encourage institutions dedicated to strategic research and foresight, universities and national research centres in the Region to train a new generation of sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, ethnologists and economists to approach, monitor and evaluate the ins and outs of these phenomena. This will help understand their evolution, monitor the changes they have generated and develop the most appropriate policies, actions and programmes for their regulation.

The second challenge relates to the inappropriate definition of the poverty line, which corresponds to the new reality of the population's living conditions. In fact, many social theorists and practitioners agree that one-dollar and a half of even two dollars per person per day can no longer be reasonably used to determine the poverty line and the number of people living in poverty. In addition, it is urgent to rethink this criterion because household food basket has been radically altered. Relatively speaking, a large part of the Region's population consumes more fruits, vegetables, meat, milk and dairy products than in the past. It is also spending more of their income on children education, health care and energy, and cover transportation and housing costs. Yet, the costs of these non-state-subsidized goods and services are rising dramatically and are not being supported by significant wage increase either in the formal private sector or in civil service.

As a result, the cost of living is rising so much that even a household cannot currently meet all its basic needs on five dollars per day per person.

Therefore, the statistics systems across the region need to develop a proactive, innovative and up-to-date approach to ensure that the data linked to the poverty line, vulnerability and exclusion reflect the current social reality.

Simultaneously, if the MENA countries want to develop efficient and sustainable anti-poverty measures, they need to undertake public policies that would successfully reduce the social, territorial, gender, and inter-generational inequalities that have grown enormously due to the health crisis. Admittedly, States are trying to reduce the inequalities via direct aid policies, weak tax reforms, a wide range of social actions and solidarity programmes, and social mobility in terms of education and training. Nevertheless, the impacts of these policies are limited due to the absence of a proactive, fairer and more sustainable distribution of growth and wealth in general, thus raising the issue of essential extension of social welfare throughout the region, and the importance of rethinking its governance based on four axes of intervention:

1. Extending social welfare via a concerted and shared approach between all its actors;
2. Targeting public spending on different social protection schemes to protect the real poor;
3. Overhauling solidarity mechanisms through bold tax reforms based on a fair sharing of taxpayers' efforts and a merciless fight against fraud and tax evasion;
4. Mobilising all possible sources and resources to sustainably finance the above-mentioned extension.

Regardless of the appropriateness of this approach and the nature of the decisions, the implementation of a universal basic income for all remain the most appropriate solution. In fact, if the

Covid-19 Pandemic has revealed the vitality of this instrument to fight against the ins and outs of human distress, social divisions, extreme poverty, and glaring vulnerabilities, that affect the most excluded members of society, it also showed the inescapable necessity of this option to promote social action and solidarity.

The North Africa Countries A differentiated evolution of the human development



Driss GUERRAOUI,

ICSW Regional President of the Middle East and North Africa

An analysis of the integration in the Maghreb Region has to focus first on the current development status of the five countries.

Here, it is clear that the Region is marked by contradictory realities, resulting from the differentiated evolutions of each country since its independence. These contradictory realities affect all the areas of development of the above-mentioned countries.

The three countries of the Region, namely Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, have been facing acute political, socio-economic and security problems for over twenty (20) years, thus influencing their socio-economic development and infrastructure. Hence, the performances of the five countries of the region on these three aspects are distinctly contrasted.

Furthermore, the comparative evolution of the indicators shows that Morocco probably functions as a real driving force in the Region, and profits from a real regional leadership, which is not only established not in the Region, but also in the Greater Africa-Europe-Arab World Area.

A number of indicators demonstrate this reality. In fact, Morocco's GDP growth rate between 1980 and 2019 has increased by 5.46 to reach 118.7 billion US\$, the highest rate achieved compared to Algeria and Tunisia where the rate reached 4.01 and 4.43 respectively. Mauritania's rate of 7.2 is a result of the extremely low level of GDP, which was close to US\$1 million in 1980.

