



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان  
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

# National Human Rights Strategy.

Three Years of Completing the Path  
and Facing Challenges



# Report

## National Human Rights Strategy: Three Years of Progress and Challenges

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## Chairman Message

Three years after the launch of National Human Rights Strategy, it is clear that this 78-page document resulted from political leadership recognizing the need for national and local frameworks, as well as ambitious goals, to enhance human rights conditions. This Strategy serves as a guiding compass for policies, procedures, and legislation enacted by the authorities across the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as other stakeholders.

Recognizing the significance of National Human Rights Strategy, the government incorporated it into its work program for 2024-2027 in July 2024. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi referenced Strategy in his response to recommendations regarding pretrial detention from National Dialogue Initiative. I commend the government for the successive releases of pretrial detainees, the most recent being 151 individuals in September, as part of President's commitment to National Dialogue recommendations.

Despite challenges in implementing National Human Rights Strategy, most notably the absence of an executive action plan outlining the responsibilities of each entity involved in achieving Strategy objectives, as well as the insufficient promotion of a human rights culture, particularly in rural areas where over 57% of the population resides, there are reasons for optimism. The recent ministerial formation in July 2024 represents a significant step forward for Egyptian women, with 19 women assuming various roles, including minister, deputy minister, or governor. This advancement aligns with the objectives outlined in the women's rights sub-section of the third axis of National Strategy for Human Rights. Additionally, the near completion of Criminal procedures project, currently under discussion, is poised to address key objectives related to civil and political rights, particularly concerning pretrial detention controls and alternatives to it, as well as compensation mechanisms. Positive developments also include Ministry of Interior's ongoing efforts to reform punitive philosophies by establishing more correctional and rehabilitation centers and continuing investigations into allegations of cruelty and abuse against individuals involved in these practices.

In this Report, I express optimism about the future and maintain that achieving the desired outcomes of This Strategy may be more feasible through a collaborative and participatory approach. Engaging stakeholders in consultation can expedite the implementation of the remaining objectives of Strategy and effectively address emerging challenges at all levels. Ensuring the active participation of civil society in this process adds significant value and makes the realization of Strategy goals more attainable.

The purpose of this Report is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the efforts made by all institutions, ministries, and stakeholders in the country. It is based on accurate

data and evidence. It is important to note that the implementation of target results of Strategy in its third year has occurred amidst turbulent regional and international circumstances. As one of the participants in launching Strategy, I recall President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's call at the launch conference for a partnership approach involving the government, civil society, and specialized national councils. Thus, the aim of this Report, issued by Maat for the third consecutive year, is to monitor the implementation of National Strategy for Human Rights, accurately identify challenges, provide recommendations, and encourage the responsible parties to enhance their efforts. Our goal is to uncover the hidden results and make the remaining phase of Strategy a period dedicated to achieving all desired outcomes.

*Ayman Okeil*

*September 2024*

## Preamble

Three years have passed since the launch of National Strategy for Human Rights by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on September 11, 2021. This Strategy serves as the foundation for Egyptian government's approach to rights and freedoms. In July 2024, the government published its updated work program, which included a section dedicated to promoting human rights and Fundamental freedoms. A key highlight of this section is the ongoing implementation of National Strategy for Human Rights, which aims to improve and promote basic human rights, particularly civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. Several factors have contributed to advancing the implementation of Strategy. One significant factor is the continuation of National dialogue, which acts as a mechanism for implementing National Strategy for Human Rights. Additionally, Presidential Pardon Committee has consistently worked to release a number of journalists, activists, the elderly, and others in pretrial detention, with the most recent action being the pardon of 79 pretrial detainees in July 2024. National Strategy for Human Rights represents a turning point in Egyptian state's approach to human rights, as it is the first comprehensive document addressing human rights in Egypt. Strategy encompasses four main axes: **(i) Civil and political rights; (ii) Economic and social rights; (iii) Human rights pertaining to women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities; and (iv) Education and capacity building in the field of human rights.**

Strategy aims to tackle the challenges within each axis by highlighting strengths and available opportunities, thereby building toward the target results of each area. In total, Strategy aims for **226 target results**, with the civil and political rights axis containing the largest share, 71 target results. The achievement of these results is guided by the philosophy underlying Strategy, which operates through three executive tracks: **legislative development, institutional development, and education and capacity building** in human rights.

Strategy has allocated a five-year timeframe for achieving its target results and goals during its first phase. However, it has not established an executive action plan to facilitate these outcomes or clarify the responsibilities of the parties involved in their implementation. Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights remains responsible for overseeing the evaluation of Strategy implementation; however, there is still limited coordination between the committee and other stakeholders regarding Strategy's execution or the proposal of an executive action plan. Maat believes that the third year since the launch of National Strategy for Human Rights has been marked by significant developments and efforts aimed at achieving Strategy's target results. Among the most notable of these efforts is the near completion of Draft Criminal Procedures Law, along with the legal texts it encompasses, which seek to fulfil several objectives outlined in the first axis related to civil and political rights. In

general, there has been legislative development, albeit slowly. Law No. 1 of 2024, which amends certain provisions of Criminal Procedure Code to allow appeals of felony judgments from all types of courts, was issued on January 16, 2024. This law was issued just before the Constitutional deadline requiring its adoption within ten years of Egyptian Constitution's enactment in 2014. Regarding institutional development, various ministries have continued to establish and structure their human rights units. This reflects a shift in mindset among these ministries, which initially resisted the idea, facing bureaucratic and administrative obstacles during the establishment process.

Ministry of Interior has also progressed in implementing its Strategy to reform punitive philosophies and expand the construction of rehabilitation centers, improving both ventilation and healthcare within these facilities. In the realm of education and capacity building, various measures—including awareness campaigns and training courses for ministry employees and administrative staff—have been undertaken. However, the positive efforts made by various stakeholders to enhance the implementation of target results across the four strategic axes cannot be overlooked. Currently, approximately 11% of the total target results have been implemented, while responsible parties have approached 62.4% of the total results. Conversely, 26.6% of the results—approximately 60 target results—have yet to be initiated. The commencement of their implementation requires an acceleration of efforts by the responsible parties.

Since the launch of National Human Rights Strategy on September 11, 2021, Maat has closely monitored its implementation, gathering evidence and data related to achieving target results. As a civil society organization committed to tracking national strategies and action plans, **Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights** presents this Report three years after the launch of National Human Rights Strategy to continue our series of reports evaluating Strategy progress. The Report consists of four main sections: **(i) Main Results After Three Years of Strategy; (ii) Strategy Implementation Tracks; (iii) Monitoring Strategy Implementation Strategy According to Four Axes; and (iv) Challenges Facing Strategy Activation.** These sections lead to a set of practical recommendations that Maat believes could accelerate the achievement of target results in National Human Rights Strategy.

## Methodology

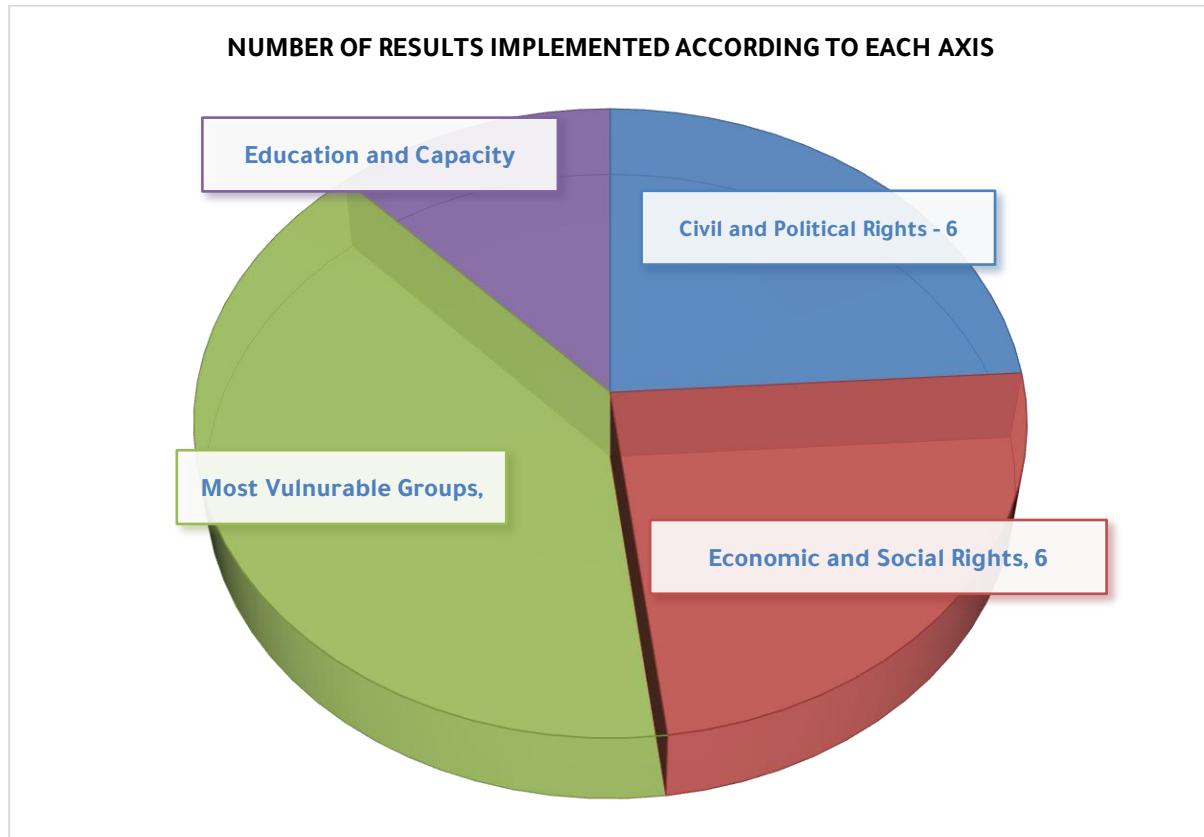
This Report employed a mechanism to monitor the level of achievement by the government and other bodies responsible for implementing Strategy, focusing on 226 target results across the four axes of National Human Rights Strategy. This was done by surveying decisions and measures issued in relation to Strategy on the website of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights from September 11, 2021, to September 2024, as well as on the websites of the bodies tasked with implementation. Additionally, decisions from weekly meetings of Council of Ministers during the same period were reviewed, along with relevant laws published in Official Gazette. The report also utilized a tool to evaluate the efforts made to achieve target results. The evaluation categories are defined as follows: "**Implemented**" refers to target results where achievement levels were high and positive. "**In Progress/About to Be Achieved**" indicates target results that have been initiated but are not yet fully completed. "**Not Started**" denotes results for which no efforts have been made. The analytical framework in this Report is based on documented evidence, data, and official statistics from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics.

For the purposes of this Report, the "First Axis" refers to civil and political rights, the "Second Axis" pertains to economic, social, and cultural rights, the "Vulnerable Groups" encompass human rights for women, children, youth, people with disabilities, and the elderly, and the "Fourth Axis" relates to capacity building and education in the field of human rights, as defined in Strategy. Additionally, the updated Egypt Vision 2030, the government's work program for 2024-2027, and two reports from the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights were considered as reference documents during evaluation.



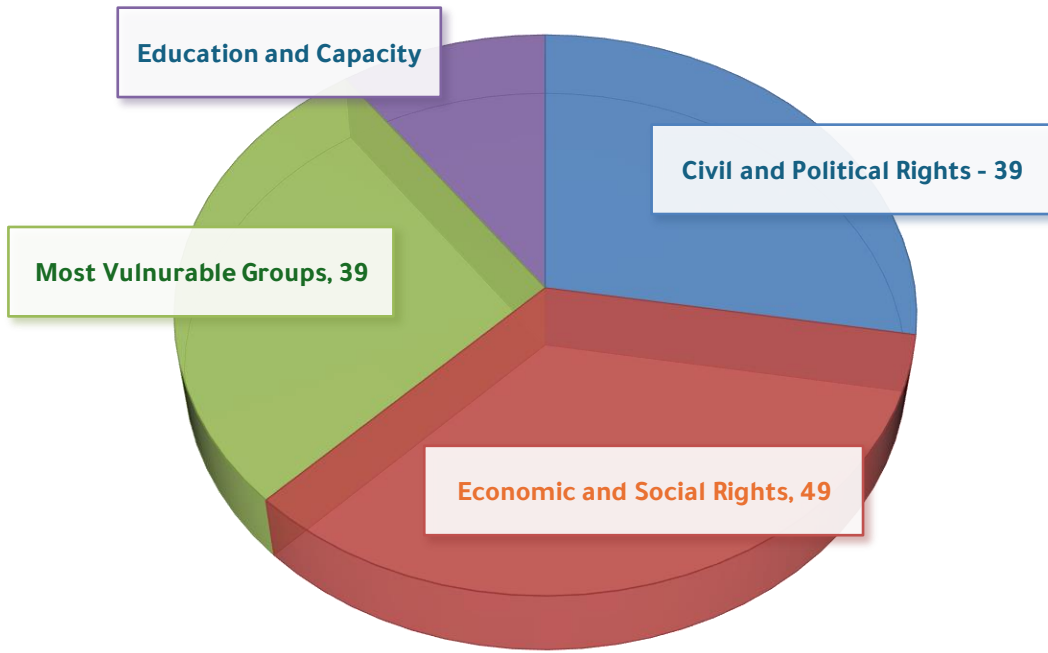
## First: Main Results After Three Years of Strategy

Evaluation of implementation of National Human Rights Strategy three years after its launch has revealed positive results and developments not observed in the second year. However, it has also identified delays in achieving some target results. These results are distributed across the four axes of Strategy, as illustrated in the following figure.



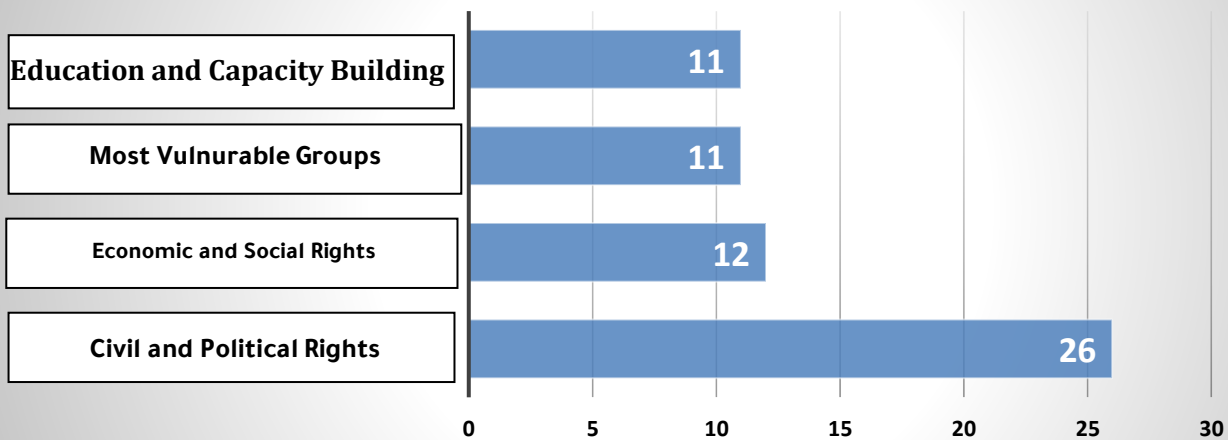
Moreover, entities responsible for implementing Strategy have come close to achieving 141 target results across the four axes, representing 62.4% of the total target results in National Human Rights Strategy, as shown in the following figure.

### NUMBER OF RESULTS ABOUT TO BE ACHIEVED



Maat has observed that efforts have been insufficient to initiate work on 60 target results, representing 26.6% of the total outcomes, which are also distributed across the four axes of National Human Rights Strategy, as illustrated in the following figure.

### NUMBER OF RESULTS NOT STARTED



## Second: Strategy Implementation Tracks

National Human Rights Strategy identifies three executive tracks: 1. Legislative Track; 2. Institutional Development Track; 3. Education and Capacity Building Track. Strategy aims to implement 226 target results through these three tracks, which serve as mechanisms for executing National Human Rights Strategy. Based on these tracks, Maat will analyse progress in implementing Strategy according to the three identified tracks. This section of the report assesses progress three years after Strategy launch by examining outcomes that require legislative action, institutional development, and education and capacity-building efforts. Additionally, this subsection provides a four-part analysis identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges related to each of the three tracks.

### A. Legislative Track

National Human Rights Strategy aimed to issue and amend approximately 33 pieces of legislation to achieve target results across its axes. Notably, the education and capacity-building axis did not include any legislative targets. However, the legislative development track has shown positive progress three years after Strategy launch. House of Representatives approved several draft laws during the reporting period and referred them to President of Republic, including the Law on Appeals from All Types of Courts and the Law on the Rights of the Elderly. The anticipated approval of Draft Criminal Procedures Law is expected to bolster the legislative development track. This will facilitate the implementation of several target results in the first axis concerning civil and political rights, particularly four results related to pretrial detention. These results aim to establish controls for pretrial detention, identify alternatives, provide compensation, and expand the project for remote review of detention orders. Additionally, there are two target results related to the protection of witnesses, informants, and victims, as Draft Criminal Procedures Law includes provisions for their protection. However, these outcomes will only be realized upon President's approval of Draft law and its publication in the Official Gazette. The table below outlines target results that require legislative action.

#	Law/Amendment to Draft Law	Position on Law/Amendment	Axis
1	Utilizing framework for reviewing the most serious crimes for which death penalty is imposed	Not referred for discussion	Civil and political rights
2	A legislative amendment enables those who are financially unable to appeal death sentences before the Court of Cassation	Not referred for discussion	Civil and political rights

#	Law/Amendment to Draft Law	Position on Law/Amendment	Axis
3	Strengthening guarantees regarding justifications and periods of pretrial detention in laws	In final draft	Civil and political rights
4	Consider including in Code of Criminal Procedure more technologically advanced alternatives to pretrial detention, and work to activate the alternatives contained therein.	In final draft	Civil and political rights
5	Generalizing implementation of project for remote consideration of pretrial detention orders	(Within Code of Criminal Procedure)	Civil and political rights
6	Establishing a legal system that does not justify pretrial detention if accused is a child over fifteen years of age, which tightens conditions that must be met for detention.	In initial discussion	Civil and political rights
7	Adopting a legislative policy to review crimes for which the offender is obligatorily punished with custodial penalties	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
8	Studying a legislative amendment to create an alternative penalty to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for non-payment of debts arising from contractual relations.	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
9	Legislative regulation of the principle that criminal and civil lawsuits shall not be subject to a statute of limitations regarding all forms of assault on personal freedom. If the perpetrator is a public employee or assigned to a public service	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
10	Issuance of a law allowing appeal of rulings issued in felonies by all types of courts.	entered into force	Civil and political rights
11	Legislative expansion of Criminal order system to reduce pressure on misdemeanor courts.	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
12	Amending Code of Criminal Procedure in a way that requires the accused to be informed of his right to silence.	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
13	Preparing and issuing a law to protect witnesses, whistleblowers and victims.	In final draft	Civil and political rights
14	Recognizing right of person harmed by crimes of assault on personal freedom to file a criminal case through direct prosecution, and ensuring	(Within procedural law)	Civil and political rights

#	Law/Amendment to Draft Law	Position on Law/Amendment	Axis
	fair compensation for those whose personal freedom has been attacked.		
15	Issuance of legislative amendments regulating work of professional unions, guided by rulings of Supreme Constitutional Court regarding issues of imposing judicial custody and disputes related to validity of holding general assemblies, among others.	Not up for discussion	Civil and political rights
16	Law on right to exchange information and official data	Not referred for discussion	Civil and political rights
17	Amending Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure enforcement of constitutional obligation to protect sanctity of private life of victims, witnesses, accused, and informants.	included in outcomes of first phase of national dialogue	Civil and political rights
18	Legislative amendment was issued to increase penalties in Environmental Law	In final draft	Economic and social rights
19	Modernizing system of legislation related to scientific research	Not up for discussion	Economic and social rights
20	Issuing legislation to establish and regulate right to knowledge.	not referred for discussion	Economic and social rights
21	Legalizing conditions of domestic service workers.	In initial stages of discussion	Rights of most vulnerable groups
22	Draft law preventing early marriage	In final draft	Rights of most vulnerable groups
23	Elderly Rights Bill	entered into force	Rights of most vulnerable groups
24	Amendments to criminal justice system for children	In final draft	Rights of most vulnerable groups
25	Updating legislation and regulations to ensure safety and quality of local and imported food products	Not up for discussion	Economic and social rights
26	Developing legislation related to intellectual property protection and competition to provide an enabling environment for cultural industries.	entered into force	Economic and social rights

#	Law/Amendment to Draft Law	Position on Law/Amendment	Axis
27	A comprehensive law protecting women from violence	Not up for discussion	Rights of most vulnerable groups
28	Further legislative reforms to enhance women's right to work	In the initial stages of discussion	Rights of most vulnerable groups
29	Amending laws to enhance women's rights. It guarantees the best interest of the child, and facilitates women's access to all their rights and the full rights of their children without delay	Not up for discussion	Rights of most vulnerable groups
30	Studying the amendment of some articles of the second chapter of the third chapter on social care of the Children's Law	Not up for discussion	Rights of most vulnerable groups
31	Labor law draft	In final stages of formulation	Economic and social rights
32	A draft law on mediation procedures to settle disputes	In final drafts	Civil and political rights
33	Amending Penal Code to "severe the penalty for harassment in the workplace and on transportation."	entered into force	Rights of most vulnerable groups

The previous table indicates that entities responsible for implementing target results through legislative track have fully enacted four laws, as shown in the table below. Meanwhile, work is ongoing on 13 draft laws, and 16 targeted draft laws have yet to be initiated. This situation necessitates an acceleration of efforts during the remaining implementation period of Strategy.

Law / Amendments to law	Entry into force
<b>Rights of Elderly Law</b>	April 5, 2024
<b>Law of Appealing Judgments Issued in Felonies from All Types of Courts</b>	January 17, 2024
<b>Law establishing Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority</b>	August 7, 2023
<b>Amending Penal Code "to increase penalty for harassment in workplace and on transportation."</b>	December 4, 2023

Despite the recommendations from the first phase of National dialogue advocating for the passage of the law—an initiative that received consensus during the dialogue sessions—and despite the presence of two draft laws on freedom of information currently in House of Representatives, the project has not been included in the House's agenda as of the end of the

fourth session in July 2024. In a related context, the community dialogue on reviewing Penal Code remains incomplete, which could delay the implementation of several target results that require legislative development. There are still draft laws targeted by Strategy that have not been discussed, and no efforts have been made regarding them. For instance, there is a need to consider legislative amendments to create alternative penalties for the deprivation of liberty in cases of unpaid debts arising from contractual obligations. Additionally, there is a need for legislative regulation of the principle that criminal and civil lawsuits do not lapse in cases involving assaults on personal freedom, particularly when the perpetrator is a public employee or someone in public service who commits a crime by exploiting their position. Furthermore, there is a proposal for a legislative expansion of Criminal order system to alleviate pressure on misdemeanour courts. Recent legislative amendments have been issued to tighten penalties under Environmental Law, alongside the issuance of laws designed to enshrine and regulate Right to access information. There is also a need to update legislation and regulations governing the safety and quality of local and imported food products. A comprehensive law to protect women from violence, which includes amendments to Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code addressing discriminatory articles, is still pending. The achievement of target results related to new laws or amendments to existing laws depends on the final approval of these projects; none of them have received the necessary endorsement from either Council or President of Republic, and thus they have not been published in the Official Gazette. Draft laws that civil society organizations and National Council for Human Rights consider priorities remain unaddressed, including the comprehensive law to combat violence against women.

**SWOT Analysis of Legislative Development Track**

Weaknesses	Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of a mechanism for coordination between House of Representatives and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Poor awareness of parties about targeted results that require a legislative process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted legislation is essentially constitutional entitlements</li> <li>• Set of legislations enter into force after President of Republic approves them</li> </ul>
Risks/Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to give priority to the projects targeted by Strategy in fifth session</li> <li>• Not presenting the projects targeted in Strategy during fifth session</li> <li>• Unjustified time taken by House of Representatives to refer draft laws to specialized committees and for public discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group of members of House of Representatives adopted a number of draft laws targeted in the Strategy</li> <li>• Some representatives intend to introduce draft laws contained in Strategy during the fifth session in October 2024</li> </ul>

## B. Institutional Development Track

Institutional development is crucial for implementing target results included in National Human Rights Strategy across its four axes. Strengthening this track could lead to the achievement of over 150 target results, representing more than 66% of the total outcomes in Strategy. This progress indicates an increase in institutional efficiency and their capacity to uphold human rights. Three years after the launch of National Human Rights Strategy, Maat has identified several target results that are nearing achievement due to effective institutional performance:

- ☞ Institutions entrusted with implementing certain results continue to operate effectively, such as the main committee overseeing the regulation of churches and their affiliated service buildings.
- ☞ Ministry of Interior is making strides in changing its punitive philosophy by implementing Strategy for reform and rehabilitation centers. Maat hopes that Ministry will continue to build more of these centers while closing older prisons and transferring all inmates to the new facilities.
- ☞ National Human Rights Strategy aims to digitize litigation procedures as part of several target results. This digitization is intended to expedite the achievement of prompt justice, streamline litigation processes for all parties involved, and reduce associated costs. Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with Ministry of Communications, has taken significant steps to digitize the litigation system. This initiative has led to improvements in litigation procedures and has contributed, albeit to a limited extent, to the quicker resolution of certain cases, particularly those of an economic nature. This progress indicates an institutional structure capable of implementing various outcomes outlined in Strategy.
- ☞ Some ministries have successfully established human rights units within their offices. However, several ministries, including Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of the Business Sector, and Ministry of Labor, have yet to comply with these directives.

It is clear from the table below that 13 ministries - among ministries concerned with implementing goals of Strategy - have established a special unit for human rights, while there are 7 other ministries that did not establish this unit until September 2024.