In 2018, the Global Competitiveness Index indicates that, of the 138 countries assessed, the Region's five (5) countries have been ranked as follow: Algeria 87, Morocco 70, Mauritania 137, and Tunisia 95 (UNDP report released in 2018). Of the 190 countries assessed, the results of Doing Business, with regard to business facilitation, show that Algeria has reached 157, Libya 186, Morocco 60, Mauritania 148 and Tunisia 80 (the World Bank). With regard to governance, measured, among other things, by the level of corruption, Transparency International data, released in 2018, show that, out of the 180 countries assessed, Algeria was ranked 105, Libya 170, Morocco 73, Mauritania 144 and Tunisia 73.

In terms of new communication technologies, the

proportion of internet users, compared to the number of inhabitants, amounts to 42.9% in Algeria, 20.3% in Libya, 58.3% in Morocco, 18% in Mauritania and 49.6% in Tunisia (UNDP, 2018). Furthermore, measuring the state of global security emphasizes that the homicide rates per 100,000 people comes to 1.4 in Algeria, 2.5 in Libya, 1.2 in Morocco, 9.9 in Mauritania and 3.0 in Tunisia (UNDP report released in 2018).

The impact of this performance, which is linked to the general business climate, lie in the promotion of Morocco's attractiveness compared to other Maghreb countries. This is especially highlighted in the respective share achieved by the five (5) countries in the volume of foreign direct investments.

In fact, this volume shows that the evolution of incoming flows in millions of current US dollars, between 2010 and 2019, increased from 2300.37 to 11381.89 in Algeria, from 1240.63 to 1599.76 in Morocco, from 130.53 to 883.56 in Mauritania and from 1334.50 to 810.17 in Tunisia. In 2010, the volume was 1784.00 in Libya, given the unavailability of 2018 figures (World Bank website).

The same finding is probably noticeable in social development indicators. In 2017, the unemployment rate of youth aged 15 to 24 was estimated at 23.9% in Algeria, 40.0% in Libya, 18.0% in Morocco, 18.6% in Mauritania and 35.8% in Tunisia. At the same time, the percentage of population living under multidimensional poverty amounts to 51.2% in Algeria, 33.6% in Libya, 78.1% in Mauritania, 56.8% in Tunisia and only 1.9% in Morocco (UNDP report, 2018).

As regards the infrastructures, international standards show that the quality of port infrastructure fluctuates between 1 in countries

where this quality is poorly developed, and 7 in nations where it is highly developed. In this context, Morocco is ranked among developed countries, having reached a quality estimated at 5, whereas Italy, France, Portugal and Spain have respectively achieved a quality of 4.4, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5. The world average varies between 4.1 and 5 in the OECD member states.

For the remaining Maghreb countries, this quality reached 3.4 in Algeria, 3.3 in Tunisia, and 2.6 in both Libya and Mauritania.

A similar finding can be seen in the 2018 Logistics Index. The latter, which assess the quality of trade and transport infrastructures, varies between 1, for low quality, and 5 for high quality. In this context, Morocco was ranked first in the Maghreb Region scoring 2.43, followed by Algeria with an overall score of 2.42, Libya 2.25, Mauritania 2.26 and Tunisia 2.10 (the World Bank website).

In 2019, of the 38 African countries assessed by Global Economy, Morocco was ranked the first among the Maghreb Region for roads quality, followed by Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania.

As for airports, SKYTRAX World's Top 100 Airports 2020, which evaluates the world's best airports reported that the Singapore's Changi Airport remains at the top of the list for the eighth consecutive year, ahead of Tokyo-Haneda Airport, which maintained its second place, and Doha-Hamad International Airport which scored high internationally.

In Africa, three South African airports hold the top spot in the ranking, including Cape Town, Durban King Shaka and Johannesburg. In the Maghreb Region, two Moroccan airports are included in the African top 10, namely Marrakech airport, ranked the fifth, and Casablanca airport, ranked the tenth.

No other airport in the Region is ranked.

In terms of infrastructures, it is worth mentioning two "success stories" achieved by Morocco, namely the Tangier-Casablanca High-Speed Line and the Tangier Med Port. These two achievements helped the country move a step forward to reach a milestone in shipping and rail transport in the Mediterranean and Africa. It is a safe bet that the ongoing construction of the Dakhla-Atlantic Port will make the Southern Provinces of Morocco a real international hub, which destination should be the large Africa-Europe-Atlantic and Asia Zone via the Middle East. It will then be referred to "the Road of Dakhla".

Notwithstanding these aspects of performance, and as paradoxical as it may seem, Morocco keeps performing very poorly in the Human Development Index, in comparison with Algeria and Tunisia. In fact, out of 189 countries assessed by this Index, established by the United Nations, Algeria was ranked 82, Tunisia 91, Libya 110, Morocco 121 and Mauritania 161 (UNDP report in 2019).

Overall, this unsatisfactory performance made by Morocco and Mauritania is mainly due to their extremely poor results in education and health.

Furthermore, the share of the whole Maghreb countries is less than 1% in total world trade, and around 3% in intra-Maghreb trade in the zone's GDP. The share of goods between the Maghreb Region in its total trade with the rest of the world is only 5%, whereas this share is 16% in Africa, 19% in Latin America, 51% in Asia, 54% in North America and 70% in Europe (IMF, 2018).

In many areas, cooperation between the Region's five countries no longer exists. It declined in

other areas since the official creation of the Maghreb Arab Union in 1989 in Marrakech, which comprises Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Since that date, the Region and the world have undergone significant demographic, socio-economic, political, technological, geostrategic, military, security and climatic transformations.

Given the contrasting realities above, the cost of non-Maghreb integration within the current regionalized globalization is excessive. Experts estimate that it would far exceed 3% of the GDP of the five countries concerned.

Social Protection for Prisoners: The Egyptian Experience



Dr. Salah Hashem,
Professor of Development and Planning at Fayoum University and President of the Strategic Forum for Public Policies and Development Studies "Draya"

The Egyptian state is subjected from time to time to a campaign of criticism and distortion by Western media and human rights organizations that deliberately ignore the state's efforts to make

progress in various fields, especially the field of human rights. False reports are issued aimed at undermining the security of the country and questioning any achievement achieved by the state. However, the state is on its way to construction and development, deriving its strength from the cohesion of its people and their standing together behind their conscious political leadership.

- even the one who is familiar with such reports, which lacks the simplest rules of professionalism and objectivity, discovers the falsehood of the information, data and numbers that are not relevant to the truth. It is not the first time, and it will not be the last, in which criticism of the human rights file in Egypt has been directed in order to discredit its reputation before the international community. Although the human rights file is an internal affair that is not affected by any external pressure, it is necessary to refute these allegations and to monitor all efforts made by the state to protect and promote human rights, in a manner befitting the status of Egypt and the aspirations of its people who carried out two revolutions in 2011 and 2013 to uphold the values of freedom, dignity, human and social justice.

Among the allegations contained in the reports of some Western media and biased human rights organizations, the widespread use of the death penalty, the increase in enforced disappearances, as well as the ill-treatment of prisoners and the consideration of the recent release of prisoners as "exceptional" processes and that thousands of political prisoners are still behind bars. Through this report, we refute these suspicious allegations.

1- the death penalty

The Egyptian legislator has established the death

penalty for a number of offences which it deemed to be extremely dangerous and grave. The legislator used this punishment in four laws in Egypt: the Penal Code, the Anti-Drugs Law, the Military Judgments Law, and the Weapons and Ammunition Law.

In the Penal Code, The Egyptian legislator decided the death penalty for a range of crimes, and among these crimes are what harms the security of the state from the outside (Articles 77 and beyond from the Penal Code), and some of them harm the security of the state from the inside (Articles 86 and beyond penalties), including What harms the security of the people.