### Table of ministries that have/haven't established human rights units

Ministry	Human Rights Unit	Ministry	Human Rights Unit
Ministry of Social Solidarity	✓	Ministry of Youth and Sports	✓
Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	✓	Ministry of Environment	X
Ministry of Justice	✓	Ministry of Housing	X
Ministry of Finance	✓	Ministry of Local Development	✓
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	✓	Ministry of Culture	✓
Ministry of Endowments	✓	Ministry of Trade and Industry	X
Ministry of Immigration	✓	Ministry of Business Sector	X
Ministry of Education	✓	Ministry of Labor	X
Ministry of Higher Education	✓	Ministry of Interior	✓
Ministry of Health	X	Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade	X

### SWOT Analysis of Institutional Development Track

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legitimacy enjoyed by government institutions to implement Strategy</li> <li>• Presence of a strong institutional structure that has the ability to interact with Strategy</li> <li>• Digital transformation that government institutions are currently introducing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative and bureaucratic constraints that may hinder Strategy-related initiatives</li> <li>• Poor knowledge of employees at lower levels about the National Human Rights Strategy</li> <li>• Some institutions lack sufficient experience to interact with the results related to institutional development in Strategy</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Risks/Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political will determined to raise efficiency of government institutions</li> <li>• Latest approved programs to build capabilities of employees in administrative apparatus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor coordination between institutions regarding Strategy implementation</li> <li>• Absence of an executive action plan that precisely defines role of each government agency in implementing Strategy</li> </ul>

### C. Education and Capacity Building in Field of Human Rights

The education and capacity-building track is one of the most important executive avenues for achieving the results outlined in National Strategy for Human Rights. While there are laws, general policies, and discourses that promote respect for human rights, it is essential to translate these laws and policies into tangible actions and ensure that employees understand their significance. To address this, Strategy has dedicated an entire axis to education and capacity building, particularly for members of the police force, judicial bodies, and the administrative apparatus. In the third year since Strategy launch, several important steps have been taken to strengthen this track, including:

- ☞ Signing of protocols between various ministries and civil society organizations to promote a culture of human rights, alongside the implementation of awareness campaigns.
- ☞ Maat has noted that several ministries and government agencies are organizing regular workshops and training courses, as well as issuing guidelines for their employees. This includes training for law enforcement agencies, judges, and state administrative personnel, with efforts to incorporate human rights concepts and principles into school and university curricula.
- ☞ General Administration Department of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration has integrated human rights awareness into its national Strategy training plan, targeting employee understanding of these concepts. Strategy has now approved 42 training programs, benefiting 495 key employees. Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to broaden the base of beneficiaries from these initiatives.
- ☞ The training plan of Ministry of Local Development for 2022-2023, which includes National Human Rights Strategy, aims to qualify 6,000 employees in localities across various governorates in a systematic manner. However, fully achieving this target necessitates the generalization of training plans, the development of codes of conduct, and the dissemination of National Human Rights Strategy throughout all ministries and their affiliated institutions.
- ☞ Holding a series of seminars and conferences on legal topics, such as citizenship, hate speech, and promoting peaceful coexistence, has been conducted.
- ☞ Police forces and judicial bodies continue to offer training courses for law enforcement officers, judges, and members of the public prosecution.
- ☞ However, one of the challenges to advancing education in this area is the lack of indicators to measure the impact of human rights training programs. There is a need for scientifically based curricula to study, evaluate, and follow up on these programs' effectiveness and practical applicability. Additionally, the roles of specialized national councils in promoting

a culture of human rights remain limited, particularly in rural areas, where campaigns often target university students and may be restricted to elite groups.

### **SWOT Analysis of Education and Capacity Building**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of three implementation tracks of National Strategy</li> <li>• Egypt acceptance of a set of recommendations related to spreading a culture of human rights within international mechanisms for protecting human rights</li> <li>• Presence of educational materials for teaching human rights in universities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak awareness of culture of human rights among citizens, especially in rural areas</li> <li>• Inability to reach a large percentage of the population, especially in border areas</li> <li>• Absence of a national program to spread a culture of human rights</li> <li>• Limiting awareness campaigns to university students and elite</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Risks/Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of qualified institutions to take helm of education and capacity building</li> <li>• Presence of political will that has the desire to move on this path</li> <li>• Possibility of issuing a decision by Prime Minister to establish Anti-Discrimination Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decline witnessed in the concept of human rights at the international and regional levels</li> <li>• Limited resources that do not enable access to all residents</li> <li>• Weak creation of digital platforms for human rights education</li> </ul>

### **Third: Follow-Up on Implementation of Strategy According to Its Four Axes**

#### **1. Axis on Civil and Political Rights**

The first axis of National Strategy for Human Rights focuses on promoting civil and political rights in Egypt. This axis aims to achieve 71 target results, distributed across nine subsections. Each subsection is designed to achieve specific outcomes. Notably, the freedom of association subsection includes about 14 target results, while right to peaceful assembly has the fewest, with only one targeted result. The table below outlines the subsections within the first axis and the corresponding number of target results for each.

## Table of Subsections in Axis on Civil and Political Rights

	Subsections	# of Target Results
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	Right to life	<b>8</b>
	Right to personal freedom	<b>10</b>
	Right to litigation	<b>13</b>
	Treatment of prisoners	<b>8</b>
	Freedom of expression	<b>6</b>
	Freedom of peaceful assembly	<b>1</b>
	Freedom of organization	<b>14</b>
	Freedom of religion and belief	<b>8</b>
	Right to privacy	<b>9</b>

### A. Sub-item on Right to Life

The first subsection of the axis on civil and political rights aims to achieve eight target results. These primarily focus on reviewing the current framework for the most serious crimes punishable by death, combating torture, and reducing individual practices that violate bodily sanctity. Additionally, efforts include enhancing protection for residents of social care institutions, such as orphanages, elderly care homes, and psychiatric hospitals. One targeted result requires direct legislative action: a proposed amendment that allows financially disadvantaged individuals to appeal death sentences before Court of Cassation.

After three years of implementing Strategy, efforts to achieve each result have varied. Work is still underway to implement five target results, indicating progress by the responsible entities. However, implementation has not yet begun for three target results in this subsection, and none have been fully realized. **The table below details target results in the subsection on Right to life and physical integrity.**

Right to Life		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Benefiting from the framework for reviewing the most serious crimes for which the death penalty is imposed, taking into account societal conditions and specialized studies	Not Started
2	Introducing a legislative amendment that enables those who are financially unable to appeal death sentences issued to them before Court of Cassation	Not Started
3	Continue to combat torture in all its forms and manifestations, investigate relevant allegations, and protect the rights of victims, in line with the Constitution and Egypt's international obligations.	In Progress
4	Limiting any form of individual practices that constitute violations of the sanctity of the body, whether in public or private entities or places.	In Progress
5	Strengthening protection for residents of social care homes, orphanages, nursing homes, and residents of mental institutions and addiction treatment facilities.	In Progress
6	Increase the development of psychological rehabilitation programs for victims of violence	In Progress
7	Spreading legal awareness of practices that constitute cruel, degrading, or inhuman treatment, by launching campaigns to confront and prevent violence, while developing the awareness and capabilities of workers in all state agencies in this field.	Not Started
8	Spreading spirit of tolerance to reduce all forms of violence in society	In Progress

Regarding target results that the bodies responsible for implementation have begun and are close to achieving, **Result No. 3 of subsection related to the continued combat against torture in all its forms and manifestations focuses on investigating related allegations and protecting the rights of victims in accordance with Constitution.** Maat has documented various efforts to achieve this target. The Public Prosecution investigated several allegations of torture against police officers during the reporting period, leading to the referral of these officers for trial.

National Council for Human Rights has also continued to serve as a channel for receiving complaints related to allegations of torture and ill-treatment. From 2020 to 2023, National Council received 94 complaints concerning allegations of torture and ill-treatment, representing 9% of the total complaints received during the same period related to all human rights issues. Responses were provided for 91 of these complaints, accounting for 97% of the total complaints received by National Council.

On the other hand, Maat reviewed the disciplinary trials involving police personnel, noting Ministry of Interior continued referral of law enforcement officers and employees for disciplinary action. Official statistics indicate that Ministry opened investigations into more than 770 incidents involving employees of Ministry of Interior from November 2019 to May 2023. These investigations resulted in disciplinary measures against approximately 380 employees who violated the law. The incidents leading to these measures varied and included 201 cases of cruelty, 138 instances of abuse, 24 cases of unlawful detention, one incident of torture, one case of excessive force, and three incidents of attempted murder. Additionally, four employees were acquitted, investigations were closed in about 363 cases, and 22 incidents remain under investigation. The investigative authorities and judicial courts also examined the cases of more than 220 officers, 24 of whom were convicted for various offenses, including 11 instances of cruelty, three cases of unlawful detention, and five cases of torture. Six officers were acquitted, and investigations were closed in 164 cases, with 28 incidents still under investigation. However, fully achieving the targets of these outcomes requires legislative amendments to ensure that national legislation aligns with international standards for the prevention of torture.

In a related context, **the bodies responsible for implementation are actively working toward achieving Outcome No. 4, which aims to reduce any individual practices that violate bodily integrity, whether in public or private institutions.** The implementing bodies have taken disciplinary measures against employees accused of abuse and cruelty. To enhance implementation of this outcome, the Attorney General ordered members of the Public Prosecution in September 2023 to conduct periodic inspections of community correctional and rehabilitation centers and police stations to ensure the reduction of practices inconsistent with the Constitution and the law. Awareness of the sanctity of bodily integrity was also included in police training. On September 3, 2024, Attorney General conducted the first inspection visit to Badr Correctional and Rehabilitation Center to assess the conditions of the inmates and their living environment.

Maat also reviewed specific incidents that indicate a trend toward reducing practices that violate bodily integrity. On March 28, 2024, Egyptian Ministry of Interior decided to suspend a police officer following an assault on a tuk-tuk driver in Giza. Following this incident, Ministry conducted a preliminary investigation and subsequently suspended the officer until the investigation was completed.

On September 24, 2022, Ministry of Interior suspended a police officer and two civilians for violating a citizen's rights during the arrest of an individual practicing the profession of “groom” without a license in the Al-Darb Al-Ahmar area. However, the full implementation of this outcome still requires the implementing authorities to exert greater

efforts to reduce any practices that fall within the definition of torture as outlined in Article 1 of the Convention Against Torture.

**Similarly, work is ongoing to achieve Target 5, which focuses on enhancing protection for residents of social care homes, orphanages, nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, and addiction treatment clinics.** The goal is to prevent any violations of their rights to a safe life, bodily sanctity, and integrity, while ensuring that violators are referred to the appropriate investigative authorities. Maat has noted some efforts made three years after the launch of Strategy to achieve this target, including the issuance of rulings against certain heads of orphanages involved in trafficking and exploiting girls. In May 2022, Cairo Criminal Court sentenced a businessman to three years in prison for trafficking approximately seven young girls and raping them through threats, linked to his ownership of the Al-Aydi Al-Amina Orphanage.

Ministry of Social Solidarity, in coordination with Ministry of Justice, has granted judicial oversight to 100 employees working in social care homes to monitor violations and take action against any documented infractions. Additionally, Ministry launched a training program aimed at enhancing the skills of its rapid intervention team, which is responsible for receiving reports of violations against residents of social care homes, including nursing facilities.

Within the framework of the 16-day campaign to combat violence against women and girls, Ministry of Social Solidarity has also raised awareness about protecting residents of social care homes. However, these efforts remain insufficient, as various complaints of violence against residents were reported during the covered period. This underscores the need to establish more mechanisms that allow residents to communicate with hotlines or complaint channels affiliated with specialized national councils. In a related context, some psychiatric hospitals continue to operate outside the legal framework.

For instance, investigations by the Administrative Prosecution Office in Ismailia in March 2024 revealed that an addiction treatment clinic, which caught fire that same month—resulting in the death and injury of ten individuals—was unlicensed and in violation of the Non-Governmental Medical Facilities Law. According to the prosecution's findings, the clinic had not obtained approval from Ministry of Mental Health, its staff were practicing medicine without licenses, and it had been closed for three years.

Efforts are also underway to achieve Target 8, which aims to foster a spirit of tolerance and reduce all forms of violence in society. Maat has observed initiatives implemented by various government agencies, including those by Ministry of Endowments and Ministry of Social Solidarity in cooperation with specialized national councils. Ministry of Youth and

Sports continues to implement the "Our Role" program, which focuses on citizenship, peaceful coexistence, and curbing violence and hate speech.

During the reporting period, these initiatives reached the second phase in youth centers located in the governorates of Kafr El-Sheikh, Cairo, and Sohag. However, Maat notes that the measures, steps, and procedures taken by various parties are still insufficient to effectively reduce violence in society. According to official data, 75% of children have been exposed to some form of violence, and 23% of women experience domestic violence. There is an urgent need to launch awareness initiatives and programs addressing the dangers of violence in society, in partnership with specialized national councils, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Solidarity, and civil society organizations. Maat supports the proposal discussed in national dialogue sessions advocating for National Center for Social and Criminological Research to conduct a specialized study on the phenomenon of violence in Egyptian society, analyze its root causes, and develop viable solutions.

**Regarding target results for which the responsible authorities have not initiated any procedures,** Maat found that Target No. 7—focused on spreading legal awareness of practices that constitute cruel, degrading, or inhuman treatment—has not seen any progress announced by the government. The second Strategy follow-up report issued by the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights only mentioned limited efforts to implement this result.

Maat also notes that the first targeted result related to "benefiting from the framework for reviewing the most serious crimes punishable by death, considering societal circumstances and specialized studies in accordance with international and regional agreements ratified by Egypt," has not yet been achieved by the responsible authorities. There is a challenge in implementing this result due to Egyptian government's approach to the death penalty. Egypt relies on Article 6 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that "*in countries that have not abolished the death penalty, this penalty may be imposed only for the most serious crimes in accordance with the law in force at the time the crime was committed and not contrary to the provisions of the present Covenant.*" *This penalty can only be applied following a final judgment issued by a competent court.* Maat notes that death sentences are only issued after judicial rulings. Additionally, several guarantees must be met, including referring the ruling to His Eminence the Mufti, whose opinion, while advisory, is considered essential. Furthermore, the ruling must be issued unanimously by the court, and it is not final until all these procedures are completed.

Maat also observes that Egypt has expressed agreement with the United Nations' vision articulated in Resolution 37/175, which considers the death penalty a judicial and legislative matter falling within the sovereignty of states in determining their criminal justice systems. Abolishing the penalty requires extensive local discussions at National level to assess the



impact of such a move or the temporary suspension of its application on the rights of victims, effective means of redress for these victims and their families, and the potential effects on the prevalence of serious crimes and societal safety and security.

Egypt's vision regarding the death penalty became clear when the country, in partnership with 30 other United Nations member states, sent a verbal note expressing its objection to any moves to impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty or its abolition in ways that contradict international law. In this memorandum, Egypt emphasized that considering the abolition or suspension of the death penalty requires taking into account the specificities of society, including its cultures and traditions. Maat notes that there are 65 legal and legislative texts that impose the death penalty for approximately 96 crimes across five laws: Penal Code No. 58 of 1937 and its amendments; the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 94 of 2015 and its amendments; the Anti-Narcotics Law and Regulation of Their Use and Trafficking; the Military Sentences Law No. 25 of 1961 and its amendments; and the Weapons and Ammunition Law.

As for another target result that has not yet been initiated, it involves introducing a legislative amendment that allows financially disadvantaged individuals to appeal death sentences before the Court of Cassation. As of September 2024, House of Representatives has not adopted any drafts or proposals related to this legislative amendment. A potential amendment could permit the Bar Association to provide legal services to individuals sentenced to death, with the Association committing to cover the lawyer's fees if this assistance is not offered pro bono.

The responsible bodies have also not begun working to achieve Target No. 7, which relates to spreading legal awareness of practices that constitute cruel, degrading, or inhumane treatment. The second follow-up report on Strategy issued by the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights documented only limited efforts in this area, specifically training the Women's Complaints Office within National Council for Women to handle complaints of violence and implementing workshops for employees in Ministry of Health.

## **B. Sub-item on Personal Freedom**

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The second sub-item on personal freedom within the axis of civil and political rights aims to achieve ten target results, 40% of which pertain to pretrial detention. This includes establishing controls for pretrial detention and generalizing the remote review project for pretrial detention orders, alongside studying legislative amendments for alternative penalties to custodial sentences. Through Maat follow-up on the implementation of these target results, it is noted that the implementing agencies are working toward achieving eight of target

results, either by proposing draft laws or through additional policies and executive decisions taken by the government.

While two results have not yet begun to be addressed, there has been significant progress toward achieving target results in this area, particularly following discussions of Draft Criminal Procedures Law by the subcommittee of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee in House of Representatives. Additionally, societal discussions led to specific recommendations addressing "pretrial detention" in National dialogue, which were submitted to President of Republic. President subsequently directed the government to study these recommendations and implement them swiftly. The table below shows targeted results in the sub-item on personal freedom

Right to Personal Freedom		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Strengthening the guarantees related to the controls, justifications, and periods of pretrial detention contained in national laws.	In Progress
2	Consider including in Code of Criminal Procedure more technologically advanced alternatives to pretrial detention, and work to activate the alternatives contained therein.	In Progress
3	Establishing a legal system different from the justifications for pretrial detention if the accused is a child over fifteen years old who doubts the conditions that must be met for detention.	In Progress
4	Circulating the implementation of the project for remote consideration of pretrial detention orders, which allows the judge to communicate directly with the accused in pretrial detention in the presence of his lawyer via closed and secured circuit television.	In Progress
4	Adopting a legislative policy to review the crimes for which the offender is obligatorily punished with custodial penalties, and increasing the fine penalty, especially for minor crimes that do not indicate the offender's severe criminal danger.	In Progress
6	Studying a legislative amendment to create an alternative penalty to the penalty of deprivation of liberty for non-payment of debts arising from contractual relations. Insightful citizens	Not Started
7	Informing citizens of their rights as soon as any of them is caught through a written mechanism that is sufficient to inform them of these rights.	Not Started
8	Legislative regulation of the principle that criminal and civil lawsuits shall not be subject to a statute of limitations regarding all forms of assault on personal freedom, in the event that the	Not Started

## Right to Personal Freedom

#	Target Result	Implementation
	perpetrator is a public employee or charged with a public service. He committed his crime because of, on the occasion of, or by exploiting his position.	
9	Recognizing the right of the person injured by crimes of assault on personal freedom to file a criminal case through direct prosecution and ensuring compensation for those whose personal freedom has been attacked.	In Progress
10	Creating a legal mechanism that allows addicts detained in private asylums to appeal the decision to detain them.	In Progress

Regarding target results No. 1, 2, and 4, Draft Criminal Procedure Code, completed by the subcommittee assigned to prepare the legislation, incorporates measures aimed at achieving these outcomes. Specifically, it strengthens the guarantees related to the controls, justifications, and durations of pretrial detention as stipulated in national laws. Article 113 of Draft Criminal Procedure Code outlines alternatives to pretrial detention that can be issued by a member of the Public Prosecution. These alternatives include: Obligating the accused not to leave their residence; Requiring the accused to report to a police station at specified times; Prohibiting the accused from visiting certain locations. Concerning targeted result No. 4, which focuses on generalizing the implementation of the remote review project for pretrial detention orders, Draft Criminal Procedure Code includes provisions that allow judges to communicate directly with the accused in pretrial detention, in the presence of their lawyer, via a closed and secure video circuit. Article 525 is dedicated to remote investigation and trial procedures utilizing modern audio and visual communication technologies. These provisions ensure the confidentiality of investigations, attendance, publicity, oral pleadings, and confrontation between parties, as stipulated by law.

Efforts are still ongoing to achieve targeted result No. 5, which pertains to adopting a legislative policy for reviewing crimes that warrant custodial sentences and increasing fines, particularly for minor offenses that do not pose a serious criminal risk to the offender. Although a draft law on alternative penalties is currently in the House of Representatives, a legislative policy to replace custodial sentences with alternative penalties or to increase fines for minor crimes has not yet been adopted. Alternative penalties are defined as sanctions that do not restrict the offender's freedom or bodily integrity and are imposed by a competent judicial authority. These penalties align with international human rights standards, particularly the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Beijing Rules, and the Principles for the Protection of All Persons Deprived of Their Liberty. All these standards emphasize that detention measures restricting freedom should only be used as a last resort.

Regarding the second aspect of targeted result, Maat has noted an increase in fine amounts for certain crimes. In Egyptian law, fines are considered both original and complementary penalties, rather than secondary penalties. According to Article 22 of Penal Code, fines range from one hundred piasters for misdemeanors to a maximum of 500 pounds. Although judges have discretionary authority to increase fines, the implementing bodies are still working to achieve targeted result No. 9, which recognizes Right of individuals harmed by crimes against personal freedom to file a criminal lawsuit through direct prosecution, ensuring fair compensation for those whose personal freedom has been violated. Maat acknowledges the existence of a Constitutional provision that grants victims of assaults on personal freedom Right to file a criminal lawsuit directly, with a guarantee of fair compensation.

Maat has also noted various judicial decisions issued to grant compensation to individuals whose personal freedom has been violated. Recently, Maat observed that Egyptian courts continue to issue compensation rulings in cases of torture that have resulted in violations of Right to life, as defined by Egyptian Constitution and international human rights agreements. On August 16, 2023, the Court of Appeal ruled to compensate the family of Shaimaa Al-Sabbagh with 300,000 pounds. It is important to highlight that Shaimaa Al-Sabbagh was killed by a police officer. Egyptian courts have also issued compensation rulings in torture cases that led to death. To achieve full accountability, it is essential to allow individuals harmed by crimes against personal freedom to file a criminal lawsuit directly.

Similarly, targeted result No. 10, which pertains to finding a legal mechanism that enables addicts detained in private clinics to appeal their detention decisions, is nearing fulfilment. Maat has noted the efforts made to implement this target, including recommendations from the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee on December 22, 2021, aimed at establishing a legal mechanism for civilians detained in private clinics to appeal their detentions. However, this recommendation has yet to be implemented as of June 2024.

Regarding target results that the responsible authorities have not yet initiated, there is a significant gap in informing citizens of their rights immediately upon arrest through a written mechanism. Maat currently lacks sufficient information to commence efforts in this area.

### **C. Sub-item on Right to Litigation and Fair Trial**

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The third sub-item in the section on civil and political rights aimed to achieve 13 target results, making it the second largest subsection within the first axis. Through Maat monitoring of the implementation of these target results, it is noted that entities responsible for implementation have successfully achieved 3 results. Additionally, there are 4 results currently in progress, while 6 results have yet to be addressed by the implementing

authorities. The nature of target results indicates that the drafters of Strategy document recognize the importance of Right to litigation and the promotion of a fair trial. Furthermore, there is a clear commitment to expanding the use of digital technologies to facilitate the litigation process, as evidenced by target results in this sub-item.

<b>Right to Litigation and Promotion of Fair Trials</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
1	Issuance of a law allowing the appeal of rulings issued in felonies by all types of courts.	Implemented
2	Reducing the number of disputes presented to civil and misdemeanor courts, and administrative disputes, by expanding the adoption of alternative methods for resolving civil and commercial disputes of low value, as well as administrative disputes, and legislatively expanding Criminal order system to reduce pressure on misdemeanor courts.	Implemented
3	Expanding the work of mechanizing litigation procedures in the courts and their auxiliary bodies, to enhance the achievement of complete justice	Implemented
4	Developing electronic linking mechanisms between judicial authorities and bodies associated with joint work within the justice system in order to achieve complete justice.	In Progress
5	Developing legal system for implementing civil, commercial, and administrative rulings, using the progress of National Human Rights Strategy in the field of communications and information technology, in implementation of the requirements of digital transformation. This will help increase the rate of implementation of enforceable rulings in the civil and commercial fields	Not Started
6	Raising the level of public legal awareness in support of everyone's right to exercise the right to litigation.	Not Started
7	Amending Code of Criminal Procedure in a way that requires the accused to be informed of his right to silence.	Not Started
8	Preparing and issuing a law to protect witnesses, whistleblowers, and victims.	Not Started
9	Strengthening the judicial system for child witnesses	In Progress
10	Limiting the crimes within the jurisdiction of emergency courts in the most precise manner.	In Progress
11	Consider generalizing the requirement to give reasons for an opinion in examining grievances contained in Article 16 of Emergency Law, whether the crime is a felony or a misdemeanor, with the exception of cases of urgency.	Not Started

## Right to Litigation and Promotion of Fair Trials

#	Target Result	Implementation
12	Establishing a mechanism for notifying interested parties of the result of examining the reasoned grievances issued in emergency court rulings.	Not Started
13	Increasing public awareness of Article 161 bis of Penal Code, which stipulates the punishment of anyone who carries out an action or abstains from an action that would cause discrimination between individuals or against a group of people on the basis of gender, origin, language, religion or belief, and this discrimination results in the waste of the principle. Equal opportunities, social justice, or enhancing public peace	Not Started

Among the achieved results is No. 1, which pertains to the issuance of a law allowing appeals against judgments rendered in felonies from all types of courts. Maat has been informed of the progress made by the entity responsible for implementing this result, including the issuance of Law No. 1 of 2024, which amends certain provisions of Criminal Procedure Code, on January 16, 2024. The issuance of the law occurred just before the end of the Constitutional period, which mandated that this law be enacted within ten years of the adoption of Egyptian Constitution in 2014.

Additionally, the second targeted result aims to reduce number of disputes in civil courts, misdemeanour courts, and administrative disputes by expanding the adoption of alternative methods for resolving civil, commercial, and administrative disputes. This includes legislative expansion of Criminal order system to alleviate pressure on misdemeanour courts. Maat has been informed of efforts to achieve this target, including the Legislative Committee in the House of Representatives preparing a draft law to regulate mediation procedures for settling civil and commercial disputes. This draft was presented to the Council during the second session, which concluded in June 2022.