Egypt's law also requires several guarantees for the death penalty ruling that reduce any possibilities of error : The death sentence must be pronounced unanimously by the Court (not by a majority of the members of the Court)and The opinion of the Mufti of the Republic must be taken (the judgement shall be invalidated if the Court renders it without taking the opinion of the mufti), and The case must be brought before the Court of Cassation to exercise its control over all elements of the judgement, whether substantive or formal, whereby the case papers are examined from its inception and reviewing the minutes of the sessions of the criminal court, including medical reports, examinations and statements of witnesses, examining the evidence and all that was contained in the papers, and ruling on its own initiative to overturn the judgment in any case of error in the law or invalidity, and if the Court of Cassation decides to overturn the judgment and re-trial again and the Court of Retrial considers The death sentence for the second time, it must also follow those procedures again, which is to take the opinion of the Mufti and issue the ruling by consensus.

It should be noted that there are other guarantees established by the legislator for death sentences, according to Article 46 of the Law on Cases and Procedure of Cassation 57 of 1959, which included that if the judgment was issued for the death penalty in the presence of the accused, the Public Prosecution must submit the case to the Court of Cassation with its opinion in the judgment, and that Within the legally prescribed time, "sixty days." And here the legislator considers that the death sentences handed down in his presence should be brought before the Court of Cassation without dependence on the appeal of them by the parties to the criminal case, due to the gravity of the death penalty and the keenness that the sentence conforms to the law and reality. The Public Prosecution Office presents the judgment to cassation, even if the judgment in its view is not appealed.

Another guarantee is that the President of the Republic must ratify any death sentence issued by a court, whether military or civil, when the sentence becomes final and all means of appeal have been exhausted (it was supported by the Court of Cassation), where the Minister of Justice submits it to the President of the Republic for ratification, and the sentence is executed if The order was not issued completely pardoning the penalty or commuting the penalty within 14 days.

Finally, after all these safeguards and controls established by the legislator in view of the gravity of the death penalty, malicious media and human rights organizations allege that death sentences are carried out on a large scale, forgetting the full commitment of the judicial authorities to the rule of law, and providing full guarantees for any accused to exercise his right to defend himself, and other Procedures are to be followed.

Accordingly, such media platforms have deviated from the standards of objectivity and professionalism when making these allegations, which are considered an unacceptable transgression against the Egyptian judicial system and those in charge of it.

2- Increase in enforced disappearances

It should be noted that during the events of January 2011 there were cases of disappearance of a limited number of individuals, and those numbers increased during the country's protests in 2012 and 2013, but the reports and communications submitted since 2014 until now are characterized by a significant lack of information, starting with the names of the alleged perpetrators of their disappearance, the exact circumstances or timing of the disappearance, or the parties allegedly committed this crime.

Despite the lack of seriousness of doubts about the validity of many of these allegations, the National Council for Human Rights was keen to verify all complaints received about enforced disappearance, stressing that most of the cases were either presented to the Public Prosecution and imprisoned or emigrated abroad and joined terrorist organizations.

The Ministry of Interior has repeatedly denied the existence of enforced disappearances and confirmed that only prisoners or detainees are under detention by a decision of the Public Prosecution pending cases in preparation for presenting them to trial or releasing them, and that perhaps among those alleged for their enforced disappearance are elements who left the country to join terrorist organizations in several Arab and foreign countries, or fugitive elements who are wanted for arrest in implementation of

the Public Prosecution's decision.

And regarding the allegations of the enforced disappearance of the researcher, "Ayman Hodhoud" before his death, all responsible authorities denied this claim, including the National Council for Human Rights, which confirmed in an official statement that the Council's Complaints and Monitoring Committee had not received any complaints from any of his relatives that he had been subjected to enforced disappearance.

3- ill-treatment of prisoners

- Western media and some human rights organizations, in their politicized reports, deliberately promote the existence of human rights violations inside Egyptian prisons, considering the recent release of prisoners as "exceptional" operations and that thousands of "political prisoners" are still behind bars, which is beyond reasonable and exceeds the right and sovereignty of Egypt on its territory. These and other reports did not provide logical evidence confirming the validity of what is being published on the websites, nor did they indicate the extent of efforts and achievements made on the ground with the aim of creating a life and dignified treatment for all Egyptians, especially the "prisoners".

The Egyptian state's efforts to protect the rights of prisoners

-Those reports ignored that Egypt was among the highest in ratifying the 18 international human rights conventions, in addition to that Egypt participated in preparing and drafting the Global Charter on Human Rights in 1948, and the International Covenant on Rights Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant

on Economic and Social Rights.

-Since the inception of the United Nations, Egypt has also actively participated in all its human rights bodies, whether those based on the Charter of the United Nations or on the ten basic international human rights treaties, in addition to Egypt's participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism (The Universal Periodic Review) UPR since its establishment by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006.

The 2014 constitution, which is considered the most advanced in the history of Egyptian constitutions in the field of human rights and freedoms, allocates more than 125 articles that are translated into legal texts applied through the policies adopted by the State to affirm human rights in the areas of private and public freedoms, politics and sociology and economics, and Criminalization of violation of human dignity, torture and discrimination, and emphasizing all freedoms of expression, publication, creativity, belief, movement, property, work, strike and the rule of law. The state's efforts in this context can be monitored through the following axes:

4- National Strategy for Human Rights regulates the treatment of prisoners and detainees

National Strategy for Human Rights, launched by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in September 2021, laid down controls and plans for dealing with prisoners and other detainees - which are not highlighted in such malicious reports - and came as follows:

- 1- It recommended the members of the Public Prosecution Office to supervise and inspect prisons, places of detention, in addition to accepting prisoners' complaints, and examining all prison papers and records.

- 2- Emphasizing the continuation of development and modernization of prisons facilities and the establishment of new prisons to reduce the density within the framework of continuous improvement in the standard of living and health care of prisoners.
- 3- It called for the expansion of the establishment of literacy classes and the religious and cultural seminars for prison inmates in coordination with the Ministry of Endowments and the General Authority for Cultural Palaces to develop the religious and cultural aspect of the inmates.
- 4- It emphasized the importance of involving civil society organizations, the private sector, and government agencies in the reintegration of the released prisoners into society and providing the necessary support to them and their families.

Amendment to Prisons' Law

The politicized and selective reports did not address the parliament's approval in March 2022 of a draft law submitted by the government to amend some provisions of Law No. 396 of 1956 regarding the organization of prisons, within the framework of the state's plan to develop penal institutions in terms of their names, buildings, and management in a way that aims to consolidating the values and principles of the rights of the prisoners, to provide them with societal protection, rehabilitate and integration into society, and benefit from their rehabilitation in development programs and plans by supporting the educational rights of the prisoners by completing their studies for those who have the desire and taking the exams set for them within the public reform and rehabilitation centers.

The Amendment to Prisons' Law comes within the framework of strengthening the concepts of human rights established by the State on 30 June, which has integrated human rights into the development process. This legislation reflects the penal institutions' adoption of a new philosophy based on transforming traditional places of detention into exemplary places to rehabilitate prisoners in terms of the entitlement of convicts not to be punished twice for their crime, and thus aims to convert prisoners' sentences into their period of investment in human beings.

The opening of the correction and rehabilitation centers in Wadi al-Natrun and Badr City confirms the state's seriousness in protecting prisoners' rights and its keenness to reform the penal system.

Rehabilitation and reform centers have become suitable places of detention, providing projects and handicrafts and providing education and literacy for inmates. The two centers have been built according to the finest architectural systems and the use of modern technology.

The Human Rights Council of Egypt emphasizes that these correctional centres are part of a gradual process of closing old prisons and building modern correction and rehabilitation centres that conform to international standards. The opening of these centres constitutes the first stage in the process of comprehensive change of the concept of penal institutions in Egypt.

It should also be noted that there are continuous visits by human rights delegations, representatives of foreign agencies and international newspapers to Egyptian prisons, in coordination with the community protection sector, to monitor the conditions of prisoners and inspect aspects of care provided to them. These visits come in an attempt by the Ministry of

Interior to respond to the allegations and skepticism campaigns that are issued by some Western media outlets against the situation of prisoners in Egypt.