Draft law seeks to address the backlog of civil and commercial disputes in the courts by providing alternative solutions to litigation, allowing disputes to be settled before they reach the courtroom. It regulates mediation procedures for all civil and commercial disputes, excluding those involving ministries and legal entities, collective labor disputes, matters governed by Family Courts Law, the Investment Law, and disputes under the jurisdiction of economic courts, as Economic Courts Law already includes mediation procedures. Reports suggest that this law could help resolve up to 90% of civil and commercial disputes that burden the judiciary. Maat has noted the adoption of alternative methods for resolving these disputes. According to Ministry of Justice's annual report for 2023, the rate of settlements in

civil lawsuits before primary courts reached approximately 99.5% of the total cases registered since 2019.

Regarding targeted result of limiting the crimes covered by the state of emergency, this has been achieved following President's cancellation of the extension of the state of emergency and the subsequent limitation of crimes before Emergency Court. However, Maat has not observed any measures aimed at expanding the legislative aspects of Criminal order system to relieve pressure on misdemeanor courts. Concerning targeted result of expanding the automation of litigation procedures in courts to achieve prompt justice, Maat has noted Ministry of Justice's efforts in this area. Ministry has initiated several measures to expand the automation of litigation procedures. According to official data, the total number of projects launched by Ministry of Justice to develop the necessary infrastructure for automation reached 185 projects as of 2023. The geographical distribution of these projects includes 78 in Lower Egypt, 43 in Upper Egypt, 52 in the Central region, and 12 in the Canal and Sinai governorates. The total distribution of projects for court headquarters comprises approximately 51 projects, allocated as follows: 23 in Lower Egypt, 13 in Upper Egypt, 12 in the Central region, and 3 in the Canal and Sinai governorates.

Ministry of Justice has announced the launch of an electronic litigation platform for economic courts in collaboration with Microsoft Egypt and Link Development. Former Minister of Justice Amr Marwan described the project as the beginning of the generalization of remote litigation procedures. The platform allows lawyers to file lawsuits remotely, pay associated costs using credit cards or other payment methods, and sign the lawsuits with an electronic signature after prior registration in the electronic registry of economic courts, which was established in 2019 following amendments to Economic Courts Law by Law No. 146 of 2019.

In a related context, Cairo Court of Appeal signed a cooperation protocol with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology as part of the Egypt Digital Justice project. This protocol aims to automate the workflow of Cairo Court of Appeal and its affiliated departments, archive documents, and provide judicial services through various technological platforms. Additionally, on May 15, 2024, the actual operation of the digital transformation program and the automation of litigation in State Council courts, known as the electronic litigation program, commenced. This program aims to achieve prompt justice by expediting the adjudication of lawsuits. On June 22, 2022, the electronic service for receiving complaints and reports in illicit gains cases was launched to combat corruption.

Regarding targeted result of developing electronic linking mechanisms between judicial bodies and authorities involved in the justice system, Maat has noted some efforts toward achieving this goal. These include electronic linking projects between the Court of Cassation and economic courts, as well as between the Public Prosecution and the Forensic

Medicine Authority. Additionally, on November 14, 2023, a cooperation protocol was signed between the State Council and the Administrative Prosecution to facilitate digital transformation and streamline litigation procedures. However, electronic connectivity does not yet encompass all 320 courts in Egypt, according to data from Ministry of Justice.

As for the results currently being implemented, Draft Criminal Procedure Code, which is nearing approval by the House of Representatives, has allocated Book Six to the protection of witnesses and informants. Articles 517 to 522 outline the methods for safeguarding these individuals. Article 522 imposes penalties on anyone who reveals the identity of a person under an order of concealment, including imprisonment and fines of no less than 50,000 pounds. If the act is committed for terrorist purposes, the penalty is rigorous imprisonment, while the penalty escalates to death or life imprisonment if the act results in the death of the individual.

There are still four target results in the third sub-item related to enhancing Right to litigation and a fair trial that have yet to be implemented. These include: raising general legal awareness regarding Right to litigation, amending Criminal Procedure Code to require that the accused be informed of their right to remain silent, establishing a mechanism to notify stakeholders of the results of examining reasoned grievances issued in emergency courts, and increasing public awareness of Article 161 bis of Penal Code. Maat has not observed any efforts made to achieve these target results.

#### **D. Sub-item Four: Treatment of Prisoners and Other Detainees**

Sub-item Four in the civil and political rights axis aims to achieve eight target results related to enhancing the treatment of prisoners, now referred to as inmates, following amendments to the Prisons Regulation Law. These outcomes focus on improving penal facilities and providing health and medical care to inmates. The initiative extends beyond these areas to include a shift in penal philosophy aimed at inmate development. This involves eliminating illiteracy and providing practical and professional training by establishing literacy classes in prisons and offering incentives for inmates to pursue education. Additionally, the program seeks to increase enrolment in technical and industrial schools. Through Maat follow-up on the implementation of these target results, it has been observed that the implementing authorities have made progress in achieving one outcome, while efforts are ongoing to fulfil five others, indicating they are close to completion. However, there are still two outcomes that the implementing authorities have yet to begin working on. The table below summarizes target results of this sub-item related to the treatment of prisoners.



## Treatment of Prisoners and Other Detainees

#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Continuing efforts to implement a plan and programs to develop and modernize prison facilities and establish new prisons to reduce prison density within the framework of continuous improvement in the standard of living and health care for prisoners.	<b>Implemented</b>
2	Continue visits to prisons by the National Council for Human Rights and civil society organizations in accordance with the relevant legal controls	<b>In Progress</b>
3	Expanding the holding of 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 inmates.	<b>In Progress</b>
4	Expanding the establishment of literacy classes in all public prisons and prisons, while providing in-kind and material incentives to attract inmates and encourage them to join them.	<b>In Progress</b>
5	Increasing the number of prison inmates enrolled in industrial technical schools affiliated with the prison sector.	<b>In Progress</b>
6	Increasing the number of convicts benefiting from the external transition period.	<b>Not Started</b>
7	Increasing the number of rehabilitation and production workshops in all public prisons, allowing the majority of inmates to be trained and employed.	<b>In Progress</b>
8	Launching initiatives that include highlighting the role of the Aftercare Police Department in caring for prisoners.	<b>Not Started</b>

The authorities responsible for achieving Outcome No. 1 are continuing efforts to implement plans and programs aimed at developing and modernizing prison facilities and establishing new ones to reduce overcrowding. Maat has noted significant strides toward this goal. As of August 2023, number of prisons, including those that have been closed, reached approximately 27 out of a total of 43 prisons, representing 62.8% of the current total. This progress is accompanied by the transfer of inmates from closed prisons to the five operational correctional centres, with plans for further expansion of correctional and rehabilitation facilities.

Ministry plan aims to close all existing prisons and transfer all inmates to newly established correctional and rehabilitation centres. These centers will feature a central hospital equipped with necessary medical devices and facilities, including operating rooms for various specialties, intensive care units, isolation and emergency rooms, as well as departments for laboratories, analysis, and radiology, including a kidney dialysis unit.

The establishment of these centers aligns with the implementation of the first target of the fourth item on "Treatment of Prisoners and Other Detainees" in National Strategy for Human Rights. Maat also notes a commitment to enhancing the capabilities of those responsible for prison administration and law enforcement, in accordance with international treaties to which Egypt is a signatory, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This initiative aims to ensure compliance with United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, known as the "Nelson Mandela Rules."

On December 30, 2021, Ministry of Interior inaugurated the Badr Correctional and Rehabilitation Center. According to Ministry of Interior, the Badr Correctional and Rehabilitation Center is one of the largest rehabilitation centers for prison inmates in the Middle East, built on an area of 85 acres. It is the second center established after the Wadi El Natrun Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, which opened in September 2021, shortly after the launch of National Strategy for Human Rights. Despite the efforts made to develop penal institutions in line with the objectives set forth in National Strategy and the internal regulations of prisons, Maat believes that the primary focus should be on enhancing the capacities of prison administrators and all individuals responsible for enforcing laws in accordance with international treaties to which Egypt is a signatory, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Regarding target results, the implementing authorities have taken positive measures, but additional actions are still needed. The second targeted result relates to the continuation of visits by National Council for Human Rights and civil society organizations to prisons, in accordance with relevant legal controls. National Council for Human Rights has conducted several visits to various rehabilitation centers, including Wadi El Natrun, Badr Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, and Qanater Correctional and Rehabilitation Center for Women. From 2020 to December 11, 2022, the Council made approximately 12 visits. However, these visits are still coordinated in advance, and the Council typically issues only a brief statement following each visit, rather than a detailed report as should be expected. There is a need to expand the organization of religious and cultural seminars for prison inmates in coordination with Ministry of Endowments and General Authority for Cultural Palaces, to enhance the religious and cultural development of inmates.

Similarly, concerning the third target result related to holding religious and cultural seminars for inmates, Maat observed that the responsible entity has continued these efforts, including the establishment of designated spaces for practicing religious rituals within correctional and rehabilitation centers. However, these seminars have primarily been limited to national and religious occasions, with little activity outside of these specific times. Therefore, the implementing entity needs to broaden its scope and not restrict the holding of seminars to predetermined dates.

In addition to target result of expanding literacy classes in all public prisons and detention centers, with the provision of in-kind and material incentives to attract and encourage inmates to participate, Maat noted the efforts made to achieve this outcome. Amendments to some provisions of the Prisons Regulation Law, approved by the House of Representatives in March 2022, aimed to expand the establishment of literacy classes in all public prisons, complemented by incentives to encourage inmate participation. However, fully achieving this outcome requires the initiation of a national program to eradicate illiteracy among prisoners, in partnership with civil society organizations and other stakeholders, including Ministry of Education. This program should include incentives such as reducing the prison term for inmates who pass literacy tests by a quarter of the term for crimes other than life imprisonment.

Likewise, work is ongoing regarding Target 5, which is focused on increasing number of prison inmates enrolled in technical and industrial schools affiliated with Prisons Sector. Maat has acknowledged the efforts made to achieve the targets outlined in the reform and rehabilitation initiatives. Notably, all reform and rehabilitation centers now include technical and industrial schools that prisoners can attend. Additionally, Minister of Interior issued Decision No. 1042 of 2023 to establish six new reform and rehabilitation centers in 15th of May City, located in the Helwan area of Cairo. This initiative will be followed by the establishment of technical and industrial schools. It is anticipated that the transfer of inmates to these new centers will coincide with their enrollment in the schools, emphasizing the need to accelerate the establishment of these facilities to fully achieve the desired outcomes. Maat also highlighted progress towards Outcome No. 7, which focuses on increasing the number of rehabilitation and production workshops in all public prisons. This initiative allows inmates to receive training and employment opportunities. For instance, the detention area at the Wadi El Natrun Correctional and Rehabilitation Center includes six sub-centers, which feature vocational and technical training centers alongside various production workshops. These facilities enable prisoners to be trained and rehabilitated in line with the target outcomes.

However, certain target results have yet to commence. Specifically, Outcome No.6, which aims to increase the number of convicts benefiting from the external transition period, and Outcome No. 8, which seeks to highlight the role of the Aftercare Police Department in supporting the families of prisoners, have not yet begun. Despite the Aftercare Police Department's efforts, affiliated with the Social Security Sector, to distribute aid to inmates' families, initiatives focused on the department's role in providing aftercare for prisoners remain limited.

## E. Sub-Item 5: Freedom of Expression

Fifth sub-item within the axis of civil and political rights aims to achieve six targeted results, primarily related to enhancing access to information, data, and official statistics, as well as fostering a climate of pluralism and issuing a code of conduct for media and cultural fields. The final result of this sub-item also emphasizes raising awareness about the importance of freedom of expression and organizing training for journalists and media professionals to help them understand the limits of that freedom and the forms of deviation from it. Upon reviewing the implementation of the targeted results in the sub-item on freedom of expression, it is noted that the responsible entities are currently working on two of the targeted results, while they have yet to start implementing four others related to freedom of opinion and expression. The table below outlines the targeted results for the fifth sub-item.

Freedom of Expression		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Issuance of a law to regulate the right to obtain and circulate information, data, and official statistics.	In Progress
2	Promoting a climate and culture of pluralism and diversity of opinions and visions regarding various public issues.	In Progress
3	Continuing the state's efforts to protect media professionals and journalists as they perform their work within the framework of the Constitution and the laws regulating that.	Not Started
4	Promoting the right to exercise freedom of expression of opinion and confronting any violations within the framework of the Constitution and the laws regulating that, and periodically reviewing those laws to ensure that this right is exercised in accordance with the Constitution and Egypt's international obligations.	Not Started
5	Issuing a comprehensive code of conduct for all aspects of the media and journalistic fields, including digital media and social networking sites, to ensure that the exercise of freedom of expression is regulated without infringing on the freedoms of others, and to benefit from international experiences in accordance with the constitution and Egypt's obligations.	Not Started
6	Raising community awareness of the importance of freedom of expression, and holding training for journalism and media practitioners on the limits of that freedom and ways to deviate from it.	Not Started

Regarding the results currently being pursued, there is ongoing work to issue a law regulating the right to access information, data, and official statistics. Maat has reviewed efforts to

advance this law, including the preparation of approximately seven draft laws since 2011 aimed at regulating information access. Currently, two drafts are under consideration in the House of Representatives: one submitted by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation and another by Ministry of Communications.

However, House of Representatives has not yet discussed Draft law, although there is a possibility of its issuance soon, especially after National Dialogue adopted demands for its enactment. Regarding target result related to enhancing the climate and culture of pluralism and diversity of opinions on various public issues, Maat has observed a positive movement toward this goal. Notably, several opposition figures, including writers and politicians, have appeared in the media, including state-owned outlets. Additionally, private and national newspapers have published a range of critical opinions that present policies differing from certain human rights issues, engaging with human rights and economic topics and proposing alternative visions. This can be considered an initial step in a long process toward achieving this outcome. Nevertheless, there remains a need for greater space for diverse opinions on public issues and for encouraging the establishment of more private media outlets.

Entities responsible for implementing these results are currently working to achieve two target results three years after the launch of Strategy: the issuance of a law to regulate Right to access information, data, and official statistics, and the enhancement of the climate and culture of pluralism and diverse opinions on various public issues. However, they have not yet begun work on four other target results, such as protecting media professionals and journalists, issuing a code of conduct for media professionals—including those in digital media—and raising community awareness of the importance of freedom of expression. Additionally, there has been no training for journalism and media practitioners on the limits of that freedom and the forms of deviation from it. Despite the protections guaranteed by Egyptian Constitution for media professionals and journalists, there is a lack of information regarding efforts to implement these target results.

Concerning target result of enhancing Right to exercise freedom of expression and addressing any violations within the framework of the Constitution and the law, as well as the periodic review of these laws to ensure that this right is exercised in accordance with the Constitution and Egypt's international obligations, Maat reviewed efforts made toward this goal. For instance, during its response to the list of issues related to Egypt's fifth periodic report submitted to the Human Rights Committee on December 27, 2022, Egypt indicated that it guarantees the exercise of freedom of expression by any means in a manner consistent with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, Egypt emphasizes that the exercise of this right requires recognition of the duties and responsibilities that accompany it. The issuance of a comprehensive code of conduct for all aspects of media and journalism, including digital media and social networking sites, is

essential. Although the Supreme Council for Media has issued a draft code of controls and ethics for safe media for children, this measure does not fully meet the goals of this outcome, and Draft law itself has yet to be approved. A comprehensive code of conduct covering all journalistic and media fields has not been established. Moreover, there has been no observed effort to raise community awareness of the importance of freedom of expression or to provide training for journalism and media practitioners on the limits of that freedom and the forms of deviation from it.

### **F. Sub-item 6: Freedom of Peaceful Assembly**

Sub-item 6 in the civil and political rights axis aims to achieve a single result: enhancing and developing public awareness of the culture and practice of Right to peaceful assembly. Through Maat follow-up of progress towards achieving the targeted results contained in the item on freedom of peaceful assembly, we find that efforts are insufficient to begin implementing target.

<b>Freedom of Assembly</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Promoting and developing public awareness of the culture and practice of the right to peaceful assembly in all its forms; Because it is a means of strengthening and affirming democracy	<b>Not Started</b>

Through Maat follow-up on progress toward this objective, it is evident that efforts to implement this result have been limited to a few activities conducted by community organizations aimed at raising awareness of Law No. 107 of 2013, which regulates Right to public meetings, processions, and peaceful demonstrations, along with its amendments. There is a noticeable lack of information regarding the initiatives of government institutions in this area, indicating that entities responsible for implementation have not made sufficient efforts to pursue this result.

### **G. Sub-item 7: Freedom of Association**

Seventh sub-item in the civil and political rights axis seeks to achieve 14 target results related to the freedom to form associations, professional and labor unions, and political parties. Maat follow-up on progress toward these target results reveals that implementing agencies have made significant strides in achieving seven of them after three years of Strategy implementation, while efforts to achieve the remaining seven results have been limited. The following table outlines target results in the sub-item on freedom of association.

Freedom of Organization		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Increase coordination and integration between development partners: government, civil society, the private sector, and donors	In Progress
2	Strengthening communication between the government and civil society organizations working in the field of human rights	In Progress
3	Educating civil society organizations about development goals in accordance with Egypt's Vision 2030	In Progress
4	Promoting a culture of volunteerism and community participation	In Progress
5	Strengthening and developing the institutional capabilities of civil society organizations	Not Started
6	Increasing the capabilities of unions and union committees in the areas of collective bargaining, settling individual and collective disputes, and concluding collective labor agreements.	In Progress
7	Supporting financial resources for trade unions.	Not Started
8	Building the capacity of all concerned parties to support the implementation of legal frameworks related to facilitating the registration and reconciliation of trade union status in accordance with the law.	In Progress
9	Strengthening the participation of trade unions in formulating economic and social policies	Not Started
10	Issuing legislative amendments regulating the work of professional unions, providing guidance to the Supreme Constitutional Court on issues of imposing judicial custody and disputes related to the validity of holding general assemblies, etc. .	Not Started
11	Activating the participation of professional unions in preparing draft laws related to their affairs, and intensifying communication with the government regarding policies related to professional affairs. .	Not Started
12	Taking the necessary measures to ensure the regular holding of professional union elections	In Progress
13	Building the leadership and organizational capabilities and skills of members and cadres of political parties in the field of elections	Not Started
14	Strengthening the cultural and social environment supportive of party activities	Not Started

Regarding the first result, which focuses on increasing coordination with development partners, Maat has noted progress in this area. In this context, Law No. 18 of 2022 was enacted, emphasizing the participation of civil society institutions, the private sector, universities, and research centers in implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and making development plans available to the public. In a related context, Ministry of International

Cooperation launched, on March 6, 2022, the joint country Strategy between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development for the period 2022-2027. This initiative involved all relevant stakeholders, including government representatives, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the private sector, members of parliament, and civil society. Participants in Strategy launch underscored the importance of collaborative efforts among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation. To support these endeavors, the annual report issued by Ministry of International Cooperation for 2021 highlighted the establishment of a platform for joint coordination among all stakeholders, including civil society. This platform aims to foster integration between relevant parties through periodic meetings held between development partners and government agencies, contributing to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

During the COP 27 conference in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt signed 12 agreements with development partners to implement the Novi and Novi+ projects, which aim to mobilize \$14.7 billion in climate finance. Despite Egyptian government and Ministry of International Cooperation's commitment to increasing coordination with development partners, Ministry's annual report for 2023 indicates that the participation of the private sector in development activities remains limited, and its impact has not been adequately measured.

Regarding the second outcome related to enhancing communication between the government and civil society organizations working in the field of human rights, Maat has noted some efforts made to achieve this target. For example, human rights organizations are invited to consultation sessions, the most recent of which addressed the issue of pretrial detention in July 2024. The Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights also held a hearing in October 2021 with representatives from various civil society institutions following President's declaration of 2022 as the Year of Civil Society. This initiative aims to monitor and evaluate the role assigned to civil society within the framework of National Strategy for Human Rights.

Additionally, Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights organized several meetings with civil society representatives to consult on legislative amendments related to Strategy implementation. The voluntary mid-term report submitted to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism has been evaluated. Several non-governmental organizations have signed memoranda of understanding and cooperation protocols with various ministries, governorates, and universities. Notably, a cooperation protocol was established between Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Arab Organization for Human Rights, along with National Foundation for Family and Community Development, aimed at promoting a culture of human rights in local communities and enhancing citizenship while respecting diversity. Among the measures reviewed by Maat was the formation of a joint committee between Ministry of Social



Solidarity and National Council for Human Rights to create a flexible mechanism for addressing complaints related to the regularization of civil society institutions. This committee will provide technical support and facilitate legislative amendments that extend the period for regularization in response to demands from civil society organizations.

Regarding the third outcome, which focuses on raising awareness among civil society organizations about development dimensions, Maat noted some progress. For instance, on November 7, 2023, Ministry of Social Solidarity held a forum to outline its collaboration with civil society organizations across various development sectors, titled “Civil Society Participation in Achieving Development Goals: A Socio-Economic Vision.” Additionally, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development encouraged civil society organizations to adopt policies aligned with Egypt’s Vision 2023 and its development goals. However, the full implementation of this outcome requires expanding the target base of civil society organizations involved in awareness campaigns, as well as providing specialized training courses in collaboration with experienced civil society organizations. This training should aim to educate emerging civil society organizations about the development goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda and Egypt Vision 2030. According to Talat Abdel Qawi, head of General Federation of Civil Society Organizations, the Federation is in the process of developing a comprehensive work plan that clarifies the role of civil society in the upcoming period, encompassing all activities aligned with Egypt Vision 2023. However, details about this plan are not yet available.

Concerning the fourth outcome, which aims to enhance the culture of volunteer work and community participation, the responsible entity has begun working on launching a draft national Strategy for volunteering. This initiative is part of target result in sub-item 7(a) of Strategy. Strategy, which will be announced and made available on the website of the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights, will cover the period from 2022 to 2026. However, despite Minister of Solidarity announcing on March 23 that Strategy would be launched in mid-May 2024, it has yet to be approved. Several challenges remain in enhancing the culture of volunteer work, including the lack of policies regulating this work and the absence of tools to measure the impact of volunteer activities on the volunteers themselves.

The implementing agencies have not yet begun efforts to achieve the fifth target result, which focuses on enhancing the institutional capacities of civil society organizations. Most civil society organizations lack sufficient awareness of the governmental principles necessary for strengthening their institutional capacities. Regarding the sixth target result, which aims to increase the ability of unions to conduct collective negotiations and settle disputes, Maat noted some progress. This includes the issuance of Ministry of Manpower Resolution No. 50 of 2022, which outlines the levels and mechanisms of collective bargaining. The resolution affirms that collective bargaining is a right for both workers and their organizations, as well

as employers and their organizations. It specifies that negotiations cannot be conducted with representatives of non-union workers unless there is no labor union organization at the relevant level, indicating that collective labor agreements apply to all workers across various sectors, including public service employees who do not work in state administration.

However, Maat identified obstacles in the regularization of labor unions. Despite the clear stipulation in labor Union Organizations Law that a labor union acquires legal personality upon depositing its founding documents with the competent administrative authority, labor force directorates have consistently refused to accept these documents, citing a need to wait for instructions from Ministry. This is problematic, as these directorates are the administrative bodies responsible for receiving such documents and preparing deposit reports.

Furthermore, the competent administrative authority, represented by labor force directorates, has also refused to provide trade unions and labor organizations with the necessary letters to facilitate their operations. This refusal contradicts Article 18 of the law, which mandates that the administrative authority prepare a report on the deposit of founding papers. A certified copy of this Report must be delivered to the representative of the trade union organization, along with any official letters required for the union's operation. The authority does not have Right to refuse the deposit of these papers or withhold the deposit report and letters, as doing so would infringe upon the rights established by law. This situation necessitates that Minister of Manpower issue clear written guidelines to the directorates regarding the registration of labor union organizations. These guidelines should be unambiguous and specific, enabling both the directorates and trade union organizations to comply and ensuring that Ministry employees follow them when receiving the papers for establishing a trade union.

Additionally, efforts are ongoing to build the capacities of all stakeholders to support the implementation of relevant legal frameworks, facilitating the registration and regularization of trade unions in accordance with legal requirements. Maat noted the efforts made by Ministry of Labor to achieve the target related to trade union organizations. This includes the regulatory decisions issued by Ministry regarding the dates for candidacy and membership elections for the boards of directors of trade union organizations for the 2022-2026 cycle. Ministry of Manpower, along with the Supreme Committee overseeing the trade union elections, formed a committee in each directorate to accept candidacy applications and supervise the electoral process across its three stages. Consequently, elections were held in approximately 29 trade union committees, along with the election of the boards of directors of general unions during May and June 2022. However, fully achieving this result still requires additional steps and clarity on the parties involved.

Notably, there have been insufficient efforts to enhance the participation of trade unions in formulating economic and social policies. For instance, some trade unions were not invited to discuss the recently submitted draft labor law, which underwent amendments. The Senate's Manpower, Energy, and Environment Committee deliberated on this draft labor law on December 7 and 8, 2021, and referred it to the Senate's general session after completing its discussions, all without the participation of several unions.

Work has yet to begin on Targeted Result No. 10, which aims to issue legislative amendments regulating the work of professional unions, in line with the provisions of the Supreme Constitutional Court regarding judicial guardianship and disputes related to the validity of general assemblies. Maat notes that efforts to achieve this target have been weak, despite ongoing judicial rulings rejecting the imposition of judicial custody on professional unions. The most recent ruling occurred on January 2, 2024, when the Supreme Administrative Court of the State Council issued a decision in Case No. 40949/68, rejecting demands to impose judicial custody on the union, dissolve General Syndicate of Physiotherapy Council, and place the union's Funds under custody. The court explained that it rejected the appeal on substantive grounds and required the appellant to bear administrative expenses. It also emphasized the importance of activating the participation of professional unions in drafting laws related to their operations and enhancing communication with the government regarding policies affecting their affairs.

Maat has reviewed several steps taken to implement this target, particularly in ensuring the periodicity of elections in professional unions. Following the launch of Strategy, elections were held for various professional unions, including the Bar Association, the Journalists Association, the Engineers Association, and the Dentists Association. Maat did not identify any reports of irregularities in these elections. According to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, there are 25 professional unions, along with federations such as the Federation of Medical Professions Unions and the Federation of Technical Professions Unions.

However, efforts have been insufficient to initiate work on achieving two target results related to the freedom to form political parties. These outcomes include building the leadership and organizational capacities of party members in the electoral field and strengthening the cultural and social environment that supports the activities of political parties. Maat observed no significant efforts to implement these target results.

## **H. Sub-item 8: Freedom of Religion and Belief**

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Sub-item 8 in the civil and political rights axis aims to achieve eight target results that enhance freedom of religion and belief through awareness campaigns, the implementation of initiatives, increased coordination between religious institutions, and the review of

educational curricula. It also includes a targeted result for monitoring media content that incites hatred, ongoing maintenance of religious archaeological sites, and the legalization of church statuses under the work of the specialized committee. Maat follow-up on the implementation of target results in this sub-item reveals that two results have been fully implemented, five are close to completion, and one has yet to be initiated.

<b>Freedom of Religion and Belief</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Intensifying awareness campaigns, especially among young people, to promote coexistence, tolerance and acceptance of others, reject violence and hatred, and spread the values and principles called for by divine religions. In addition to developing young people's abilities to deal critically with different content. .	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Implementing more youth initiatives aimed at promoting and supporting the values of citizenship and belonging, as well as implementing more activities that will form community awareness on issues of religious freedom, consolidating national identity, and rejecting intolerance and extremist ideas.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Strengthening coordination between religious institutions in implementing plans to renew religious discourse, spread tolerance, respect for religions, and refute extremist and false ideas.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Continuing work on reviewing all religious curricula; To remove any topics that do not contribute to promoting tolerance and rejecting violence and extremism, and to include topics that contribute to consolidating the values of dialogue, recognizing differences and coexistence with those who disagree, and combating hatred and intolerance in all their forms.	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>5</b>	Implementing more national initiatives concerned with spreading the culture of human rights, consolidating the values of citizenship, and creating community awareness of respecting religious freedoms and rejecting intolerance and extremist ideas.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>6</b>	Monitoring media materials broadcast by the media, websites, or newspapers that involve discrimination or incitement among citizens on the basis of religion, in order to address them by taking appropriate legal action against them.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>7</b>	The relevant ministries and bodies will continue their maintenance and restoration work for Islamic, Christian and Jewish religious archaeological sites, in a way that highlights the cultural richness that Egypt enjoys and embodies the succession of its historical eras.	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>8</b>	The committee responsible for regularizing the conditions of churches continues its work in order to regularize the conditions of the remaining churches and service buildings that have not yet been subject to regulation.	<b>In Progress</b>

Maat appreciates the implementation of Target 4, which focuses on reviewing religious curricula. Ministry of Education has developed a general framework for updating the curricula for the preparatory stage, expected to be available during the academic year 2024-2025. This framework emphasizes values such as acceptance of diversity, respect for others, and aims to shape the learner's personality. It also promotes creativity, innovation skills, and critical thinking, particularly in the kindergarten and primary stages for grades one through five.

Additionally, Ministry has continued to review educational materials to ensure the removal of phrases that promote violence or could be misinterpreted in a religious or social context. Values and respect for others are taught in grades one through five. According to education experts whose testimonies Maat reviewed, the religious education curricula in the new system emphasize the practical application of citizenship and non-discrimination principles. The curricula for both Islamic and Christian education focus on behavioral aspects and the impact of religion on individual behavior, reinforcing the principles of religion to preserve students' religious identities.

Maat also commends the implementation of Targeted Result No. 7, which pertains to the maintenance of Islamic, Christian, and Jewish religious archaeological sites. Maat observed a governmental initiative led by President of Republic emphasizing the importance of restoring and developing these sites, particularly the shrines of the Prophet's family and other religious temples. In May 2024, President Sisi inaugurated the Sayyida Zeinab Mosque following its renovation, supported by the Bohra community. Additionally, on August 31, 2023, Egypt inaugurated the Ben Ezra Synagogue, one of the oldest Jewish temples in the country, after its restoration. President has also inaugurated several mosques associated with the family of the Prophet after their restoration. In addition to the Al-Hakim Mosque, which underwent seven years of maintenance and restoration, work has begun on the restoration of the Ben Ezra Temple in Old Cairo. This temple serves as a meeting point for the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic faiths, incorporating symbols from each religion. In September 2021, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities allocated a substantial budget for the restoration of the Eliyahu Hanavi Temple, commonly referred to as the "Jewish Temple." This allocation supplemented an initial budget of 68 million pounds for its development.

The implementing body is also working on achieving Result No. 5, which focuses on national initiatives aimed at spreading a culture of human rights and reinforcing the values of citizenship. Ministry of Endowments, in collaboration with various ministries, has implemented several training programs and educational seminars. This includes Ministry of Education and Technical Education, which conducted approximately 12 training courses on promoting religious freedoms for around 1,173 male and female teachers across the governorates of Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Dakahlia, Sharkia, and Assiut, with the goal of raising

teachers' awareness of these values. Recognizing the importance of instilling values of tolerance and coexistence among young people, who represent the largest demographic in society, Ministry of Endowments, in cooperation with Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, organized cultural seminars and awareness campaigns centered on citizenship and the rejection of violence and extremism. Efforts by Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and the Orthodox Church to promote the concept of citizenship have continued, including a joint seminar titled "Citizenship," which emphasized the importance of community awareness regarding the correct understanding of citizenship. However, Maat observes that national human rights initiatives have been insufficient to fully achieve the goals outlined in National Human Rights Strategy.

The implementing authorities have made noticeable but incomplete efforts to regularize the status of churches. As of February 15, 2024, the status of 187 churches and affiliated buildings has been regularized, bringing the total number since the committee's inception to 3,160. However, Maat notes that this figure represents only 58% of the total number of requests submitted to the relevant technicians. Additionally, there are ongoing delays in granting building permits for some churches. For example, on January 28, 2024, the authority responsible for church construction in Minya Governorate postponed the issuance of building permits for three churches due to sectarian tensions. Achieving this result requires completing the review of all applications submitted for the regularization of churches and their affiliated service buildings.

Regarding the sixth targeted result, which has not yet been initiated by the responsible authorities, it focuses on monitoring media content—whether from television, websites, or newspapers—that involves discrimination or incitement based on religion. Maat notes that there have been limited efforts to implement this objective. For instance, the Supreme Council for Media Regulation may take action if complaints are received about discrimination or incitement based on religion. However, no mechanism currently exists for the regular monitoring of discriminatory practices based on religion across all media formats, including both print and digital platforms.

## **I. Sub-item 9: Right to Privacy**

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The ninth sub-item in the civil and political rights axis aims to achieve three target results that enhance Right to privacy and provide personal security in individuals' lives. One of these outcomes pertains to legislative amendments to Criminal Procedure Code designed to protect the private lives of witnesses and informants. The drafters of this document also identified the Supreme Council for Media as the entity responsible for implementing outcomes two and three. This council is tasked with conducting awareness campaigns to protect the sanctity of private life and serves as a platform for receiving complaints regarding media practices in all its forms. Through Maat follow-up on the implementation of these outcomes, it is evident that

the responsible entities have initiated positive steps toward achieving the three target results and are close to completion. However, further measures are still required, particularly regarding the near-finalization of Criminal Procedure Code, which will address the first target result related to safeguarding the private lives of victims, witnesses, and informants. The table below outlines target results of sub-item 9 in the first axis.

Right to Privacy		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Amending Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure the preservation of the constitutional obligation to protect the sanctity of the private life of victims, witnesses, accused, and informants.	Not Started
2	Conducting awareness campaigns in which all relevant state agencies participate, led by the Supreme Council for Media Regulation, the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, and law enforcement agencies related to protecting the sanctity of private life, aiming to develop awareness among citizens.	In Progress
3	Strengthening the pivotal role of the Supreme Council for Media Regulation as a regulator of visual and digital media outlets and websites, and as a platform for complaints from concerned parties about what is published or broadcast that harms their reputation or harms their private lives, by providing the material capabilities and human resources that enable it to carry out this role in a manner Successful, in addition to an interest in training the police agencies responsible for combating information technology crimes and modernizing their work methods and tools, with an interest in continuing to create electronic platforms that allow the victim to submit complaints of violation of the privacy of his life to. Concerned authorities, and following up on the measures taken regarding them.	In Progress

## 2. Axis on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

The second axis of National Strategy for Human Rights addresses economic, social, and cultural rights in Egypt. This axis aims to achieve 67 results or goals, making it the largest of the four axes and highlighting Egypt's commitment to these rights and its recognition of their importance. These results are distributed across eight sub-items: Right to health, Right to education, Right to work, Right to social security, Right to food, Right to drinking water, Right to housing, and cultural rights. The table below shows number of target results for each sub-item in the second axis of National Strategy for Human Rights.

**Table for sub-items within second axis**

<b>Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</b>	Right to Health	<b>17</b>
	Right to Education	<b>11</b>
	Right to Work	<b>6</b>
	Right to Social Security	<b>5</b>
	Right to Food	<b>10</b>
	Right to Drinking Water	<b>4</b>
	Right to Housing	<b>6</b>
	Cultural Rights	<b>8</b>

### A. Sub-item 1: Right to Health

The first sub-item in the economic, social, and cultural rights axis aims to achieve 17 target results, primarily focused on comprehensive geographical coverage of health services and increasing number of healthcare professionals. This item also includes several results dedicated to mental health. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these target results indicates that the responsible entities have achieved two of target results, while efforts are still underway to achieve 12 others. Simultaneously, three target results have not yet commenced. The table below shows target results of sub-item on the right to health.

<b>Right to Health</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Strengthening coverage of health services nationwide, especially in rural, remote, and border areas.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Improving the quality system of health facilities and services	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Increasing the number of doctors and nursing staff in the government health system.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Implementing the comprehensive health insurance system in all governorates, according to the six prescribed stages, and reaching	<b>In Progress</b>



Right to Health		
#	Target Result	Implementation
	the percentage of citizens insured by comprehensive social health insurance to 100% until 2030.	
5	Increasing the rates and speed of providing medical service to treatment recipients at state expense. Addressing the shortage of some locally manufactured medicines and raw materials, and developing an effective system of drug handling, prescribing, and dispensing mechanisms.	In Progress
6	Addressing the shortage of some locally manufactured medicines and raw materials, and developing an effective system of drug handling, prescribing, and dispensing mechanisms.	Not Started
7	Increasing awareness of the importance of maintaining public health and preventing the spread of some practices that are harmful to health. Completing the implementation of the 100 Million Health Initiative.	In Progress
8	Completing the implementation of the 100 Million Health Initiative.	Implemented
9	Implementing awareness campaigns related to mental illness.	In Progress
10	Preparing an electronic platform concerned with providing mental health services.	Implemented
11	Promoting rational and sustainable management of natural resource assets.	Not Started
12	Issuance of a legislative amendment to increase penalties in the Environmental Law and related laws.	Not Started
13	Strengthening the implementation of pollution reduction policies and developing special procedures for dealing with sources of pollution.	In Progress
14	Increase awareness campaigns related to environmental conservation.	In Progress
15	Developing a sound waste management system, including safe disposal of hazardous waste, and increasing private sector participation in the field of solid waste collection and recycling.	In Progress
16	Reducing the potential impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and increasing private sector participation in dealing with climate change.	In Progress
17	Providing full and effective protection for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems in the network of reserves. To ensure the sustainability of environmental systems providing their services to the benefit of citizens as one of their constitutional rights	In Progress

Maat estimates that Targeted Result No. 8, related to the completion of the 100 Million Health Initiative (100 Million Seha), is on track for achievement. Maat has observed ongoing efforts in implementing the initiative, during which Ministry of Health and Population examined approximately 237,000 newborns to detect genetic diseases. According to official reports, the campaign has provided 60.1 million medical services since its launch, and 327,600 treatment decisions were issued to eliminate waiting lists, with treatment Funded by the state for 2.1 million individuals as part of this initiative.

Maat also noted the implementation of Targeted Result No. 10, which focuses on developing an electronic platform for mental health services. On March 16, 2022, Ministry of Health and Population launched this platform, marking the first national initiative in Egypt dedicated to mental health services and addiction treatment. This platform was established in collaboration with the General Secretariat for Mental Health and the World Health Organization.

In addition to this achievement, authorized entities are actively working to attain 12 additional results, including the enhancement of health services across the Republic, particularly in rural, remote, and border areas. Maat reviewed the efforts made to achieve this target and highlighted that the Economic and Social Development Plan for the current fiscal year 2023/2024 aims to improve health service coverage nationwide, according to data from Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

Additionally, the Decent Life Initiative allocated eight billion Egyptian pounds to implement health sector projects during the initiative's first phase. This initiative is currently focused on establishing and developing 1,105 healthcare units in accordance with comprehensive health insurance standards, as well as 24 central hospitals and 369 ambulance units in the villages and communities covered by the initiative. Ministry of Health and Population has also continued to organize medical convoys to remote areas and villages. However, achieving the full target of this outcome still requires significant effort, as the primary healthcare infrastructure suffers from insufficient access to facilities and services. There is a shortage of primary healthcare providers, particularly in rural and remote areas. This lack of infrastructure hampers the ability to deliver comprehensive health coverage services. Moreover, data indicates a disparity in the distribution of doctors between urban centers and villages. Despite a general shortage of doctors throughout Egypt, the number of doctors in Cairo exceeds that in border areas. Additionally, the number of doctors in major cities within border governorates is greater than that in surrounding villages. This imbalance may contribute to a perception among residents of border areas that they do not benefit adequately from government investments in the health sector.

Regarding the target result aimed at improving the quality of health facilities and services, Maat noted significant efforts to achieve this goal. Investments directed during the

2022-2023 fiscal year exceeded EGP 3.6 billion for the establishment and development of 148 specialized hospitals and medical centers. Furthermore, EGP 1.4 billion was allocated to establish and develop 36 hospitals, preparing them for operational readiness. An additional EGP 1.3 billion was dedicated to providing 1,500 intensive care beds, along with approximately EGP 250 million for the development of 52 integrated hospitals, which will serve as comprehensive centers for family health and development in the first phase of the Decent Life Initiative.

Ministry of Health and Population also increased its spending by 15% in the fiscal year 2023-2024 compared to the previous year. To further support this outcome, the Prime Minister launched the "100 Days of Health" initiative in June 2022, which deployed medical teams to hard-to-reach areas to provide free examinations and treatments for residents. However, Maat notes that residents of Egyptian border areas believe that healthcare services in these regions are inferior to those provided in urban areas. Information indicates that the government has struggled to supply qualified and trained doctors in these areas and to create suitable conditions for them to work and reside.

Consequently, the challenges to enhancing healthcare in these regions may stem from mismanagement of the health system rather than intentional neglect. According to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the number of beds in government hospitals is 88,597, compared to 33,020 beds in the private sector, totaling 121,617 beds. This statistic highlights the need to increase the availability of hospital beds from the current rate of 1.2 beds per 1,000 people to the global standard of 3 beds per 1,000 people, as recommended by the World Health Organization. In this context, Maat emphasizes that the government has yet to meet the constitutional mandate regarding health spending. The Constitution stipulates that the state must allocate no less than 3% of the gross national product to health, with plans to gradually increase this figure to align with global averages.

Regarding the target result related to increasing the number of doctors and nursing staff in the government health system, there remains a shortage of physicians due to the emigration of Egyptian doctors abroad. Currently, there are 1.2 doctors and 2.2 nurses per 1,000 citizens in Egypt, which falls short of the global averages of 1.5 doctors and 3.4 nurses per 1,000 citizens. To address the nursing shortage, the government is expanding nursing colleges. Data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, as of May 2023, indicate a 12.6% increase in the number of nursing staff in Egypt, attributed to this expansion. However, the shortage of doctors persists.

Between 2022 and the end of July 2023, over 4,000 doctors resigned, and this number continues to rise annually, having quadrupled since 2016. Many of these doctors migrate to other countries. According to a study by Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, of the more than 212,000 registered doctors licensed by the Doctors Syndicate,

only 82,000 (38%) are currently practicing, meaning that 62% of registered doctors are outside the medical system.

The reasons for this exodus include working abroad, taking unpaid leave, or resigning from government positions. In response to this crisis, the Egyptian Minister of Health decided in March 2023 to form a committee, chaired by himself, to address the migration of doctors and improve their working conditions. Government officials and union representatives have attributed the migration to low wages and the absence of a law on medical liability. Nonetheless, the shortage of doctors remains severe.

Additionally, the authorized bodies have not yet begun implementing three targeted results, specifically Results No. 6, 12, and 13. Regarding the sixth result, which addresses the shortage of certain medicines and locally manufactured raw materials, the state has made little progress toward achieving this target.

Despite government current efforts to establish a drug city in the new administrative capital, despite the existence of an existing city in Qalyubia Governorate, and despite Egypt being one of the leading countries in the pharmaceutical industry, according to the Pharmacies Division of General Pharmacies Division of General Federation of Chambers of Commerce, there is a major crisis in the pharmaceutical market. There are many shortages in medicines.

Through Maat review of various reports, the shortage of medicines has reached antibiotics and medicines related to chronic diseases. Some citizens also complained to the government complaints system affiliated with the Cabinet about the shortage of insulin for diabetics in some government hospitals. As for the two outcomes related to enhancing the rational and sustainable management of natural assets and resources.

Maat did not notice any efforts made to achieve the target of this outcome, as a legislative amendment has not been issued to tighten penalties in Environmental Law and related laws, and the entity entrusted with achieving this outcome has not worked to achieve it, as the penalties imposed for harming the environment according to Article "84 bis of Environmental Law No. 4 of 1994, amended by Law 9 of 2009", are still imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year and a fine of not less than five thousand pounds and not more than one hundred thousand pounds, or one of these two penalties. In the event of recidivism, the prison sentence is doubled to two years and the fine to two hundred thousand pounds, and it is permissible to rule to close the facility and cancel its license or stop violating activity if violation occurred from a facility.

## **B. Sub-item 2: Right to Education**

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The second sub-item in the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve 11 target results, primarily focused on reducing the illiteracy rate, minimizing dropouts from the

educational system, improving the quality of both higher and pre-university education, enhancing teacher recruitment and training efforts, and bridging the gap between educational requirements and labor market needs. Upon reviewing the implementation of these target results, it is evident that the responsible parties are close to achieving nine of the results, while work has yet to commence on two of them. The table below outlines the target results of the sub-item on the Right to Education.

<b>Right to Education</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Reducing the illiteracy rate.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Raising enrollment rates, reducing dropout from the educational process, and narrowing the educational gap between urban and rural children.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Expanding the establishment of schools for all educational levels in all regions, and developing the technological infrastructure	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Improving the quality of pre-university education in accordance with international standards.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>5</b>	Strengthening efforts to train teachers and increase their numbers.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>6</b>	Developing the technical education and vocational training system, increasing specializations and linking education to the needs of the labor market	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>7</b>	Improving the quality of higher education in line with international standards	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>8</b>	Reducing the gap between education requirements and labor market needs	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>9</b>	Developing the scientific research system through modernizing the system of legislation and regulations regulating the scientific research process, and developing human resources working in the field of scientific research. Encouraging creative thinking and developing a culture of innovation among youth and society.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>10</b>	Encouraging creative thinking and developing a culture of innovation among youth and society.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>11</b>	Issuing legislation to enshrine the right to knowledge	<b>Poor</b>

The entities responsible for implementing the results mentioned in this sub-item are actively working on achieving nine of the target results, but they have not yet begun efforts on two others. Concerning the targeted result of reducing the illiteracy rate, Maat notes the ongoing efforts to meet this goal, which are detailed in the Economic and Social Development Plan issued by Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and approved by both chambers

of Parliament. This plan aims to decrease the illiteracy rate from 18.9%—as reported in the secondary bulletin of the labor force survey—to 16% by the end of 2025. This will be achieved through financial support allocated for initiatives aimed at reducing illiteracy. Currently, the illiteracy rate in Egypt stands at 17.5%. However, Maat highlights a significant disparity in illiteracy rates between genders: 12.4% for men compared to approximately 22.8% for women.

Regarding the target results of raising enrollment rates, reducing dropouts from the educational process, and narrowing the educational gap between children in rural and urban areas, Maat acknowledges the efforts being made to meet these objectives. Among these initiatives are several programs launched to reduce dropouts in primary education, which include workshops and training courses designed to enhance the skills of those involved in the educational process. Additionally, financial and social support is linked to families to prevent children from dropping out of school. The state provides basic education (primary and preparatory) to every child through Ministry of Education or the Al-Azhar Institutes sector. According to the latest available data, the net enrollment rates in primary and preparatory education have reached 94.2% and 82.5%, respectively.

On December 7, 2021, the Cabinet approved amendments to certain provisions of Education Law No. 139 of 1981, aimed at increasing the financial penalties imposed on a child's father or guardian if the child fails to attend school without an acceptable excuse within a week of being warned via a letter signed by the father or guardian. The penalties range from 500 to 1,000 pounds. Draft law stipulates that penalties will be multiplied if the child continues to miss school without an acceptable excuse after being warned. It also includes a secondary penalty, which entails the suspension of the convict's access to all or some services provided by government agencies, public bodies, public sector units, and entities offering public utility services until the child returns to school. A decision regarding these services and the rules for their suspension will be issued by Minister of Justice in agreement with the relevant ministers. This legislative amendment will limit the process of children dropping out of schools or forcing them out of education.

Official data indicate that there are currently 68,000 school dropouts in Egypt. In February 2024, Ministry of Education decided not to expel these students, with the intention of facilitating their return to school. To motivate these students, Ministry plans to provide both financial and in-kind incentives. The phenomenon of school dropouts in Egypt has been increasing significantly. The number of students who dropped out of school rose from approximately 15,000 in the 2018-2019 academic year to 68,000 in 2022-2023. National School Nutrition Program, a key social protection initiative, also plays a crucial role in helping poor children remain in education. During the 2023/2024 academic year, 435 million school meals were distributed by the end of November 2023.

Regarding the target result of expanding the establishment of schools at all educational levels across the country, the government has made efforts to increase school availability. This includes a presidential directive issued on September 26, 2023, to establish 100 new schools each year. However, government data reveals a significant shortfall of 250,000 classrooms, leading to overcrowded conditions. The average classroom density in Egypt is approximately 47.5 students per classroom at the primary level, which exceeds the averages in densely populated countries like China and India. To improve the quality of pre-university education in alignment with international standards, Maat noted an increase in spending on pre-university education, reaching 188 billion pounds during the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

The total support for implementing the comprehensive national Strategy for developing pre-university education in Egypt is estimated at 500 billion dollars. Despite these efforts, there remains a clear deficit of teachers across various specializations in Egyptian schools. According to the head of the Teachers Syndicate, the teacher shortage reached 400,000 by May 2023, which negatively impacts the quality of pre-university education. With regard to enhancing efforts to train teachers and increase their numbers, despite initiatives such as launching recruitment competitions, the deficit persists. This shortage prompts schools to resort to temporary contracting, hiring teachers at very low wages on a per-share basis in exchange for minimal compensation.

Concerning the target result of developing the technical education and vocational training system, which includes increasing specializations and aligning education with labor market needs, more than half of the students who enroll in secondary school after middle school choose technical education and vocational training. However, despite reports on the launch of the second phase of National Strategy for Reforming the Technical Education and Vocational Training System in Egypt (2012-2017), Maat notes ongoing efforts by the responsible entity to implement this outcome. According to international indicators, Egypt advanced 32 places in the Technical Education and Vocational Training Index issued by United Nations Development Program, to occupy 81st place in 2022, compared to 113th place in 2017, in addition to advancing 30 places in the Continuing Education Index issued by the same institution, to occupy 98th place in 2022, compared to 128th place in 2017.

Regarding target outcome of improving quality of higher education in line with international standards, the entity has begun Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is tasked with implementing this goal by establishing more private universities. According to Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the number of private universities in Egypt has increased from 26 in 2014 to 40 by 2022. In line with presidential directives, there is a growing trend to establish more private universities to enhance the quality of higher education for approximately 700,000 students. This initiative includes the

adoption of new study programs and specializations that align with labor market requirements.

Regarding the target result of reducing the gap between higher education outcomes and labor market needs, the first meeting of Ministerial Committee for implementing the project to harmonize educational outcomes with labor market demands took place on August 19, 2024. The meeting focused on developing training programs that align with labor market requirements, providing real job opportunities for graduates, and fostering collaboration between universities and companies.

Maat noted the efforts made to achieve this outcome, including Ministry of Higher Education's initiative to introduce innovative programs across Egyptian universities—be they governmental, private, technological, or civil—in fields such as artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, nuclear engineering, and data sciences. These efforts aim to ensure that educational outcomes meet labor market demands and to cultivate a workforce capable of thriving in technological fields. However, this initiative alone may not suffice. Approximately 700,000 graduates emerge annually from governmental and private universities, colleges, and institutes, according to the annual bulletin of higher education graduates issued by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics in 2021. The country recorded 667,000 graduates in 2021, a 3.7% increase from 643,000 in 2020, in addition to an estimated 750,000 graduates from technical education. Reports from the Education Development Fund of the Cabinet indicate that over the past three years, more than 2.5 million students have graduated from technical education programs. However, credible reports suggest that most of these graduates lack the necessary skills for employment and do not possess the relevant experience for available jobs.

Regarding the target result aimed at developing the scientific research system, which includes updating the legislation and regulations governing the scientific research process and enhancing the human resources in this field, the Egyptian Minister of Finance announced on April 13, 2024, an increase in scientific research allocations to over 139.5 billion pounds, up from 99.6 billion pounds—an increase of 40.1%. However, data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics reveals a significant decline in the number of Egyptians obtaining doctorates from both Egyptian and foreign universities. The decline rate reached 90% between 2016 and 2021, with the number of doctorate holders dropping from 128,689 in 2016 to just 9,063 in 2021. This decline has been attributed to various factors, including a 400-fold increase in registration fees during this period and complex administrative procedures that deter researchers from enrolling.