5- Activation of the Presidential Pardon

In the "Egyptian family Iftar" on April 26 2022, the president Sisi reactivated the 'Presidential Pardon Committee' which was formed as one of the outcomes of the National Youth conference in 2016, as it will expand its cooperation with the competent agencies and civil society.

The re-activated committee communicated with various political parties and forces and prepared an urgent list of prisoners proposed for release, announcing that no one would be excluded except those who's killed the Egyptians, or those accused in cases of corruption, sabotage and violence against the sons and people of Egypt, provided that it expands its work base in cooperation with the competent agencies and organizations concerned civil society.

the Ministry of the Interior announced the release of 46,000 prisoners under a presidential pardon during the period from 2014 to 2018, and 54,000 prisoners were released during the same period by the pardon of the police, and the number of prisoners released, whether by presidential or police pardon, in 2019 was 34,490 prisoners.

in 2020 and 2021, more than 45,000 prisoners were released on various occasions and holidays, and in 2022, a presidential pardon was granted to 3,273 prisoners.

6- The president's initiative "Prisons without debtors"

The initiative was established under the direction of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in 2018, and "the Long Live Egypt" Fund paid special attention to this issue, working on: social support, health care, economic empowerment, and education and training support for those groups most in need. Nearly 42million pounds have been allocated to implement this initiative, in addition to the release of 6,400 cases from various prisons until 2019.

National Committee for the Welfare of Debtors

The committee was formed upon the assignment of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi amid concerns to emphasize the governance of debt repayment, and to take preventive measures to protect citizens who are unable to borrow.

The committee also aims to unify the efforts of civil and religious associations working to pay off the debts, and to prepare awareness campaigns to promote a culture of rational consumption.

On April 17 2022, President Abdel Fattah El Sisi directed the government to make a list of debtors in prisons and the provision of complete databases about them that include their geographical distribution and the reasons for the fine to determine the beneficiaries and the provision of safe mechanisms for debt, which reflects the state's determination to find a radical solution to this phenomenon.

7- Projects and initiatives to support and protect prisoners' families

The Ministry of Social Solidarity attaches special importance to caring for the families of prison

inmates and the released with the aim of helping them to face their economic and social problems, as well as the aftercare of the released in order to help them financially and morally to restore their status and integrate into the community framework, as well as reduce any criminal danger they may pose to the surrounding community.

In this context, the Ministry of Social Solidarity is implementing a project to support and protect families at risk "SANAD", which aims to provide psychological support, social rehabilitation and economic empowerment for the families of prisoners and those released with a presidential pardon through financing small or micro projects with large credit facilities.

The "Sanad" project provides prisoners' families with health services, in addition to exempting children from school expenses and giving them priority in obtaining cash support from the "Takafel and Karama" program implemented by the Ministry of Solidarity since 2015.

In addition, many initiatives have been launched that enable the family to find a suitable income for it that protects it from falling into debt, such as the "Dokan Al Farha" initiative to equip the first girls with care, and lift the burden on their mothers, and the "Mastoura" program for single women and girls from the age of 21 to 60 years, where financing programs are provided to women through Nasser Social Bank to establish small projects that contribute to transforming them from receiving support, into an effective component and productive energy.

More Activity at ICSW - Save the Date!

SWESD 2022

Title: Redefining Social Policy and Social Work Practice in a Post-Pandemic Society – Social Welfare Programs and Social Work Education at Crossroads

Date : 26th to 28th October 2022

Organized by IASSW, ICSW and KNCSW

Abstract Submission Date Extended!!! – 31th July

Please save the dates for the Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development in October! It will be held from 26th to 28th October, 2022 in Seoul, Korea. It will be a hybrid format where both online sessions and face-to-face sessions take place.

Presenters can choose which way they wish to present at the conference. We expect most of the presentation sessions to be held online; however, there will also be opportunities to present in the face-to-face sessions.

The **due date for the abstract submission is extended to 31th July**. Please share the dates and information about presentation sessions of the conference with your colleagues and stay tuned for the updates on the website!

For more information about SWESD 2022, please visit <http://swesd2022.com/>

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**Contributions to the newsletter are
welcome!**