As for the target results related to encouraging creative thinking and fostering a culture of innovation among youth and society, Maat has not observed significant efforts to implement these results. The initiatives that have been launched by some government



institutions remain limited in scope, similar to the efforts related to Result No. 11, which focuses on issuing legislation to enshrine and regulate the right to knowledge.

### C. Sub-item 3: Right to Work

The third sub-item in the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve six target results related to increasing job opportunities, integrating the formal and informal economies, enhancing vocational training for employees and workers, and improving decent work standards. Maat follow-up on the efforts made to achieve the results outlined in this sub-item indicates that five results are currently being pursued, while one result has not yet begun. The following table shows targeted results under third item.

Right to Work		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Increasing employment opportunities by strengthening employment policies	In Progress
2	Integrating the formal economy with the informal economy and creating an accurate database of irregular employment	Not Started
3	Activating the role of the private sector in promoting the right to work	In Progress
4	Increase efforts in the field of vocational training for employees and workers, and raise their awareness of their rights and job duties.	In Progress
5	Promoting decent work standards, especially with regard to providing safe and healthy working conditions, ensuring the provision of fair wages, strengthening mediation and arbitration mechanisms, and resolving collective labor disputes, in a way that enhances workers' rights	In Progress
6	Consider legalizing the conditions of domestic service workers.	In Progress

The entities responsible for implementing the outcomes related to the Right to Work are actively working on five target results, but progress has been delayed in starting the implementation of one target result. Regarding target result No. 1, which focuses on increasing job opportunities by strengthening employment policies across various sectors, efforts have been made to provide more job opportunities. For example, Ministry of Labor, in partnership with the International Labor Organization, is preparing to launch a National Employment Strategy that includes goals such as increasing job opportunities for youth and improving women's employment rates, along with integrating the formal and informal economies.

Additionally, some government agencies continue to organize or sponsor employment forums periodically. However, unemployment levels have only slightly decreased during the reporting period. While the expansion of new cities has created jobs for certain groups in society, overall employment rates in Egypt remain low, and there continues to be a disconnect between labor market demands and the number of university graduates.

Regarding target result No. 3, which seeks to activate the role of the private sector in implementing the Right to Work, Maat acknowledges the efforts made, including Egyptian government's launch of the State Ownership Document on June 13, 2022. This document aims to increase private sector participation in Egyptian economy and enhance partnerships between the public and private sectors in various areas, with the goal of creating new job opportunities to help reduce unemployment rates. However, the activation of this document is still incomplete. In a related context, despite National Wages Council's directive to implement the minimum wage announced by President in February 2024, the execution of these decisions remains contingent on the individual desire of each establishment, due to the absence of enforcement mechanisms within the private sector.

As for the targeted result of enhancing vocational training efforts for employees and workers and raising their awareness of their rights and job responsibilities, Maat notes some progress, such as the development of a vision by a committee of experts assigned by Ministry of Labor to create curricula for the vocational training plan. Ministry has also implemented training and guidance programs designed to align with international standards and future job demands. Furthermore, Ministry of Labor has launched 8 mobile vocational training units in 8 governorates to contribute to the vocational training plan and prepare youth for professions needed in the labor market, particularly within the framework of Presidential initiative "Decent Life." However, there remains a significant gap in developing the capabilities of youth and raising their awareness of their rights and job responsibilities, which is delaying the full implementation of this targeted result.

Regarding target result of enhancing decent work standards, especially with regard to providing safe and healthy working conditions, ensuring fair wages, enhancing mediation and arbitration mechanisms, and resolving collective labor disputes, in a manner that enhances workers' rights, Maat notes the efforts made to implement target result of this outcome, including the discussion of the new labor law, which is likely to be approved before the end of the fifth session of House of Representatives. However, practical practice is still characterized by practices that are inconsistent with decent work standards, in light of the shortage in number of labor inspectors.

Maat noted, by referring to previous statements by Minister of Manpower in Egypt and the estimates of labor researchers, that number of labor inspectors is insufficient for the size of labor force in Egypt, and for labor establishments, including those that employ children as a large part of their workforce. According to the International Labour Organization, technical recommendations indicate that there should be one inspector for every 15,000 workers in developing economies.

In the absence of any information from Ministry of Manpower about number of labor inspectors, there remains difficulty in analyzing the reasons for the shortcomings related to labor inspection, including inspection of child labor, and since there is no information indicating that Ministry of Manpower has responded to the aforementioned recommendation of the International Labor Organization, in addition to Ministry of Manpower not publishing any information about the financial allocations for inspection operations, the training received by inspectors to perform their duties to the fullest extent, number of inspections, and the penalties imposed for violations in work establishments.

As for target result related to considering the legalization of domestic service conditions, despite the attempts made by some representatives to pass a law legalizing domestic service conditions, in addition to Ministry of Labor starting to prepare a draft law for the same purpose, Draft law submitted by some representatives to House of Representatives has not been referred for discussion in General sessions. As for Draft law that Ministry of Labor is preparing, it has not yet been referred to House of Representatives.

As for the second target result, Maat did not notice any noticeable progress towards integrating the formal economy into the informal economy, despite the trends aimed at integrating the informal economy into the formal economy and establishing a database for irregular workers by a number of Egyptian ministries.

However, an accurate database for irregular workers has not been established, and despite the statements attributed to Ministry of Labor about the imminent establishment of this database, this database has not been established, and number of irregular workers whose data is registered in Ministry has not yet exceeded 331,000, according to statements by the Executive Director of the Irregular Workers Accounts Management Unit at Ministry in January 2023. The informal economy also still accounts for 40% of the gross domestic product, according to data from Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in December 2022.

#### **D. Sub-item 4: Social Protection Programs**

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The fourth sub-item in the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve five target results primarily focused on bridging gaps in social protection program coverage, increasing awareness of the benefits of family planning among program beneficiaries, expanding the integration of the Takaful and Karama program, and enhancing the social

security and pension systems. The implementing agencies are actively working to achieve these five results three years into Strategy. The table below outlines the target results for this sub-item.

Right to Social Security		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Identify and fill gaps in social protection programs' coverage of target groups.	In Progress
2	Increase awareness of groups benefiting from social protection programs about the positives of family planning.	In Progress
3	Expand support for the Takaful and Karama program to target families suffering from multidimensional poverty, while economically empowering families who are able to work to get out of the poverty line.	In Progress
4	Develop social security system and the insurance and pension system to include all target groups.	In Progress
5	Promote effective social protection policies to provide urgent aid and subsidies in cases of crises and emergencies	In Progress

Maat has observed that the implementing agencies are making efforts to achieve the five outcomes, beginning with identifying and addressing gaps in social protection program coverage for target groups. Ministry of Social Solidarity has initiated measures to expand the beneficiary base of the conditional cash transfer programs Takaful and Karama. Ministry reported an increase in total support by approximately EGP 203 billion from 2020 to 2023.

The number of families benefiting from the program has grown significantly, from about 1.795 million families in 2014 to approximately 5.3 million families in 2024. Additionally, the cash support budget has increased from EGP 3.4 billion in the 2014-2015 budget to EGP 31 billion in the 2023-2024 budget. In April 2023, Ministry of Finance announced an increase in the social support and protection budget to EGP 529.7 billion, marking a 48.8% rise aimed at mitigating the effects of inflation on the most vulnerable groups. Ministry of Social Solidarity has also requested the International Labor Organization to conduct a study on the feasibility of implementing a social protection floor in Egypt, which would ensure a minimum level of social protection for all. According to the United Nations, the social protection floor comprises a set of social policies designed to guarantee secure income and access to essential social services, particularly for the poor.

This includes basic income guarantees, various forms of social transfers (both cash and in-kind), pensions for the elderly and people with disabilities, and access to Fundamental social services in health, water and sanitation, education, food, and housing. Despite these

efforts, approximately 4 million poor families remain uncovered by cash support. According to data from Ministry of Social Solidarity, there are about 9.3 million poor families in Egypt.

Regarding the target result of increasing awareness among beneficiaries of social protection programs about the advantages of family planning, Maat notes the ongoing efforts to enhance this awareness. Ministry of Social Solidarity, particularly through social pioneers, has launched campaigns to educate beneficiaries about family planning. Since the initiation of the "2 is Enough" project, in partnership with 108 civil society organizations, there have been 9.3 million family awareness visits focused on family planning topics. Additionally, 400,000 women have visited "2 is Enough" clinics affiliated with civil society organizations to access family planning and reproductive health services. According to data from Ministry of Social Solidarity, 310,000 women utilized family planning methods, representing 78% of those who visited the "2 is Enough" clinics. However, there is still a pressing need to intensify campaigns targeting women in remote and border villages and to develop indicators to measure the impact of these campaigns on this demographic.

Regarding targeted result No. 3, which aims to expand support for the "Takaful and Karama" program to families experiencing multidimensional poverty while also empowering families capable of working to escape poverty, Minister of Social Solidarity reported on July 15 that 73,000 families had been added to the program. Maat has also noted the efforts made to implement this target, as social security allocations in the 2023-2024 budget increased to EGP 31.2 billion, compared to approximately EGP 22.2 billion in the 2022-2023 budget.

However, the program still does not cover all families suffering from poverty, which Ministry estimates to be over 9 million families. In a related context, Maat reviewed statements from Ministry of Social Solidarity's advisor for economic empowerment, confirming that 400,000 families were identified based on criteria including multidimensional poverty. These families will receive non-refundable grants through projects Funded by the World Bank.

Ministry will also partner with several civil society organizations to finance about 50,000 small projects for families enrolled in the Takaful and Karama program across eight governorates as part of the Forsa program. These governorates include Fayoum, Beni Suef, Minya, Sohag, Assiut, Luxor, Qalyubia, and Al-Sharqia. Ministry has allocated \$50 million within the Forsa program to support the most vulnerable families by establishing projects or creating jobs, emphasizing that cash support will cease when the circumstances surrounding these families improve and they exit the cycle of poverty. However, fully implementing this result requires expanding economic empowerment programs to support families capable of working to surpass the poverty line.

Maat has noted several efforts aimed at developing the social security system and the insurance and pension system to encompass all target groups. For instance, recent wage increases included allocating EGP 55 billion to raise pensions by 15% starting in April 2023, easing the burden on low-income families and mitigating the effects of inflation caused by the Russian-Ukrainian war and currency devaluation.

It is estimated that the number of individuals eligible for social security benefits within the social insurance system is fewer than 14 million workers, which places additional strain on insurance systems and makes them vulnerable to disruption. The Social Insurance Law mandates annual pension increases starting July 1, based on inflation rates, capped at 15%. According to Ministry of Finance, the insurance and pension system received support amounting to EGP 202 billion.

Ministry also expressed its commitment to resolving financial entanglements with National Social Insurance Authority. In January 2024, General Authority for Social Insurance decided to increase the minimum pension for those whose service ends as of January 1, 2024, by EGP 1,300, instead of the previously set EGP 1,105. The recent legislation adopted by Egyptian government on social insurance and pensions expands the participation of migrant workers in the social security system. The legislation recognized social security and insurance for all foreigners who have concluded regular employment contracts or are covered by labor Law. Previously, these rights only included countries that had signed agreements with Egypt in the field of reciprocity.

Finally, regarding the sixth target result related to enhancing effective social protection policies to provide urgent assistance and subsidies in times of crises and emergencies, the Legal Committee at Ministry of Labor is currently working on preparing a draft law establishing an emergency aid Fund for irregular workers. Draft law aims to help the social labor category, especially in times of emergency, in a way that enhances social protection and health care for them. However, the Fund has not yet been established.

In its report on Ministry efforts for 2021-2022, Ministry of Social Solidarity explained that it had financed aid targeting 226,800 families affected by individual and general crises and disasters, with a value of 910,500 million Egyptian pounds, in addition to raising the value of compensation for victims of general disasters from 10 thousand Egyptian pounds to a maximum of 50 thousand Egyptian pounds, in addition to doubling the compensation for the families of martyrs and those injured as a result of terrorist operations, so that the compensation increases from 100 thousand pounds to 200 thousand pounds by a decision issued by President of Republic in 2021. In general, aid in Egypt constitutes 11 percent of the gross domestic product.

## E. Sub-item 5: Right to Food

The fifth sub-item in the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve 10 target results primarily focused on establishing a reserve of strategic goods and supporting the bread system. A review of the implementation of the results in this sub-item reveals that one targeted result has been achieved—specifically, the provision of a reserve of strategic goods—while efforts are ongoing for six other target results, and work has not yet begun on three additional results. The table below outlines the target results related to the Right to Food.

Right to Food		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Enhancing the provision of reserves of strategic goods.	Implemented
2	Supporting the bread system in all governorates of the Republic by improving the information infrastructure by creating correct databases, auditing the data available in them, building confidence among citizens in automated services, developing the electronic bread system, and raising culture.	In Progress
3	Strengthening the ration card system and ensuring the sustainability of the flow of food supplies	In Progress
4	Adopting appropriate plans to achieve the goals of growing local agricultural production, providing the necessary water to increase the agricultural area, developing innovations, agricultural scientific research and modern technology in the field of agriculture, expanding agricultural industrialization projects, and increasing farmers' awareness of the best agricultural practices.	In Progress
5	Reducing encroachments on agricultural lands, rehabilitating degraded ones, and strengthening the legalization of squatter lands in implementation of the law.	In Progress
6	Development of livestock, poultry and fisheries.	In Progress
7	Reducing food waste rates	Not Started
8	Strengthening market supervision and combating monopolistic practices	In Progress
9	Updating legislation and regulations to ensure the safety and quality of local agricultural food products, and enhancing the capabilities and role of the National Food Safety Authority. And importer; developing quality standards and standard specifications for many product items	Not Started
10	Increasing the number of civil society organizations working in the field of food safety	Not Started

The entities responsible for implementing these results have successfully achieved one outcome, and Maat appreciates the efforts that led to this accomplishment. On July 16, 2024, the Prime Minister announced a plan to increase the strategic reserve of basic commodities to nine months, up from the current six months. In March 2024, the Prime Minister directed a 20% increase in the strategic reserve of basic commodities. Despite disruptions in global supply chains due to the Russian-Ukrainian war, Egyptian government has managed to maintain a safe level of strategic commodities. Initially, the goal was to reach a maximum reserve of three months; however, President of Republic subsequently demanded an increase to six months to ensure adequate supplies. Additionally, in March 2024, a directive was issued to study further increases in the strategic reserve of commodities by 20% in order to stabilize the market. In January 2024, the Cabinet identified seven strategic commodities that are prohibited from being traded through concealment or non-sale, in accordance with the provisions of the Consumer Protection Law.

Regarding targeted result No. 2, which focuses on supporting the bread system across all governorates by improving the information infrastructure, Maat has noted significant efforts. This includes creating accurate databases, auditing existing data, building citizens' confidence in automated services, developing the electronic bread system, and enhancing the information culture among citizens. The General Budget Statement for the 2024/2025 fiscal year allocates support to finance the two food commodity systems, reaching a total of EGP 134 billion, with EGP 153 billion earmarked specifically for the bread system.

Ministry of Supply has also announced that subsidized bread will be available to non-ration card holders at the actual cost of production starting in 2024 through municipal bakeries. However, there is still a pressing need to tighten control over more than 28,000 bakeries in Egypt to reduce the leakage of subsidized flour and its sale on the black market. This includes refining the list of individuals receiving ration support who do not actually need it, strengthening the ration card system, and ensuring the sustainability of the flow of rationed goods by expanding the organized distribution network.

In January 2024, Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade announced plans to launch smart ration card services and ration activity services at local units across 332 government service complexes nationwide. According to Ministry of Supply's annual report for 2023, 396 supply offices have been upgraded and transformed into efficient citizen service centers, in addition to providing services electronically and remotely through the Egypt Digital Portal and the Egypt Support website. In a related context, Ministry of Supply implemented a presidential directive concerning a package of social protection measures aimed at supporting food commodities and disbursing exceptional support from September 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. This support entails adding EGP 100 to cards for single-family households, EGP 200 for cards covering two or three families, and EGP 300 for cards covering more than three



families, with a total monthly expenditure reaching up to EGP 833 million and an estimated total cost of about EGP 8.3 billion.

On November 15, 2022, Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade confirmed its ongoing collaboration with Ministry of Social Solidarity and the General Authority for Social Insurance to verify the data of beneficiaries within the food support system, as part of the digitization efforts initiated by Ministry. To achieve the goals of local agricultural production growth, Ministry has adopted appropriate plans that include providing necessary water resources to expand agricultural areas, developing innovations, fostering agricultural scientific research, and modernizing technology in agriculture. Maat noted several efforts aimed at achieving these targets, including those outlined in the Economic and Social Development Plan for 2023, which directs investments of EGP 11 billion across various projects. One of these projects is the completion and development of the Toshka project, with appropriations of EGP 4.4 billion. This initiative aims to achieve water security and enhance water resources in the Toshka area, serving approximately 540,000 to 620,000 acres, while ensuring the optimal operation of High Dam and the Toshka spillway.

Other projects include National initiative to rehabilitate and line canals to preserve water resources, as well as completing the development of the integrated water resources plan with appropriations of EGP 63 million to improve the efficiency of the water management system. Regarding innovations and agricultural scientific research, the Agriculture and Irrigation Committee in the House of Representatives called on May 14, 2024, for an increase in financial resources within the investment plan for the Agricultural Research Center, proposing a budget of more than EGP 107 million to support various research initiatives. However, the financial resources allocated to the center remain a challenge in implementing the target of reducing encroachments on agricultural lands, rehabilitating deteriorated areas, and enhancing the legalization of lands in accordance with the law.

Maat also highlighted ongoing efforts to achieve these targets, particularly those made by the Supreme Committee for Land Recovery. Between October 31, 2023, and November 14, 2023, a total of 1,374 building violations were removed, covering an area of approximately 335,000 square meters, while 10,777 cases of encroachment on agricultural lands were addressed over an area of 626,000 acres. From April 2024 to May 9, 2024, cooperative efforts among various governorates and law enforcement resulted in the removal of 1,079 cases of encroachment on agricultural lands, encompassing an area of 2,480 acres. Despite efforts to reduce encroachments on agricultural lands, progress remains limited, particularly due to the absence of elected local councils responsible for monitoring these encroachments and managing livestock, poultry, and fish resources.

Maat has noted ongoing initiatives aimed at achieving this outcome, including continued investment in livestock development projects. For instance, on March 3, 2024,

Minister of Agriculture approved the allocation of EGP 307.35 million for 426 beneficiaries, including small breeders and recent graduates, facilitating the acquisition of 6,833 heads of livestock as part of Presidential initiative "Decent Life," which aims to enhance the living conditions in Egyptian countryside and elevate the status of small farmers and breeders.

However, several challenges hinder the effective implementation of this initiative. These include the lack of a comprehensive database detailing the distribution of livestock across various governorates, limited availability of natural pastures, and rising global feed prices. Additionally, the impacts of climate change, including increasing temperatures, have created new areas prone to disease outbreaks affecting livestock. There is also a pressing need to raise awareness among small breeders regarding care methods that are compatible with new livestock breeds.

The state has also focused on fish farming projects and the development of lakes to enhance aquatic resources. Notably, National project aimed at the development and improvement of lakes—such as Manzala, Burullus, Bardawil, and Mariout—intends to increase their productivity. However, the benefits of these fish farming projects have not yet resulted in a sufficient abundance to lower fish prices. This situation has led some governorates, such as Port Said, to initiate campaigns urging consumers to boycott fish traders due to high prices.

Regarding target result of strengthening market control and combating monopolistic practices, the government has intensified its efforts in this area. On December 29, 2022, Law No. 175 of 2022 was enacted, amending certain provisions of the Competition Protection Law by granting the agency jurisdiction over prior control of economic concentrations. This law is set to take effect once the executive regulations are issued, which are essential for its implementation. Despite these governmental efforts, market control has remained weak and has not translated into lower prices. According to the Citizens Against High Prices Association for Consumer Protection, recent daily surges in meat and poultry prices indicate monopolistic practices. It is suggested that there are prior agreements in the market concerning red meat, poultry, feed, and logistics that require monitoring and investigation in accordance with Law No. 3 of 2005 on the Protection of Competition and the Prevention of Monopolistic Practices.

Furthermore, the authorities responsible for implementation have yet to commence updates to the legislation and regulations governing the safety and quality of local and imported food products. There is a critical need to develop quality standards and specifications for various agricultural products and to enhance the capabilities and role of National Food Safety Authority. It is noted that despite the existence of National Food Safety Authority established under Law No. 1 of 2017, which assumes the powers assigned to ministries, public bodies, government agencies and local administration units with regard to monitoring food circulation in legislation related to food safety and the issuance of National

Food Safety Authority, Decision No. 11 of 2020 regarding the rules for implementing food safety requirements in food establishments and this authority enjoying judicial control over food safety, these decisions are not implemented on the ground and it is assumed that there is at least one food inspector in each health office. His role is to collect samples from different areas for examination. However, the role of these inspectors is similar to some shortcomings.

Number of active civil society organizations working in the field of food safety and consumer protection has not increased, and despite the efforts made by Egyptian Food Bank, there is still a weakness in number of civil society organizations whose fields of work include food safety and consumer protection.

#### **F. Sub-item 6: Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

Sub-item 6 in the axis on economic, social and cultural rights aimed to achieve 4 target results related mainly to increasing the average availability of safe drinking water for the population, reducing water loss and developing infrastructure projects. Through Maat follow-up of the implementation of the results mentioned in this sub-item, we find that the entity responsible for implementation has achieved one result while it has not started working on a similar one and work is still underway to achieve two other results. The following table shows target results in the sub-item on Right to drinking water and sanitation.

<b>Right to Drinking Water</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Increased average availability of safe drinking water for the population, raising the quality of drinking water, and increasing the number of water desalination plants. .	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	High rate of groundwater production without prejudice to the sustainability of the aquifer. Taking into account its non-renewal.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>3</b>	Reducing water loss and increasing citizens' awareness of the importance of rationalizing water consumption.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Developing sanitation infrastructure projects and completing them so that they extend to the rest of the geographical regions.	<b>Implemented</b>

The entity entrusted with implementing the results mentioned in this item has implemented one result out of four results, which is Target Result No. 4, which is related to developing sanitation infrastructure projects and completing them so that they extend to the rest of the geographical areas. The 2023/2024 fiscal year plan aims to direct investments of about EGP 119 billion to water and sanitation projects. In addition, Ministry of International Cooperation signed an agreement with the African Development Bank worth \$ 131 million, including a

grant of \$ 1 million, which will be directed to providing integrated sanitation services in residential communities located in rural areas in Luxor Governorate.

It is scheduled that 22,000 homes in Luxor Governorate, or about 240,000 people, will benefit from the Funding, which supports government efforts aimed at developing the sanitation sector and covering all governorates of Republic with these services. The project, implemented by the state in cooperation with the African Development Bank, to enhance sanitation services in Luxor, aims to raise the coverage rate of sanitation services from 6% to 55% by establishing new water treatment plants. This project is one of the sections of National Sanitation Program implemented by Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, which aims to expand the scope of sanitation services from 34% to 60%. However, achieving these results requires further efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage across all Egyptian villages.

Currently, there are ongoing initiatives to increase the average availability of safe drinking water for the population, improve the quality of drinking water, and expand the number of desalination plants. Despite these efforts, which have led to the establishment of 63 desalination plants, with 14 additional plants nearing completion, significant challenges remain. In February 2022, Egyptian government announced that the country had entered a phase of water poverty. According to Egypt's voluntary report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, there has been a sharp decline in per capita renewable freshwater availability, bringing Egypt closer to the extreme water scarcity threshold of 500 cubic meters per capita per year. The report indicated that factors such as climate change, river pollution, and external influences like the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam are likely to exacerbate the water scarcity crisis in Egypt. Nevertheless, the government continues to prioritize increasing investments in water rationalization, reuse, and the development of new water sources.

Target outcome of reducing water loss and increasing citizens' awareness of the importance of rationalizing water consumption has not yet been fully implemented. Maat noted significant efforts from various ministries, including Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Housing, and Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, to raise public awareness on this issue. These efforts have included media campaigns and awareness activities aimed at both ministry employees and the general population. However, according to the annual bulletin on clean water and sanitation statistics issued by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the percentage of water loss in Egypt reached 26.5% in 2021/2022.

Some reports attribute this water loss to aging pipe networks riddled with leaks, as well as water theft via unauthorized branch connections to the public network. Additionally, the responsible entity has yet to implement Target result No. 2, which aims to increase

groundwater production rates without compromising the sustainability of the groundwater reservoir. The estimated volume of groundwater used in Egypt is approximately 6.1 billion cubic meters per year in the Nile Valley and Delta, with projections suggesting it could rise to 7.5 billion cubic meters per year without endangering the groundwater reserve. However, Maat has not observed any initiatives aimed at increasing groundwater production rates.

### **G. Sub-item Seven: Right to Adequate Housing**

Sub-item Seven within the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve six target results, primarily focused on increasing housing units, particularly for low-income individuals, activating the real estate financing initiative, constructing new cities, developing unsafe slums, and enhancing areas that have not yet undergone urban development, along with improving the basic utilities network. Additionally, there are efforts to enforce penalties for the exploitation of social housing units. The entities responsible for implementation have successfully achieved two target results in this sub-item, while work continues on the remaining four results. The following table summarizes the target results related to Right to Housing.

<b>Right to Adequate Housing</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Increasing the number of housing units for all social segments, especially those with limited income, and providing facilities within the framework of real estate financing	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Providing and developing basic services and facilities in residential communities and new cities, such as health, education, and the road network	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Increasing the construction of new cities and suitable housing units in the desert area	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>4</b>	Developing unsafe slum areas	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>5</b>	Developing areas that have not been subject to urban development and renewing the basic facilities network	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>6</b>	Tightening and activating penalties for violating the conditions of exploitation and housing of social housing units	<b>In Progress</b>

Entities responsible for implementing the target results outlined in the sub-item on the Right to Housing have successfully achieved two key outcomes: Result No. 3, which focuses on increasing the construction of new cities, and Result No. 4, which involves developing unsafe slums. The government has continued its efforts to enhance the construction of new cities and suitable housing units in desert hinterland areas, ensuring comprehensive social, economic, and service coverage. According to a report from Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban

Communities, there are plans to initiate the development of 21 new Egyptian cities across various governorates, predominantly located in the desert hinterland. These cities are being designed using modern building systems. Among these is West Qena, which spans 8,971.1 acres and is intended to accommodate 550,000 residents, with the first phase covering 1,400 acres. Another notable project is Nasser City, located west of Assiut Governorate. Despite these initiatives, the inhabited area in Egypt still represents only 7.8% of the total land area, highlighting the urgent need for expanded construction in desert regions.

Efforts are ongoing to achieve four additional target results within the sub-item on the Right to Adequate Housing. This includes the objective of increasing the number of housing units available for all social groups, particularly low-income individuals, and providing facilities within the framework of real estate financing. Egyptian government has significantly expanded its housing construction efforts, resulting in approximately 725,000 housing units built over six years across various governorates and new cities. Additionally, the real estate financing initiative continues to target low- and middle-income individuals, offering an interest rate of 3% and installment plans of up to 30 years. The government is also constructing about 250,000 alternative housing units for residents of unsafe slum areas at a cost of EGP 61 billion. However, these efforts remain incomplete, as the real estate financing initiative is still operational on a limited scale.

On February 15, 2023, Social Housing Finance Fund and the Real Estate Finance Support Fund provided an update on the One Million Housing Units Project. They reported that 619,000 housing units have been completed, while 247,000 units are still under construction. The state plans to initiate the construction of an additional 134,000 new units in the near future. The Fund also noted that 509,000 families, representing 2.5 million low- and middle-income citizens, have received new housing units through this project. Despite these achievements, the target results have not been fully realized. Citizens face complex procedures in obtaining housing units through the real estate financing initiative, and social housing projects have had a limited impact on low-income groups. According to previous government data, the gap between supply and demand stands at 2.5 million housing units, favoring lower-income groups.

Additionally, the Cabinet's approval in February 2023 to adopt free pricing for residential units in social housing could adversely affect the provision of subsidized services to the most vulnerable populations. Although the Social Housing Fund has denied plans to eliminate total support, it acknowledged that the decision pertains to specific areas and some remaining units from previous announcements. Should this support be entirely withdrawn, it may hinder progress in achieving the target results, particularly regarding the provision and development of essential services and facilities in residential communities and new cities, including health and educational services, as well as transportation infrastructure.

Government efforts to achieve urban development goals continue, with the establishment of new cities often accompanied by plans to build essential facilities and provide educational and health services, as well as a transportation network. New Urban Communities Authority has set four timetables for the completion of utility projects in these new cities. In April 2024, Minister of Housing directed officials to monitor cleaning projects and road development. However, there have been ongoing complaints about the distance of these new city projects from populated urban areas and the inadequate transportation options to remote locations, which impose significant burdens on residents.

Regarding the target result of developing areas that have not undergone urban planning and renewing basic utility networks, Maat noted the efforts made to implement this outcome. This includes the General Authority for Urban Planning's direction to prepare strategic plans for all villages across the Republic. The Decent Life Initiative also plays a crucial role in renewing utility networks for 4,200 villages, with an estimated cost of about 700 billion pounds. Despite these efforts, there remains a need to include all villages and hamlets in the initiative. Some of the poorest hamlets in Upper Egypt, such as Ezbet El-Shaqfa in Fayoum Governorate, were excluded. Residents of these areas have previously appealed to the President to intervene and include their village in the initiative, citing their urgent need for assistance. In terms of tightening and activating penalties for violating the conditions of use and residency in social housing units, Ministry of Solidarity announced on August 26, 2024, the withdrawal of 3,126 housing units from residents of alternative housing projects for slums in various governorates due to non-payment of monthly rents.

Regarding target result related to enforcing penalties for misuse of social housing units, Maat noted recent measures involving the withdrawal of over 3,000 housing units in August 2024 from residents who failed to meet their payment obligations. Campaigns targeting housing units in new cities continue, revealing that many citizens are renting out the units allocated to them or changing their designated use from residential to commercial or administrative purposes. Social Housing Fund stated in August 2023 that individuals violating this regulation could face imprisonment for not less than one year and fines ranging from twenty thousand to one hundred thousand pounds, or one of these penalties alone, along with the forfeiture of the housing unit. The law stipulates that a housing unit can only be disposed of after seven years and with written approval from the Fund, confirming that all obligations and fees have been settled. However, oversight of these regulations remains limited.

## **H. Sub-item Eight: Cultural Rights**

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Eighth sub-item in the axis on economic, social, and cultural rights aims to achieve eight target results primarily focused on providing cultural services across all regions of Egypt, enhancing cultural industries, supporting cultural palaces, and increasing awareness of the importance of intellectual property and its protection. Additionally, one targeted result emphasizes the

need for legislative intervention concerning the protection of intellectual property, as well as the preservation of heritage sites and the development of heritage crafts. Entities responsible for implementing This Strategy are actively working to achieve six of the target results, while two remain unaddressed. The following table summarizes the target results in this sub-item.

Cultural Rights		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Distributing cultural services in various parts of the country in a balanced manner, especially in remote, border and needy areas.	In Progress
2	Promoting cultural industries and strengthening their financing mechanisms.	Not Started
3	Providing more support to cultural deficiencies to enable them to carry out their assigned roles.	In Progress
4	Increase support for civil cultural activity, in a way that enhances the preservation of cultural identity.	Not Started
5	Developing legislation related to intellectual property protection and competition to provide an enabling environment for cultural industries.	In Progress
6	Increase awareness of the importance of intellectual property and its protection.	In Progress
7	Strengthening efforts to preserve and protect heritage sites and increase awareness of their importance.	In Progress
8	Protecting and developing heritage crafts, and increasing the support provided to them.	In Progress

Significant efforts have been noted by Maat in relation to Targeted Result No. 1, which seeks to distribute cultural services evenly throughout the country, particularly in remote, border, and underprivileged areas. Among these efforts is the adoption of the “People of Egypt” project, aimed at spreading cultural services to citizens, especially in border regions, and fostering integration with other areas for individuals aged 18 to 35. In 2023, Ministry of Culture implemented ten cultural forums and weeks for young men and women in border governorates. It also launched the mobile theaters project, which aims to establish one theater in each of the six main cultural regions: Greater Cairo, North Upper Egypt, Central and South Upper Egypt, West Delta, East Delta, and the Canal and Sinai. This initiative seeks to present artistic works to residents of remote areas within these regions. However, these efforts remain insufficient, and fully achieving the desired result will require an increase in cultural services in rural and remote areas.

Regarding Targeted Result No. 3, which pertains to providing additional support to cultural palaces, progress has not yet met the ambitions set forth by National Strategy for Human Rights. Following the fire at the Beni Suef Cultural Palace, theaters, particularly those



within cultural palaces, were closed due to inadequate civil protection measures. Furthermore, the financial resources allocated to operate cultural palaces remain limited. Maat has also noted calls for the establishment of more cultural palaces in various centers and neighborhoods. In 2019, the head of cultural palaces announced a plan to inaugurate 16 new cultural palaces; however, it is unclear whether these facilities have been completed or are still under construction.

Additionally, Targeted Result No. 5 focuses on the development of legislation related to the protection of intellectual property and competitiveness, creating an environment conducive to cultural industries. Maat acknowledges the efforts made to achieve this result, including the establishment of Egyptian Intellectual Property Authority, following the adoption of Draft law by President of Republic. Achieving this result in its entirety necessitates amending several pieces of legislation governing intellectual property. Draft law is one of several legislative measures slated for consideration during the initial phase of National Strategy for Human Rights, which aims to increase awareness of the importance of intellectual property and its protection.

Maat notes various efforts to meet this objective, including an announcement by Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly on September 21, 2022, regarding the launch of National Strategy for Intellectual Property. This Strategy encompasses several goals, including raising awareness among different segments of Egyptian society about intellectual property. However, there remains a significant lack of tools to measure the extent of society's awareness of this issue, as well as a need to enhance efforts to preserve and protect heritage sites.

On August 21, 2023, the Prime Minister inaugurated the restoration of the ancient tower of the Oyoun Stream wall. This restoration project included work on the wall itself, wooden waterwheels, and the removal of encroachments affecting the wall and its archaeological surroundings. The project also involved cleaning and treating the stones, as well as maintaining the wooden structures and floors in the internal corridors. Despite these efforts, there is a pressing need to extend restoration and maintenance work to other paved archaeological sites. A comprehensive study is necessary to identify which archaeological sites should be prioritized for restoration, protection, and the development of heritage crafts. Moreover, increasing support for these crafts is essential. The entities responsible for implementing these initiatives have continued to organize exhibitions for heritage crafts during the reporting period. Ministry of Social Solidarity has also signed cooperation protocols with various organizations to bolster support for these crafts; however, the overall target has not been fully achieved due to insufficient support.

Regarding the target results that have not yet been addressed, Result No. 2 pertains to promoting cultural industries and enhancing their financing mechanisms. Maat notes a

persistent shortage in the financial resources allocated for promoting cultural industries. Additionally, there is a targeted result related to increasing support for civil cultural activities, which are vital for preserving cultural identity. Maat has observed some efforts to implement this result, particularly through the economic, social, and cultural development plan issued by Ministry of Planning, which aims to complete five cultural projects and finalize 120 projects overall. Notable projects include the implementation of 11 initiatives for the Academy of Arts, eight projects for the Fine Arts sector, and the completion of development work for 34 cultural palaces. However, these measures remain inadequate to fully support civil cultural activities, necessitating increased financial resources and the launch of more initiatives to achieve the desired outcomes.

Evidence of the weak implementation of the eighth sub-item on cultural rights was highlighted on January 29, 2024, when the Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives, after meeting to discuss a briefing request submitted to Minister of Culture, acknowledged Ministry of Culture's limited role in disseminating National Human Rights Strategy through its cultural palaces across the country.

### 3. Axis on Rights of Vulnerable Groups

The third axis of Strategy aims to achieve 60 target results, distributed across five sections and sub-items. The following table presents the number of target results for each axis.

<b>Rights of Vulnerable Groups</b>	Women Rights	23
	Children Rights	11
	Rights of Persons with Disabilities	10
	Youth Rights	8
	Rights of Elderly	8

#### A. First Sub-item: Women Rights

The first sub-item in the third axis focuses on women's rights, with the goal of achieving 23 target results. Most of these results are aimed at changing cultural perceptions regarding women, enhancing their political participation, providing equal job opportunities, and integrating them into the formal economy. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these target results reveals that five results have been successfully achieved by the implementing agencies, indicating full implementation. Additionally, progress is nearing completion for 14 other target results, while four results have yet to be initiated. The following table outlines the target results in the sub-item on women's rights.

<b>Women Rights</b>		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Formulating policies aimed at addressing the inherited cultural legacies that entrench discrimination against women	In Progress
2	Promote gender-based planning approaches to enhance women's empowerment	In Progress
3	Expanding the collection of data related to women at the national and local levels on a periodic basis to identify the gaps that prevent women's empowerment	In Progress
4	Promoting women's political participation.	Implemented
5	Continuing work on issuing national identification cards for women in all governorates of Egypt.	In Progress
6	Increasing the number of women appointed to positions in the state's administrative apparatus and in decision-making centers, whether in leadership positions or on the boards of directors of public and private institutions. And enhancing women's	In Progress

Women Rights		
#	Target Result	Implementation
	participation in planning and policy-making processes at all levels.	
7	Providing equal opportunities for women and men to be appointed to judicial positions in the state.	Implemented
8	Develop plans aimed at increasing women's participation in the labor force, especially in the Upper Egypt governorates.	Not Started
9	Achieving equal opportunities for work in all sectors, industries and professions, benefiting from the decisions of the Ministry of Manpower that lifted the ban on women's participation in some industries and during night work, and strengthening the role of equal opportunity units.	In Progress
10	Activating laws that protect working women and guaranteeing their rights, and working on further legislative reforms to enhance women's right to work, such as unifying maternity leave in the public and private sectors, proposing paid paternity leave, and explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on gender Q regarding access to loans And financing, and women, as well as facilitating procedures to take into account the special circumstances of the most needy women and female breadwinners, and stipulating the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.	In Progress
11	Encouraging the transition from work in the informal economy to the formal economy, encouraging work in non-traditional sectors, and supporting women in medium, small and micro enterprises.	In Progress
12	Proposing policies and procedures to combat harassment and harassment in the workplace, and stipulating them in the labor law.	In Progress
13	Strengthening women's literacy efforts by expanding written, digital, and technological literacy programs for women.	In Progress
14	Expanding the provision of reproductive health services and family planning methods	Implemented
15	Developing the capabilities of health sector workers to provide high-quality maternal and child care services.	Not Started
16	Work to issue a comprehensive law to protect women from violence that includes amendments to Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code with regard to discriminatory provisions and all forms of violence against women.	Not Started
17	Amending laws to enhance women's rights, ensure the best interest of the child, and facilitate women's access to all their rights and the full rights of their children without delay.	In Progress

Women Rights		
#	Target Result	Implementation
18	Effective implementation of policies to combat violence against women through raising awareness; To benefit from programs to combat all forms of violence against women, and to develop policies that would create a supportive environment for women who are unable to report perpetrators of violence, which would create a supportive environment for women to benefit from protection services, and to expand the establishment and strengthening of the role of complaints offices It includes the National Council for Women and support offices The family to provide advice and legal services; And activating the work of the combined unit to support women, especially women who are most in need of protecting women from violence.	In Progress
19	Amending Penal Code to make harassment on public transportation against women or in their workplace an aggravating circumstance for the crime	Implemented
20	Benefiting from the female police force to support security work plans in various fields	Implemented
21	Issuing a law preventing early marriage of children	In Progress
22	Increase awareness of legislative amendments; To enable women to obtain their right to inheritance.	Not Started
23	Developing all family courts to suit the needs of women, especially those with disabilities, and establishing a national mechanism for the immediate implementation of alimony provisions for women and those in their custody.	In Progress

Regarding implemented results, Targeted Result No. 4 focuses on enhancing women's political participation. On June 18, Ministry of International Cooperation, National Council for Women, and the European Union launched the Women's Empowerment Program 'Tamkeen' in collaboration with the governments of Italy and Spain, as well as various United Nations agencies. This program aims to accelerate progress toward gender equality and empower women in Egypt. The implementation of the 'Tamkeen' program, led by National Council for Women, is expected to enhance the skills and capabilities of women and girls while raising public awareness about their empowerment. Maat notes several efforts made to achieve this result, including the allocation of 25% of the total seats in the House of Representatives to women, the highest percentage ever secured. Additionally, a quarter of the seats in local councils and no less than 10% of the total seats in the Senate have been designated for women. Women secured 164 seats in the House, representing 27.7% of the total. Within this context, women also won 15 seats in specialized committees. Although Senate Law mandates that no less than 10% of the Council's seats be allocated to women, President of Republic appointed

20 women among those designated to the Council, raising the percentage of women's representation in the Senate to 14%, exceeding the legal requirement. These measures have collectively strengthened women's political participation

In addition, Targeted Result No. 7 aims to provide equal opportunities for women and men in judicial appointments. The body responsible for implementing this goal has begun its work, as indicated by the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights. Currently, the number of female judges in the regular judiciary has reached 147, with 130 serving across various court levels and 17 working in the Public Prosecution as delegates. Additionally, the State Council has 137 female judges, while the State Lawsuits Authority has 1,347 female advisors, and the Administrative Prosecution Authority has 2,419 women.

It has been announced that applications for the appointment of male and female law school graduates from the 2021 and 2022 cohorts to the position of Assistant Delegate in the State Council have been accepted. Notably, a woman held the position of Assistant Minister of Justice and chaired the Economic Court in Tanta. Additionally, a judge was appointed as Assistant President of the New Cairo Court, another judge was seconded to the technical office of Cairo Court of Appeal, five female judges were assigned as court commissioners to work in criminal courts, five female judges were assigned to the technical office of the Court of Cassation, and seven female judges were appointed to judicial inspection. Moreover, a female judge ascended to the platform of the Supreme Constitutional Court, and another was appointed to the Supreme Constitutional Authority. The percentage of women's representation reached 44% in the Administrative Prosecution Authority (out of 2,351 total members) and 23% in the State Lawsuits Authority (out of 1,004 total members). On March 5, 2022, Judge Radwa Helmy sat on the platform of Egyptian Administrative Court for the first time in its history, marking a significant milestone as the court had previously been limited to male judges.

Regarding Targeted Result No. 15, which aims to expand the provision of reproductive health services and family planning methods, Maat noted positive efforts to achieve this goal. Ministry of Health and Population announced the launch of 770 reproductive health and family planning convoys across all governorates of Republic, as part of National Population Strategy and in line with National Plan for the Family Development Project, during the period from January 20, 2024, to the end of March 2024. On February 18, 2024, Ministry of Health and Population launched an activation campaign to provide family planning and reproductive health services in all governorates from February 18 to 28, 2024, in accordance with the recommendations of National Family Development Project. National Project for the Development of Egyptian Family aims to ensure that Egyptian women have safe access to family planning methods.

Regarding the amendment of Penal Code to classify harassment on public transportation or at the workplace as an aggravating circumstance for the crime, Maat noted the ongoing efforts to implement this target. On November 9, 2023, the joint Legislative Committee and the Office of the Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives approved a draft law submitted by the government to amend certain provisions of Penal Code. The amendments included in Article 306 bis A increase the penalties for harassment through sexual or obscene acts, insinuations, or hints—whether by gesture, word, deed, or any means, including wired, wireless, electronic, or other technical means. The penalties include imprisonment for no less than three years and no more than five years, along with a fine ranging from 200,000 to 300,000 Egyptian pounds, or one of these two penalties. These harsher penalties apply if the crime is committed at the workplace, on a means of transportation, by two or more persons, if the perpetrator is carrying a weapon, or if the act is repeated through stalking and following the victim.

Regarding the target result of leveraging the female element in the police force to support security work plans across various fields, Maat noted that female officers have been assigned diverse tasks that enhance their contributions. These tasks include protecting women and children, investigating crimes against them, and providing assistance and support to victims. Female police officers also participate in special operations and civil defense within Egyptian police force. In a related development, Major General Manar Mukhtar has been appointed as the Director General of the Human Rights Sector at Egyptian Ministry of Interior.

Concerning the results nearing achievement, the target result of formulating policies to confront cultural legacies that entrench discrimination against women was highlighted in August 2024. Maat documented the tragic case of a girl, no older than 15, who was killed by her husband. It was revealed that she had been married at the age of 13, with her family having written a customary contract to circumvent the law, which would be officially documented only when she turned 18, the legal age for marriage. Maat also noted other initiatives aimed at addressing cultural legacies that perpetuate discrimination against women. For instance, National Council for Women continued its “Protect Her from Circumcision” campaign, which encompasses various awareness activities. Maat reviewed a series of awareness initiatives conducted under the “16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women” campaign, launched by National Council for Women under the slogan “Be,” which reached over 443,000 individuals. Article 53 of Egyptian Constitution mandates the establishment of an independent commission to combat discrimination; however, the activation of this Constitutional provision has yet to be implemented.

Regarding the target result of strengthening gender-based planning to enhance women’s empowerment, National Council for Women participated in workshops focused on gender-responsive program budgets in collaboration with UN Women, targeting heads of

equal opportunities units in various ministries. Maat documented several steps taken toward achieving part of this result. From March 4 to 7, 2024, National Planning Institute, in cooperation with National Council for Women, conducted a training program for trainers titled “Integrating Women’s Needs into Planning Processes with Equal Opportunities and Empowering Women in Public Life in Egypt,” as part of the Women’s Participation in Public Life Project in Egypt.

In February 2022, Ministry of Planning launched the Gender Sustainable Development Plan Guide in partnership with the Macroeconomic Reform and Stabilization Project, Funded by the United States Agency for International Development. This guide offers a practical framework for integrating priority social groups into development plans and programs. However, a gap remains in gender-based planning. According to Cabinet’s Decision Support and Adoption Center, there is a lack of gender statistics due to limited availability of indicators needed to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective. Center for Women and Children’s Issues, in its May 2024 report, noted significant gaps in key areas such as labor market indicators, the gender wage gap, and women’s representation in local governments. The lack of comprehensive gender-disaggregated data impedes progress in these areas.

To address the target result of expanding the regular collection of data related to women at national and local levels—aimed at identifying gaps that hinder women’s empowerment—National Council for Women partnered with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. This collaboration led to the establishment of the Statistical Observatory, designed to present the social, economic, and environmental realities in Egypt and to educate citizens on the importance of data as a foundation for comprehensive development and informed decision-making. Aside from Egyptian Women Observatory, which was established prior to the launch of National Strategy for Human Rights and remains active, Maat has not observed any additional initiatives aimed at the regular collection of gender-specific data to assess gaps in women’s empowerment. Egyptian Women Observatory serves as a system for measuring progress and indicators within National Strategy for Women’s Empowerment 2030. It operates as an evidence-based decision support system for monitoring and evaluating development through both results-based and rights-based approaches.

Regarding the target result related to the ongoing issuance of national ID cards to women across all governorates of Egypt, Maat noted the efforts made to achieve this goal, including National Council for Women continued work on the “Your Card, Your Rights” project. Approximately 83,000 ID cards were issued to women between September 2021 and April 2022, with an additional 168,000 cards issued in 2023. From July to August 2024, Maat



observed the continued issuance of cards to women in four governorates, as detailed in the following table:

Governorate	No. of Cards	Date
Kafr El-Sheikh	320	August 19
Damietta	116	August 18
Alexandria	145	August 13
Giza	8000	From July until August 15

However, achieving the full target of this outcome requires expanding the number of women eligible for these cards.

Regarding the target result of increasing the number of women appointed to positions within the state’s administrative apparatus and in decision-making roles—whether in leadership positions or on the boards of directors of public and private institutions—Maat notes that progress has been limited. Despite the launch of National Plan for Promoting Gender Equality in the Workplace in April 2022 by Ministry of Labor and the International Labor Organization, which aims to enhance women's participation in the labor force and leadership roles, women remain underrepresented on company boards of directors, holding only 9.7% of these positions, and only 7.1% in management roles, according to the World Bank's Women's Economic Empowerment Study. Women's representation in management has decreased by 50% over the past decade, with women occupying less than 10% of senior and executive positions.

According to available statistics, Egypt ranks among the five lowest African countries in terms of gender equality in management positions. Despite various programs and initiatives to promote women's access to public office—such as the Women Lead program implemented by National Training Academy and National Council for Women—the percentage of women's representation in public office remains very limited, not exceeding 13%, according to data from National Council for Women.

Targeted Result No. 8 aims to develop plans to increase women’s participation in the workforce, particularly in the governorates of Upper Egypt. Maat notes that efforts to achieve this target remain limited, leaving the percentage of women in the workforce in Upper Egypt marginal compared to their participation in urban areas. Evidence of the underrepresentation of women in the workforce is highlighted by Egypt's ranking of 175th out of 190 countries in the 2023 Women, Business and the Law Index issued by the World Bank. This aligns with data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, which indicates that women comprise only 15.3% of the workforce (Annex 6). Prevailing social norms continue to hinder progress, as certain social practices prevent Egyptian women from working in specific

sectors. Furthermore, Egyptian girls—especially in rural areas—receive fewer educational opportunities than boys, making them less likely to secure employment.

In pursuit of the target result of achieving equal opportunities for work across all sectors, industries, and professions, Ministry of Manpower's decision to lift the ban on women's participation in certain industries and night work hours, alongside the strengthening of equal opportunities units, is crucial. To enhance the role of these units, National Council for Women has continued to conduct workshops aimed at building the capacity of personnel in equal opportunity units. In April 2022, Ministry of Manpower, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, launched the “National Plan to Promote Gender Equality in the Workplace.” This plan seeks to achieve six goals, including: 1. Creating a framework that supports gender equality in the workplace; 2. Enhancing women's participation in the workforce and in leadership positions; 3. Providing a safe work environment free from violence and discrimination; 4. Developing and supplying an updated knowledge base in the field of work; 5. Raising community awareness of gender equality issues in the workplace; and 6. Establishing sustainable institutional mechanisms. The state has also established 254 equal opportunity units at Ministry, governorate, and local levels to raise awareness among women about their rights and to enhance their participation in the development process. However, despite these efforts, women still constitute over 47% of the total workforce in Egypt, according to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. Moreover, there are currently no mechanisms in place to measure the effectiveness of equal opportunity units within ministries.

Regarding the target result of activating laws that protect working women and guarantee their rights, as well as implementing further legislative reforms to enhance women's right to work, several proposals have emerged. These include unifying maternity leave across public and private sectors, proposing paid paternity leave, explicitly prohibiting gender-based discrimination in access to loans and financing, and facilitating procedures that consider the special circumstances of vulnerable women and female breadwinners. The new draft labor law includes provisions that grant working women in the private sector maternity leave equivalent to that enjoyed by women in the public sector.

However, Draft labor law is still awaiting approval from the House of Representatives. The law has been referred to the General Manpower Committee and is expected to be discussed shortly. The Senate has finally approved Draft labor law submitted by the government and referred it to the House of Representatives. This draft law includes a provision granting working women in the private sector a four-month maternity leave, similar to that of women in the public sector. This four-month period aligns with Article 52 of the Civil Service Law, which states that “a female employee is entitled to maternity leave for a period of four months, with a maximum of three occasions throughout her employment in

the civil service.” The full target of this result will be achieved once the new draft labor law comes into effect, provided it includes the amendments specified in the targeted result.

Article 50 of the new draft labor law stipulates that a working father is entitled to one day off upon the birth of his child. Regarding the elimination of discrimination in access to loans and financing, the Central Bank launched several initiatives in 2022 to enhance women's financial inclusion and promote their economic empowerment. Among these initiatives is the digital savings and lending groups project, "Tahweesha," which aims to integrate women in Egypt's villages and rural areas into the formal financial sector. This project encourages women to save and borrow to establish small and micro businesses, with all transactions conducted through the "Tahweesha" mobile application. This approach facilitates women's access to financial products and services without the need to visit a bank branch.

The project operates based on a savings and lending group methodology, where a group of women aged 15 to 25 agrees to save a specific amount of money periodically. This sum is transferred via the electronic application to a joint bank account established according to the regulations governing the group's activities, which all members sign.

The initiative aims to integrate 100,000 women into the formal financial system across nine governorates, utilizing the electronic national "Meeza" card for these transactions. By the end of December 2023, the financial inclusion rate for women increased to 62.7%, with approximately 20.3 million women benefiting from financial services and holding accounts out of a total of 32.3 million women aged 16 and above. Additionally, women benefited from loans directed toward small and micro enterprises, accounting for 40% of the total, according to official data. In July 2024, Minister of Solidarity announced that beneficiaries of the Takaful and Karama programs would not be excluded from the initiative if they participated in the Tahweesha program.

Regarding the target result of encouraging the transition from the informal economy to the formal economy, promoting work in non-traditional sectors, and supporting women in medium, small, and micro enterprises, the state allocated approximately EGP 88 billion in 2023 to finance micro-projects for women, benefiting 5 million women. This is a significant increase compared to approximately EGP 6 billion allocated for 2 million beneficiaries in 2016.

Women who own micro-enterprises represent 47% of this sector, totaling approximately 2 million women, with 18% of them being over 65 years old. Maat has acknowledged the efforts made to achieve the target results. In March 2024, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Development Agency launched the Aziza initiative to support women's medium, small, and micro projects. This initiative provides soft financing to women

who own existing projects and wish to develop them, as well as to women looking to establish new projects across all governorates of Republic. However, the transition from the informal to the formal economy remains a significant challenge. Women continue to hold a low ranking in managing small and micro enterprises and in entrepreneurship. According to National Strategy for Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (2018-2022), Egypt ranks low among countries in the Middle East and North Africa regarding women's entrepreneurship. Estimates indicate that over 45% of women are increasingly represented in the informal economy.

Concerning the target result of proposing policies and procedures to combat harassment and molestation in the workplace, Ministry of Manpower, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, issued National Plan to Promote Gender Equality in the Workplace (2022-2026). Draft labor law also includes provisions aimed at addressing harassment and physical assault against women in the workplace. However, this draft law is still under discussion in the House of Representatives and has not yet been approved.

While the new labor law draft includes articles related to combating workplace harassment, it remains under consideration. Efforts to eradicate women's illiteracy are ongoing, with a focus on expanding written, digital, and technological literacy programs for women. Maat highlighted initiatives such as the "Decent Life Without Illiteracy" initiative, a partnership between Ministry of Solidarity and National Authority for Literacy and Adult Education. This initiative targets 1,409 villages across 52 administrative centers in 20 governorates, as part of Presidential initiative "Decent Life." Despite government efforts to combat women's illiteracy, over 22% of women in Egypt remain illiterate according to official data, with this percentage rising in rural areas. Maat notes that there are very limited initiatives aimed at eradicating digital illiteracy among women, which hinders the achievement of this target result.

In terms of amending laws to enhance women's rights, ensure the best interests of the child, and facilitate women's access to their rights and those of their children without delay, Maat pointed out the efforts made by relevant entities. This was emphasized by President of Republic, who, on Egyptian Women's Day in March 2022, directed the government to take necessary legislative measures to protect women from physical harm within the family, thereby preserving their dignity and status. The government was also urged to expedite the allocation of appropriate facilities to activate the mechanisms and workflow of the comprehensive unit designed to protect women from violence.

In a related context, Minister of Justice issued a decision in June 2022 to form a legal judicial committee specializing in family cases and courts. This committee is tasked with preparing a draft law for personal status for Muslims and family courts, aimed at reducing disputes and achieving prompt justice through a balanced approach that guarantees the rights

of all family members. National Committee for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation has launched National Plan for the Elimination of Genital Mutilation (2022-2026) under the joint chairmanship of National Council for Women and National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. This plan outlines specific priorities aimed at achieving meaningful progress, including eliminating the medicalization of female genital mutilation, changing public attitudes towards circumcision, providing care services and support for survivors, collecting data for follow-up and evaluation, and enhancing the institutional framework of National Committee for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

The target result involves the effective implementation of policies to combat violence against women through awareness-raising initiatives. It aims to benefit from programs addressing all forms of violence and to develop policies that create a supportive environment for women who are hesitant to report perpetrators. This supportive environment would facilitate access to protection services and expand the establishment and strengthening of complaints offices at National Council for Women and family support offices to provide legal advice and services. Additionally, there is a need to activate the comprehensive unit designed to support women, particularly those most in need of protection from violence.

Maat noted the existence of multiple channels for reporting violence against women, such as the hotline provided by National Council for Women and the Internet Investigations Department of Ministry of Interior. Public Prosecution also receives complaints of violence against women and refers them as needed. Furthermore, the Prime Minister has established a comprehensive unit to protect women from violence, which aims, among other things, to receive complaints and reports related to cases of violence against women. However, rates of violence against women in Egyptian society remain alarmingly high.

According to official data, a study conducted by National Center for Social and Criminal Research and National Council for Women, published in January 2022 and titled "Violence against Women: Dimensions and Coping Mechanisms," concluded that 75% of women in Egypt experience violence and 80% face harassment. The full realization of this outcome requires activating the role of the complaints offices at National Council for Women and family support offices, as well as providing free legal support to the most vulnerable women.

Regarding the target result of issuing a law to prevent early marriage among children, despite the government submitting a draft law and three additional projects proposed by representatives, Draft law has not yet been approved. Target result No. 23 focuses on developing all family courts to better meet the needs of women, especially those with disabilities, and establishing a national mechanism for the immediate implementation of alimony provisions for women and their dependents. Maat recognizes the efforts made by Ministry of Justice to enhance family courts, and in November 2023, the Governor of Qalyubia announced the development of a facility for the Family Court in the Qanater Khayriyah area.

Discussions within Family Committee of National Dialogue also included recommendations related to the development of family courts. However, a national mechanism has not yet been established to implement alimony provisions for women and their dependents immediately.

Among the results that remain unimplemented is the target result of developing the capacities of health sector workers to provide high-quality maternal and child care services. The United Nations has contributed to Ministry of Health and Population by raising awareness among more than 50 healthcare providers in Kafr El-Sheikh and Sharkia governorates about leprosy, aiming to reduce stigma. Efforts were also made to raise awareness at the community level in conjunction with contact tracing activities. Additionally, workshops were organized for more than 390 migrants to educate them about HIV/AIDS. Maat has not observed any significant government efforts to achieve this target result. Ministry of Health and Population, despite being one of the few ministries responsible for implementing Strategy, has not yet established a human rights unit within its office, unlike some other ministries.

Regarding the target result of issuing a comprehensive law to protect women from violence, which includes amendments to Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure concerning discriminatory articles and all forms of violence against women, efforts to propose draft laws related to this comprehensive law have been insufficient. The law has not been discussed in the House of Representatives, leaving this outcome unachieved.

In terms of increasing awareness of legislative amendments to enable women to obtain their inheritance rights, Maat has only observed limited campaigns aimed at raising awareness among women about these amendments. Furthermore, there continues to be practical infringements on women's inheritance rights, particularly in Upper Egypt.

## **B. Sub-item Two: Children Rights**

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The second item in the third axis concerning the rights of Vulnerable Groups aims to achieve 11 target results. Some of these results focus on raising children's awareness of their rights, ensuring their ability to express their opinions, reducing the phenomenon of homelessness among children, implementing the principle of the best interests of the child, ensuring access to health care, combating the worst forms of child labor, and expanding the application of the alternative family system. Through Maat follow-up on the implementation of target results in this sub-item, it is evident that the entities responsible for implementation have come close to achieving 10 of the target results, while they have not yet started working on one specific result. The table below outlines the target results in this sub-item on children's rights.

Child Rights		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Raising awareness of children's rights and encouraging initiatives and activities related to their rights.	In Progress
2	Establishing principle of the best interest of the child among all parties concerned with children	In Progress
3	Protecting children from abuse, exploitation, neglect, and all forms of violence, and supporting the work of child protection committees.	In Progress
4	Reducing the phenomenon of homeless children	In Progress
5	Strengthening mechanisms for children's access to complete health care by improving the quality of health services provided to them, increasing coverage of regular pregnancy care services, and reducing the number of child deaths.	In Progress
6	Reducing continuation of practices that fall under the worst forms of child labor, strengthening the enforcement of laws regulating child labor, and establishing more child rescue hotlines.	In Progress
7	Strengthening and tightening oversight mechanisms over social care institutions for children deprived of family care.	In Progress
8	A study to encourage the expansion of the application of the system of alternative foster families for orphaned children.	In Progress
9	Strengthening the role of civil society organizations and civil society working in the field of protecting children's rights	In Progress
10	Studying amendment of some articles of the second chapter of the third chapter on social care of the Children's Law; To ensure that children of equal parentage and children of equal descent enjoy all their rights, especially the rights to health and education.	Not Started
11	Guaranteeing children's rights to express their opinions	In Progress

Maat follow-up indicates that the implementing entity has nearly achieved all target results mentioned in this sub-section, except for Targeted Result No. 10, which pertains to amending the articles of Chapter Two of Part Three of the Child Law. Other positive steps have been taken regarding the remaining results, such as those related to raising awareness of children's rights and encouraging initiatives and activities focused on these rights. Maat has noted the efforts made to implement the target results, including National Council for Motherhood and Childhood's launch of various campaigns promoting a helpline through social media. These campaigns aim to encourage interaction and communication with various stakeholders involved in protecting children, enforcing their rights, and raising awareness of issues

affecting them, such as eliminating child marriage, addressing school and family violence, and providing guidance to parents on how to interact with their children. Additionally, a media campaign titled “Our Children” has been launched in cooperation with the Council, UNICEF, and the European Union to promote positive practices for the benefit of children. Teams have also been formed to advocate for children's rights and combat violence against them, representing all children without discrimination. These teams focus on building children's capacities to understand their rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Egyptian Child Law, familiarizing them with the role of the helpline, and raising awareness about harmful practices such as child marriage and genital mutilation. The children involved have participated in developing the executive plan for the strategic framework for childhood and motherhood.

Regarding the target result of establishing the principle of the best interests of the child among all stakeholders, Maat highlights the state’s efforts to implement this principle, particularly its emphasis in Draft Child Law currently under discussion by Ministry of Social Solidarity, although it has not yet been referred to Parliament. Article 3 of the Child Law stipulates that the protection of the child and his best interests take precedence in all decisions and procedures related to childhood, regardless of the issuing authority. This principle has been practically observed in matters of custody, visitation, and alimony for young children.

Maat noted a significant intersection between a decision made by Egyptian Public Prosecution in March 2023 to hand over a child named Shenouda to the woman who found him and the general application of the best interests of the child principle. This decision mandated that she take good care of him and ensure his safety while in her custody. In this context, Al-Azhar, Egypt's primary religious institution, issued a fatwa stating that “the religion of a child of unknown parentage is the religion of the one who found him.” This fatwa is aligned with the best interests of the child, as any other decision would have separated him from the family that adopted him. Similarly, a court ruling issued in June 2021 affirmed that a wife has the right to obtain a birth certificate for her children, comparable to the rights of her husband. Although the legal text grants this right to the wife in the absence of her husband, it encounters various practical obstacles. For example, health workers have failed to implement the legal provisions, and mothers have faced deliberate barriers when attempting to obtain birth certificates for their children. Maat has also noted several measures that prioritize the best interests of the child. Egypt has set a goal to abolish orphanages by 2025, replacing them with foster families. In 2022, 37 orphanages were closed, according to data from Ministry of Social Solidarity.

Maat highlighted various reports praising Egyptian government's efforts to implement the best interests of the child, including an allocation of over 7 million pounds in the state’s



2022-2023 economic and social development plan to develop policies related to child protection in Egypt. However, some decisions concerning children in Egypt do not seem to reflect their best interests. For example, a female employee threatened several girls residing in Dar Al-Fath in the Maadi area of Cairo, indicating they would be forcibly removed from the home as part of a plan to close social care facilities. Despite reports stating that investigations into these threats were underway, the results have not been disclosed. Such practices violate Egyptian Constitution, particularly Article 80, which guarantees that the best interests of the child are considered in all state procedures and decisions affecting children.

According to National Strategy for Human Rights, children of noble descent still do not enjoy their educational and health rights, which undermines the best interests of the child. Regarding the outcome of protecting children from abuse, exploitation, neglect, and all forms of violence, as well as supporting the work of Child Protection Committees, Maat notes the efforts made to achieve this outcome. For instance, the Public Prosecution investigated approximately 11 human trafficking cases from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, involving 281 victims, including 146 children.

These investigations revealed that 29 girls were sexually exploited, while 57 boys and about 35 girls were subjected to forced labor. Additionally, 13 boys and 12 girls experienced exploitation in other forms. The law provides for General and Sub-Committees for Child Protection and the General Administration for Child Rescue as mechanisms to protect at-risk children.

However, this outcome has not been fully realized, and its complete implementation requires additional efforts, especially given High rates of violence children face. According to data from Ministry of Social Solidarity, 75% of children aged one to 14 have experienced various forms of violence, including corporal punishment, severe beating, and burning. Girls aged 15 to 18 have also faced various types of violence, such as psychological and verbal abuse, as well as physical assaults. Punishments for most incidents of violence documented by child rights organizations remain absent.

Regarding the target result of reducing the phenomenon of homeless children, Maat acknowledged the efforts made to achieve this goal. The Homeless Children Protection Program at Ministry of Social Solidarity is working to protect homeless children by providing care and rehabilitation services and facilitating their integration into society, in line with Ministry's policy to address the root causes of homelessness. Ministry of Social Solidarity has provided shelters for street children, but many children have chosen not to use them. Ministry of Health and Population has provided mobile health clinics staffed by nurses and social workers. Ministry of Social Solidarity has also provided 17 mobile units in 10 governorates that provide emergency services, including food and health care, to these children. National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have

implemented interventions to reduce drug abuse among children. Ministry also operates 51 facilities for children rescued from the street and 43 facilities for homeless children. However, there are no official statistics on number of street children. Previous estimates by United Nations and the Academy ranged from 300,000 to three million children. There is still a need to conduct a comprehensive survey of these children and work to place them in specialized homes that take into account their age needs.

Regarding target result, enhancing the mechanisms for children to obtain comprehensive health care by improving the quality of health services provided to them, increasing the coverage of regular pregnancy care services, and reducing number of child deaths. Maat reviewed the efforts made to achieve the target of this outcome, as Maat noted the continued increase in the allocations for spending on children's health in the successive Egyptian budget. For example, in the 2022/2023 budget, Egypt allocated EGP 348 million to support health insurance for students in public schools, kindergartens, private schools, and Al-Azhar institutes. In addition, it allocated EGP 210 million to support children who have not reached school age, representing about 14 million children. According to reports, health initiatives and increased spending on health allocations for children have led to a decrease in the infant and under-five mortality rate from 30.3 per thousand in 2008 to 25.3 per thousand in 2021 and 22.7 for children under five in 2022.

However, there was still a lower probability of child deaths in urban areas compared to rural areas, according to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics. Egyptian government, specifically Ministry of Health and Population, continued to provide health care to approximately 9,500 children living in 481 institutions and social care homes.

The efforts also included examining more than 100,000 children as part of President's initiative for early detection of genetic diseases in newborns and providing free treatment, for a healthy generation without disability. However, there were still complaints of malnutrition in children, as malnutrition causes child deaths. According to UNICEF, malnutrition is among the threats that lead to the death of a third of children in Egypt, which requires Egypt to prevent and detect malnutrition in children early. 1,375 children under the age of 5 were examined in care homes.

About 9,972 children in the age group from 5 to 18 were also examined, and 2,355 children were referred for medical examinations in primary care facilities, in addition to allocating 3 billion to support medicines and dairy products for children in the fiscal year 2023-2024, and allocating 800 million pounds to children in need within the framework of the health insurance system. 67 million pounds were allocated to support initiatives including: early detection of hearing loss in newborns; preventing transmission of infection from pregnant mother to fetus; Early detection of diseases in newborns.

Regarding target result of reducing the continuation of practices that fall under the worst forms of child labor, enhancing the enforcement of laws regulating child labor, and establishing more hotlines to rescue children, Maat noted the efforts made to achieve the target of this outcome. For example, on December 7, 2021, the Cabinet approved during its weekly meeting, amending some provisions of labor Law issued by Law No. 12 of 2003. This amendment came to tighten the penalties included in the law regarding child labor violations, to deter employers who violate the law and policies followed regarding child labor in Egypt.

The amendment stipulated changing the fine stipulated in Article 248 of labor Law, which is estimated at one thousand pounds for the owner of the establishment who violates the provisions of child labor, to two thousand pounds, with the fine multiplied by number of workers, and doubling the crime in the event of recidivism. It is anticipated that the law will include a supplementary penalty of closing the establishment for a period not exceeding six months if the owner resumes practices that violate child labor regulations. However, combating the worst forms of child labor in Egypt requires more efforts to completely eliminate this phenomenon and achieve the target results outlined in Strategy. This is particularly important given the ineffective influence of labor force offices in the governorates. According to Article 137 of the executive regulations of Child Law No. 12 of 1996, as amended by Law No. 126 of 2008, these offices are tasked with conducting ongoing monitoring of employers to ensure compliance with laws and regulations regarding the employment of children, specifically concerning designated working hours and the obligation to treat children well, safeguarding them from physical and psychological harm. Unfortunately, in most cases, labor force offices do not fulfill these responsibilities. The International Labor Organization has emphasized that eliminating child labor in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.7 necessitates robust labor inspection systems, as inspections rarely reach areas where informal economy workers operate, where the majority of child labor occurs.

Regarding the target result of strengthening oversight mechanisms for social care institutions supporting children deprived of family care, Maat has noted the efforts made by Ministry of Social Solidarity to implement this outcome. This includes Ministry launching a community dialogue on Draft law concerning alternative care, which aims to explore new alternatives to the existing care system. The goal is to achieve the best interests of children, establish a unified legal framework to guide those responsible for implementing alternative care, reduce the separation of children from their biological families, and promote children's best interests. To enhance these efforts, Ministry of Solidarity inaugurated the Girls' Care Home of the Khair and Baraka Association, a public benefit organization, on February 26, 2024. This facility was opened after rehabilitating the orphanage building to provide comprehensive care for approximately 100 girls, at a total cost of around 20 million pounds.

Despite these advancements, Maat continues to document incidents of violence against children. For instance, an employee threatened several girls residing in Dar Al-Fath in the Maadi area of Cairo, indicating they would be forcibly removed from the home as part of a plan to close social care facilities. Although reports suggest that investigations into these threats are ongoing, the results have yet to be announced. Such practices violate Egyptian Constitution, particularly Article 80, which guarantees that the best interests of the child are considered in all state procedures and decisions affecting children.

Concerning the target result of promoting the expansion of the alternative foster family system for orphaned children, a decision was issued on April 15, 2024, regarding the regulations for licensing small homes established to care for children. This initiative aims to provide quasi-family care as an alternative to social care institutions, thereby achieving the best interests of the child. This is an important step forward in the realm of alternative care. Small homes aim to provide alternative care that encompasses a range of services, including living arrangements, rehabilitation, and integration support. These facilities focus on educational, social, and psychological care, along with basic health and educational services for children. The primary goal is to facilitate the integration of these children into natural, extended, or alternative families while fostering their emotional, skill, and cognitive development. When in the best interest of the child, efforts are made to reintegrate them into their biological, extended, or alternative foster families. Each small home must establish internal regulations, a code of ethics, and a conduct code for its employees. Additionally, a functional and supervisory structure should be in place that is compatible with the age groups and individual needs of the children. At a minimum, this structure should include a caregiver, a social worker, a psychologist, a teacher, and support services. Small homes are designated for various groups of children, including those from noble backgrounds, those returning from alternative families, victims of violence, abuse, and human trafficking, children unable to be cared for by their natural or extended families, and children with disabilities.

In July 2024, following the appointment of Minister of Solidarity, ambitious plans were announced to enhance orphanages and elderly care facilities. This includes increasing coordination and cooperation with National Council for Childhood and Motherhood to establish a unified case management system for at-risk children. Ministry aims to develop referral systems for quality services for children without adequate care, while continuing to provide care services and cash and in-kind support to approximately 400,000 orphans—representing 30% of the total orphan population in Egypt—at an annual cost of 1.7 billion pounds. This initiative emphasizes early childhood programs, aims to increase enrollment rates in kindergartens, and seeks to expand the establishment of nurseries operated by civil society associations and private entities, ensuring that pre-primary education meets international standards.

Maat has highlighted the ongoing efforts to promote the foster family system, with Egypt's goal of replacing orphanages with foster care families by 2025. Ministry of Social Solidarity organized a community dialogue in November 2022 to discuss Draft alternative care law.

Egypt's objective is to eliminate orphanages by 2025 in favor of foster care families. According to data from Ministry of Social Solidarity, 37 foster homes were closed in 2022. Ministry has implemented mechanisms to monitor children in foster families, ensuring their rights and protecting them from abuse or exploitation. This includes establishing a national database of foster families, conducting field visits, and maintaining communication with children in foster care. Collaboration with relevant authorities further enhances monitoring efforts, allowing for the identification of any violations. In 2023, children were withdrawn from approximately 30 families due to safety concerns or to promote their best interests.

Regarding the target results aimed at enhancing civil society's role in protecting children's rights, Maat has acknowledged the progress made thus far. According to Ministry of Social Solidarity, approximately 19,518 civil society associations and institutions involved in children's rights and motherhood have regularized their status in compliance with the Civil Work Practice Law No. 149 of 2019. However, there remains a pressing need to strengthen cooperation with these organizations, as simply regularizing their status will not suffice to achieve the desired outcomes in protecting children's rights.

As for target result of ensuring children's rights to express their opinions, Maat noted the steps taken by the government to implement the target of this outcome, including: establishing Egyptian Children's Parliament in May 2024, in addition to National Council for Childhood and Motherhood launching National program "Egyptian Children Forum" to support children's participation and expression of their opinions.

Relevant authorities in each governorate nominate children from different gender and geographic categories, and then a number of them are elected by their peers to participate in popular and official events, meetings of officials, discussion groups, and seminars related to developing national policies and plans for children. Children's capacity and skills building programs are also implemented to discuss and express their needs to include them in policies and plans related to them. 12 forums were organized, benefiting 5,000 children until 2023.

As for targeted result that the parties responsible for working on achieving the target have not yet begun, it is the result of studying the amendment of some articles of Chapter Two of Part Three of the Child Law on Social Care; to ensure that children of noble lineage and children found enjoy all their rights, especially the rights to health and education. Maat did not have any information regarding the efforts made to achieve the target of this result.

### **C. Sub-item Three: Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

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The third item in the third axis concerning the rights of Vulnerable Groups aims to achieve ten target results. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these results indicates that the responsible entities have come close to achieving seven of them, while they have not yet begun work on three. The table below outlines the target results in this sub-item.

<b>Rights of People with Disabilities</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Increasing community awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Preparing a unified database on persons with disabilities	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>3</b>	Promoting the political participation of people with disabilities	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>4</b>	Promoting equitable access to education, and providing facilities and means of availability to receive educational services in a way that supports the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the educational process.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>5</b>	Enhancing the enjoyment of persons with disabilities of their right to appropriate work by taking more appropriate measures to reduce the spread of unemployment among them, and providing many financial and procedural facilities for their integration into the labor market, and the need to enhance and increase the application The legal percentage is 5%. The law covers persons with disabilities completely, and reduces hours Their scheduled employment, and increased paid leave. In addition to providing training and qualification opportunities for them for an hour on a professional day in cooperation with associations and institutions to qualify them for the labor market.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>6</b>	Promoting social care for people with disabilities	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>7</b>	Promoting health care for people with disabilities	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>8</b>	Developing integrated services provided to people with disabilities, including facilitating people with disabilities' access to the integrated services card stipulated in the law, and generalizing the implementation of the Egyptian code for the design of service spaces and buildings equipped for use by people with disabilities Or educational, which helps in the practical application of the principle of inclusion and availability, and increases the number Means of transportation equipped to accommodate people with disabilities.	<b>In Progress</b>

Rights of People with Disabilities		
#	Target Result	Implementation
9	Issuing the necessary ministerial decisions and periodicals; Removing the conflict between the executive regulations of the Persons with Disabilities Law and any other decisions or periodicals that preceded its issuance.	In Progress
10	Facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, international, and sporting activities	In Progress

Regarding the targeted result of increasing community awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, Maat has not observed significant efforts made to achieve this goal, aside from the allocation of 8 million pounds to establish the headquarters of National Council for Persons with Disabilities. This investment may facilitate activities that contribute to raising community awareness about disability issues. Additionally, Egyptian state organizes the "Able with Difference" conference annually in collaboration with several ministries, which could help in achieving this targeted result. However, there is still a pressing need for more campaigns and diverse initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, as complaints persist regarding social stigma and discrimination against this group.

Concerning the targeted result of enhancing equitable access to education and providing necessary facilities and means to support the integration of persons with disabilities into the educational process, Maat appreciates the efforts made to achieve this goal. Ministry of Education has provided educational opportunities for individuals with disabilities through advanced techniques and technologies. Inclusive education for children with disabilities has been incorporated as a key element in National Pre-University Education Strategy, which extends until 2030.

Moreover, the government has launched the 1,000 Schools Initiative, supporting 472 schools catering to students with disabilities. Currently, over 146,000 students have been integrated into government and special education schools, compared to about 17,000 in the 2016/2017 academic year. The number of integrated students has reached 1,082,000 across 19,000 schools. Additionally, 40,000 books have been provided for the deaf and hard of hearing, along with 1,002,000 Braille books for the blind, and 2,496,000 books dedicated to intellectual education.

Regarding the targeted result of enhancing social care for persons with disabilities, Maat recognizes the steps taken by the responsible entities, including the incorporation of social care provisions for individuals with disabilities into relevant legislation. In February 2023, Ministry of Social Solidarity announced the launch of integrated service cards for

eligible individuals, categorized by specific colors indicating the percentage and degree of disability. The traditional blue card is designated for severe and very severe disabilities, green for moderate disabilities, and purple for mild disabilities. It is noteworthy that the disability proof card offers numerous benefits to individuals with disabilities. These include the ability to combine two pensions, access to integration into schools and universities, and appointments at a rate of 5% of the workforce. Additionally, holders are exempt from taxes and customs duties on vehicles and can access suitable government housing, with 5% of social housing units allocated for persons with disabilities.

The state also provides customs exemptions for prosthetic devices, discounts on transportation and communication, and treats cardholders as disabled across all government agencies. Other benefits include free medical examinations in hospitals, discounts on subscriptions to youth centers and sports clubs, and free entry to various facilities. In a related context, the government provides direct cash support to individuals with disabilities, including monthly cash assistance for families with a mentally disabled child. Maat notes that 28% of the total social assistance cards in the Takaful and Karama program are allocated to persons with disabilities. Ministry of Solidarity has also launched a national project to establish a unified system for the production of prosthetic limbs and devices, aimed at enhancing the capacity to manufacture prosthetic limbs for individuals with disabilities in Egypt.

Regarding the target result of enhancing healthcare for individuals with disabilities, Maat recognizes the efforts made to achieve this goal, including amendments to the Capable Differently Fund to strengthen its capacity to provide care and support services across various fields. The Fund received an allocation of one billion pounds in August 2023, and in February 2024, President of Republic directed an additional allocation of 10 billion pounds to Fund. Several mechanisms are in place to ensure the availability of healthcare services for individuals with disabilities. Ministry of Health is implementing a program for early detection of thyroid hormone deficiency, along with tests for other conditions that may cause mental disabilities. Additionally, Ministry of Social Solidarity provides medical and psychological care services for children with disabilities in nurseries, including free prosthetic devices, and offers medical consultation services for these children. Hospitals are currently designing programs to connect individuals with disabilities to the necessary accessibility tools, such as mobility aids, cochlear implants, and hearing aids.

Concerning the target result of developing integrated services for individuals with disabilities, efforts include facilitating access to the integrated services card stipulated in the law and generalizing the implementation of Egyptian Code for Designing Spaces and Buildings to accommodate persons with disabilities. This initiative supports the practical application of the principles of integration and accessibility and increases the number of transportation



options equipped to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Maat acknowledges the state's efforts to implement this target result. In February 2024, President of Republic allocated 10 billion pounds to the Capable Differently Fund, which focuses on the rights of children with disabilities. Maat emphasizes that these resources will provide a significant boost to the support available for children with disabilities.

In the context of enhancing health care for children with disabilities, General Authority for Health Insurance included children under the age of six in the health insurance system after the health insurance system did not include children before the age of enrollment in basic education. In February 2023, Ministry of Social Solidarity launched integrated services cards for eligible persons with disabilities according to specific colors, where each color indicates the percentage and degree of disability; the usual blue color was designated for severe and very severe disabilities, green for moderate disabilities, and purple for simple disabilities.

It is worth noting that the disability proof card provides many advantages to the person with a disability; Enabling its holder to combine two pensions, integration in schools and universities, appointment at a rate of 5% of number of workers, exemption from taxes and customs duties on cars and exemption from taxes, in addition to obtaining suitable government housing and customs exemption on prosthetic devices, including discounts on transportation and dealing with the person who possesses it before all government agencies as a disabled person, free examination in hospitals, discounts on subscriptions to youth centers and sports clubs and free entry. All the previous procedures are consistent with Article 23 of the agreement.

However, Maat notes that the implementation of Egyptian code for the design of spaces and buildings equipped for use by the disabled, whether service or educational, has not been generalized, which helps in the practical application of the principle of integration and availability, and increasing number of means of transportation equipped to accommodate the disabled.

Regarding target result of issuing the necessary ministerial decisions and circulars; and removing the conflict between the executive regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and any other decisions or circulars prior to their issuance. Maat noted the efforts made to achieve target result, including Law No. 157 of 2022, amending some provisions of Fund to Support Persons with Disabilities issued by Law No. 200 of 2020. Law enhanced Fund ability to provide care and support services to persons with disabilities in all fields. Prime Minister also issued a decision to form a committee consisting of twenty ministries and a national council, in addition to representatives of the House of Representatives and specialized experts, to follow up on the implementation of the indicators included in National plan to implement the executive regulations of the Law on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities. However, these efforts are still insufficient to remove the conflict between the executive regulations of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other decisions.

Regarding the target result of facilitating the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, international, and sports activities, Maat acknowledges the government's efforts to implement this goal. Notably, Ministry of Culture launched a cultural program on May 23, 2023, aimed at integrating persons with disabilities into the Supreme Council of Culture. The state has allocated financial resources to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in cultural, media, and sports activities. This includes several projects, such as establishing and developing centers for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and autism treatment, as well as providing services for language skills development and communication aimed at integration and vocational rehabilitation. Additionally, the Blind Care Foundation has been developed in Sohag and Kafr El-Sheikh Governorates. Furthermore, the first electronic library for the blind was opened in Alexandria Governorate, featuring "Braille One" devices provided through community participation, becoming the first electronic library in Republic dedicated to serving the blind. In a related context, Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the "Zayed Higher Foundation for People of Determination," opened twenty communication centers in May 2022 through the "Able Differently" office, as part of a plan to establish sixty centers over 3 years. Ministries of Transport and Social Solidarity have also agreed to sign a cooperation protocol to facilitate the movement of persons with disabilities through railway and metro stations in accordance with accessibility requirements.

As for the target results that implementing agencies have not yet begun to address, one significant goal is the establishment of a unified database for persons with disabilities. Currently, no such database exists, and despite recommendations submitted by National Council for Persons with Disabilities in January 2024, this database has yet to be created.

Another area of concern is the political participation of persons with disabilities, which remains notably weak. According to National Council for Persons with Disabilities, political participation in Egypt is considered inadequate for this group. Additionally, there is a target result aimed at enhancing the right of persons with disabilities to decent work by implementing appropriate measures to reduce unemployment among them. This includes providing financial and procedural incentives to integrate them into the labor market, as well as ensuring the full application of the legal mandate that requires employing at least 5% of workers from this demographic. Efforts to reduce working hours for their employment and to increase paid leave are also essential. Furthermore, training and rehabilitation opportunities should be offered, ideally one hour per day, in collaboration with associations and institutions to prepare them for the labor market. Despite the existence of Law No. 10 of 2018, which mandates that governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as

employers with 20 or more workers, must appoint at least 5% of their workforce from persons with disabilities, the practical implementation of this law remains limited. Law does provide incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities, including exemptions and tax reductions, yet these obligations often go unfulfilled in practice.

#### **D. Sub-item Four: Youth Rights**

Fourth item in the third axis regarding the rights of Vulnerable Groups aims to achieve eight target results primarily focused on empowering youth in public life, promoting leadership positions, enhancing services for youth in border areas, reducing unemployment rates among young people, and developing vocational training. Additionally, it seeks to expand support for the development of medium and small enterprises. Through Maat follow-up on the implementation of these target results, it is evident that the responsible entities have achieved one result, come close to achieving six others, and have not yet begun work on one remaining result. The table below outlines the target results for youth.

<b>Rights of Youth</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Increasing youth empowerment to participate in public life.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>2</b>	Empowering young people to assume leadership positions.	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>3</b>	Strengthening services provided to youth in border governorates and remote places.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Encouraging an increase in the number of NGOs interested in youth issues	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>5</b>	Reducing the unemployment rate among young people and developing their capabilities to suit the requirements of the labor market.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>6</b>	Supporting and developing medium, small, and micro enterprises	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>7</b>	Promoting and developing vocational training for young people.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>8</b>	Strengthening efforts to improve youth health and physical fitness, and continuing to expand the development and establishment of youth centers, various stadiums, youth hostels, and youth cities.	<b>In Progress</b>

The concerned authorities have made significant progress in implementing the second targeted result related to empowering youth to assume leadership positions. Maat has noted several efforts aimed at achieving this goal, including the ongoing stages of Presidential program designed to qualify youth for leadership roles. Moreover, young individuals have

been appointed to positions such as Deputy Ministers and Deputy Governors. Data indicates that there are 60 elected representatives under the age of 35, and 125 representatives in the age group of 36 to 45 years, bringing the total number of youths in the House of Representatives to 185, which represents 32.6% of all representatives. Additionally, there are 35 young Deputy Governors.

Among the target results that the concerned authorities are close to achieving is the goal of increasing youth participation in public life. Maat reviewed efforts made toward this target, including hosting the fourth edition of the World Youth Forum in January 2022, which attracted 80,000 young people from 196 countries. Forum included over sixty-three sessions centered around three main themes: peace, development, and creativity.

During Forum, a simulation model of the United Nations Human Rights Council was conducted, involving 150 young participants representing 47 member states, along with 15 representatives from non-governmental organizations and five from national councils. The head of the council, High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the secretariat also participated. Additionally, during Forum, Egyptian version of the United Nations international initiative "Generation Unlimited" was launched under the name "Youth of a Country." This initiative marks the first partnership between the government sector, private sector, and youth in Egypt, aiming to provide training, teach skills, and connect young people worldwide with job opportunities and entrepreneurship.

In June 2022, Ministry of Youth and Sports opened applications for membership in Egyptian International Bilateral Youth Councils, which aim to maximize Egyptian international youth cooperation and enhance the concept of youth diplomacy. The government has also allocated investments worth 33 million pounds to establish and develop four civic education centers in various governorates. However, the full implementation of these results requires the activation of Constitutional provisions related to holding local elections. Article 180 of Egyptian Constitution stipulates that "each local unit shall elect a council by direct, secret, general ballot for a period of four years," with at least a quarter of the seats reserved for youth under 35 years of age. This article mandates that the organization of these elections be governed by law. Despite the approval of the Constitution in 2014 and subsequent amendments in 2019, the Local Administration Law remains unchanged in the Egyptian Parliament. The issuance of a new law is anticipated to enhance youth participation in public and political life.

Efforts to improve services for youth in border governorates and remote areas have been noted by Maat. Public investments amounting to 1.9 billion have been directed toward enhancing these services.

Additionally, there is a target result to reduce the unemployment rate among youth and develop their skills to meet labor market demands. Maat highlighted several initiatives aimed at achieving these outcomes. Notably, National Dialogue outcomes announced in August 2023 emphasized the importance of linking student graduation projects in colleges, institutes, and schools to entrepreneurship, particularly focusing on agricultural entrepreneurship for food security. The dialogue also called for expanding the understanding of entrepreneurial culture and encouraging youth to engage with it through schools, youth centers, and various media platforms.

Furthermore, the establishment of an investment Fund to support financing for start-up companies initiated by young people was proposed. Despite these measures, significant challenges remain. According to 2022 data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, the unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 to 29 reached 61% of the total unemployed in Egypt, indicating a critical need for additional efforts to support and develop medium, small, and micro enterprises. To address these challenges, Maat noted several steps taken, including Ministry of Local Development's implementation of National Project for Community, Human, and Local Development. This initiative has launched over 197,000 projects with loans exceeding 24 billion pounds, resulting in 1.7 million job opportunities across all governorates.

Additionally, Entrepreneurship and Innovators Support Program was launched to combat climate change, coinciding with Egypt's hosting of the Climate Summit. This program, part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Association initiative, provides comprehensive support to entrepreneurs and start-ups through various business accelerator programs. In June 2022, Ministry of Youth and Sports also offered grants to youth in the field of entrepreneurship. Despite these initiatives, there remains a pressing need for greater support to foster and develop medium, small, and micro enterprises. Enhanced vocational training for youth is also critical. Maat highlighted efforts to achieve this goal, including a cooperation protocol signed in March 2022 between Ministry of Education and Technical Education and Ministry of Trade and Industry. This protocol aims to provide job opportunities and prepare highly skilled graduates in fields such as industry, agriculture, tourism, trade, information technology, management, and services, while also developing the technical skills and behaviors necessary for successful integration into the labor market. However, there is still a need for additional steps in order to achieve the target of this result.

Target result of improving the health and physical fitness of youth includes the continued development and establishment of youth centers, stadiums, youth houses, and youth cities. Maat has noted several efforts to achieve this outcome, including Ministry of Youth's launch of the Victim Breakthrough Initiative, aimed at enhancing health and physical fitness among young people. A notable event under this initiative was Cairo Race, in which

5,000 young participants took part. In alignment with the Decent Life Initiative, over 1,000 youth centers have been established and developed in various villages across Egyptian governorates. Additionally, the government allocated 25 million pounds for the establishment and enhancement of sports cities in these governorates, along with 100 million pounds dedicated to developing facilities within youth cities. However, further measures are needed to fully enhance the health and physical fitness of youth in accordance with this target result.

Regarding the fourth targeted result, which focuses on increasing the number of civil society organizations concerned with youth issues, Maat did not observe any significant efforts to implement this outcome.

### **E. Sub-item Five: Rights of Elderly**

Fifth item in the third axis concerns the rights of vulnerable groups, specifically aimed at achieving eight targeted results related to the issuance of the Elderly Rights Law, enhancing social protection programs for the elderly, providing health care, and promoting their participation in societal life, as well as encouraging the establishment of more elderly homes. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these targeted results indicates that the responsible entities have successfully achieved four of the targeted results. They are close to achieving two additional results but have not yet begun work on the remaining two. The following table summarizes the targeted results in this sub-item.

<b>Rights of Elderly</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Issuing integrated legislation that enhances the rights of the elderly	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>2</b>	Expanding social protection programs for the elderly	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Increasing the financial allocations available to government social care institutions, and strengthening their inspection.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>4</b>	Promoting older people's access to appropriate health care.	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>5</b>	Encouraging civil society organizations to participate in elderly care.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>6</b>	Empowering the elderly to participate in public life, enhancing their participation in formulating their own policies, organizing an annual community dialogue aimed at identifying gaps, areas of interest, and appropriate ways of interacting with the issues of the elderly, and enhancing their access to education Their participation in cultural life.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>7</b>	Strengthening legal assistance for the elderly and facilitating their access to litigation	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>8</b>	Encouraging the expansion of the establishment of care homes for the elderly	<b>Implemented</b>

Concerning the target result of enacting comprehensive legislation to enhance the rights of the elderly, Maat noted significant progress, including the House of Representatives' approval of the Elderly Rights draft law in February 2024. Subsequently, on April 15, 2024, President of Republic ratified Law No. 19 of 2024 on the rights of the elderly. Prior to its approval, the law underwent extensive discussion within a joint committee that included various subcommittees, such as the Social Solidarity and Human Rights Committee of the Senate. This committee proposed amendments to Draft law before it was forwarded to the Council of Ministers. In its weekly meeting on March 30, 2022, the Council approved Draft law, which was then discussed within the Social Solidarity Committee of the House of Representatives. The law affirms the following: According to Article 3 of Draft law, “The units of the state’s administrative apparatus—including ministries, departments, public agencies, and other public and private legal entities—are committed to protecting the rights of the elderly as stipulated in this law, any other law, or in international agreements and conventions ratified by the Arab Republic of Egypt. They are also required to take necessary measures to ensure these rights are upheld and to eliminate any obstacles that prevent elderly individuals from enjoying them.” According to the report from the Joint Parliamentary Committee of the Senate, the new law aims to expand social protection programs for the elderly, increase financial allocations for care institutions, intensify inspections, ensure access to health care, enhance participation in public life and policy formulation, and provide legal assistance and cultural engagement opportunities for the elderly. Draft law on the rights of the elderly responds to two recommendations accepted by Egypt during the third round of its submission to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in November 2019.

Regarding the target result that focuses on enhancing the elderly’s access to appropriate health care. Maat noted that, as of July 2024, the availability of geriatric services has increased, coinciding with improvements in health services and preventive medicine. This is further supported by the implementation of Law No. 19 of 2024 on the care and rights of the elderly, along with the issuance of its executive regulations. The state has made significant efforts to implement these outcomes, including a continuous health care program for the elderly run by Ministry of Health and Housing.

Ministry provides health services through 860 centers located in health units and family medicine centers across 21 governorates. Services offered include comprehensive medical examinations to detect non-communicable diseases, digestive system disorders, and malnutrition (such as anemia and obesity). The program also includes psychological and nutritional assessments, health education, and psychological support services to enhance elderly health and raise awareness of common health issues and prevention strategies. Each elderly patient receives a health card for tracking their health status, with a minimum of two follow-up visits annually.

Regarding the target result of enhancing judicial assistance for the elderly and facilitating their access to litigation, Maat highlighted that Ministry of Justice has adapted the facilities of judicial bodies to accommodate the special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. This includes making services more accessible and user-friendly. Ministry has established assistance offices in all primary and partial courts nationwide to serve the elderly and people with disabilities. Additionally, training sessions have been conducted for court employees to ensure they can provide effective legal assistance and facilitate services for these populations.

In terms of encouraging the establishment of nursing homes for the elderly, Maat noted the efforts made by the responsible entities. According to data from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, there are currently 166 nursing homes across Egypt. Furthermore, Maat identified 338 nursing homes and clubs for the elderly, benefiting over 32,000 individuals.

As for the targeted results that are close to being achieved, we find the result of expanding social protection programs granted to the elderly in a related context in July 2024. The Minister of Solidarity indicated a study to expand contractual pensions to accommodate the elderly from the priority care categories, in addition to developing and raising the efficiency of nursing homes and supporting the skills of caregivers. Maat notes the efforts made to achieve the target of this result. According to recent data issued by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Ministry of Social Solidarity provides EGP 1.5 billion in pensions to 361.8 thousand families headed by elderly people.

Similarly, the targeted result of increasing the financial allocations available to government social care institutions and enhancing their inspection. Ministry of Social Solidarity provides EGP 1.5 billion in pensions to more than 361 thousand families supported by the elderly.

As for the targeted results that Maat has not yet worked on, we find the targeted result of encouraging civil society organizations to participate in caring for the elderly. Maat did not notice any efforts to encourage civil society organizations working to care for the elderly. The targeted outcome of enabling the elderly to participate in public life, including enhancing their participation in formulating their own policies, organizing an annual community dialogue aimed at identifying gaps, areas of interest, and appropriate ways to interact with the issues of the elderly, enhancing their opportunities to obtain education, and enhancing their participation in cultural life. Maat did not notice any governmental efforts or efforts by specialized councils to enable the elderly to participate in public life.



## 4. Education and Capacity Building Axis

Fourth axis of National Human Rights Strategy focuses on capacity building and education in the field of human rights. Through this axis, the Strategy aims to achieve 28 results or goals by 2026, distributed over five sub-items included in this axis, which are: the sub-item on spreading the culture of human rights; the sub-item on integrating the human rights component into the stages of education; the sub-item on training members of the police force: the sub-item on training members of the judiciary: the sub-item on strengthening training programs for workers in state administrative apparatus. The table below shows the targeted results according to each item.

<b>Education &amp; Capacity Building</b>	Spreading Culture of Human Rights	<b>12</b>
	Integrating Human Rights into Different Stages of Education	<b>4</b>
	Training Members of Police Force	<b>4</b>
	Training Members of Judicial Bodies	<b>2</b>
	Strengthening Programs for Employees in Administrative Apparatus	<b>6</b>

### A. Sub-item One: Disseminating Culture of Human Rights

The Strategy targets 12 specific outcomes related to disseminating a culture of human rights. Most of these outcomes focus on promoting human rights through religious and governmental institutions, utilizing digital technologies to expand awareness, and establishing a national database related to human rights. Through Maat follow-up on the outcomes outlined in this sub-item, we find that five outcomes are nearing completion, while seven others have yet to be addressed. The table below summarizes the targeted outcomes associated with disseminating a culture of human rights.

Spreading Culture of Human Rights		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Creating a common understanding and culture in society of human rights values and principles, in accordance with the constitution, laws, and relevant international agreements to which Egypt is a party.	Not Started
2	Expanding education programs and including various activities to spread the culture of human rights as widely as possible in society.	In Progress
3	Intensifying the efforts of religious and governmental institutions to uphold the values of human rights, emphasize the values of citizenship, tolerance, and dialogue, and combat incitement to violence and discrimination.	Not Started
4	Expanding the use of modern technologies and means of technology to reach a greater degree to citizens to raise awareness of human rights, their principles, ways to protect them, the role of law enforcement agencies, how to resort to them, and the protection mechanisms they provide.	Not Started
5	Providing technical support and making resources available to capacity building and training agencies in the country's various sectors.	In Progress
6	Establishing a national human rights database concerned with collecting, classifying and indexing laws, codes of conduct, relevant international and regional conventions and conventions to which it has joined, and judicial applications in applying human rights standards and guarantees issued by Egyptian supreme courts.	In Progress
7	Establishing partnerships with the private sector and civil society in the field of promoting societal culture with human rights principles and values.	In Progress
8	Working to spread awareness of the values and principles of human rights for young people, and supporting their training and rehabilitation programmes.	In Progress
9	Designing specialized and ongoing training programs for media workers in the field of human rights.	Not Started
10	Conducting objective dramatic treatments that clarify and simplify to public opinion the values and principles of human rights	Not Started
11	Expanding the use of various press, media, and digital platforms to spread awareness of human rights values and principles.	Not Started
12	Continue coordination with Parliament in the field of harmonizing national legislation with international agreements related to human rights ratified by Egypt.	Not Started

Maat has noted positive efforts to implement the outcome related to expanding educational programs and including various activities aimed at broadly disseminating human rights principles within society. This initiative involves several measures, including a cooperation protocol signed by Ministry of Local Development with Misr El Kheir Foundation and Ajjal Misr Foundation for Youth and Adolescent Development. This collaboration aims to implement the Values and Life Program across four governorates, targeting the development of Upper Egypt to promote and support human values and foster democratic dialogue based on understanding. The protocol's activities encompass awareness campaigns, community development efforts, and investments in youth and adolescents at the local level, particularly in villages involved in the presidential initiative, Decent Life.

Additionally, Ministry of Social Solidarity has continued to provide various trainings through the Mawaddah project, focusing on the social aspects of preparing young people for marriage. This training equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary for family formation, while also providing family support and guidance mechanisms to strengthen the right to form a family and preserve its integrity.

Maat has also observed that Ministry of Social Solidarity is actively working on an awareness program for cultural and social development aimed at enhancing values of citizenship, loyalty, and belonging. This program is implemented by social pioneers and public service officers in coordination with post offices, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders through field outreach and engagement on social media platforms and various media outlets. Moreover, National Center for Social and Criminal Research has collaborated with various religious and governmental entities, including Sheikhdom of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, the Coptic Orthodox Church, Ministry of Endowments, Dar Al-Iftaa, the Evangelical Church, and the Catholic Church. This collaboration aims to train and develop cadres of Islamic and Christian clerics to raise community awareness in Decent Life centers and unify social, cultural, and religious messages on critical issues such as population challenges, family development, domestic violence, positive family education, combating addiction and drug abuse, the rights of persons with disabilities, promoting citizenship, and respecting diversity.

Targeted outcome also includes intensifying the efforts of religious and governmental institutions to promote human rights values and emphasize the principles of citizenship, tolerance, dialogue, and combating incitement to violence and discrimination. Several governmental institutions have made efforts to advance human rights values and underscore the importance of citizenship and tolerance. For instance, Ministry of Justice collaborated with the Coptic Evangelical Organization to conduct seminars and conferences across various governorates, targeting different segments of society on themes such as citizenship, rejecting hatred, promoting coexistence, and non-discrimination. For example, Ministry of Justice conducted workshops in collaboration with National Council for Women and the Specialized

Courts Sector to promote citizenship and activate the role of the committee formed to protect the Egyptian family entity, "Mawadda." These workshops aim to train specialists in settlement offices within the courts to facilitate reconciliation between parties in family disputes without discrimination based on religion or belief, preventing the disputes from escalating to court. Ministry of Social Solidarity continued to implement a program aimed at promoting the values and practices of citizenship in 44 villages most affected by extremism and sectarian events in Minya Governorate. This program is supported by technical and material assistance amounting to 12 million pounds, provided by the Fund for Supporting Projects of Associations and Civil Institutions at Ministry of Social Solidarity. It involves collaboration with seven large associations and civil institutions, which in turn partner with a wide network of local associations, reaching 100 small community development organizations.

The program seeks to promote citizenship values and respect for religious and cultural diversity, countering all forms of religious extremism and extremist ideologies. It focuses on enhancing social protection for the most vulnerable groups and raising awareness of the values and culture of citizenship, as well as the religious, cultural, and social diversity that characterizes Egyptian society. However, these efforts have largely been limited to initiatives and campaigns conducted online, which have not adequately addressed the targets outlined in the Strategy. Absence of Anti-Discrimination Commission further hinders the implementation of this outcome. Work is still underway on Targeted Result No. 5, which aims to provide technical support and resources to capacity-building and training agencies across various state sectors.

Regarding the targeted outcome of establishing partnerships with the private sector and civil society to promote a community culture aligned with human rights principles and values, Maat has noted efforts made to achieve this goal. Ministry of Social Solidarity signed a cooperation protocol with the Arab Organization for Human Rights and National Foundation for Family and Community Development to enhance human rights culture in local communities and foster respect for differences. Additionally, Ministry launched the "Cost of Terrorism in Egypt" project in collaboration with the Egyptian Center for Thought and Strategic Studies. This initiative falls within Ministry's efforts to work with religious, research, and media institutions to spread moderate thought and combat extremism. However, fully implementing this outcome requires expanding partnerships between government agencies and the private sector, raising awareness of human rights values among young people, and supporting training and rehabilitation programs. Current efforts to achieve this result have been limited to launching simulation models for youth, such as the Senate simulation model initiated by Ministry of Youth and Sports. This model aims to train individuals aged 20 to 40, while the General Administration of the Vanguard and Youth Parliament discusses the axes of National Strategy for Human Rights.

Ministry of Education and Technical Education, in cooperation with National Center for Curricula, has developed a general framework for educational curricula, which includes the inclusion of a number of topics in teaching activities, such as: expression topics, art education, and various competitions, which are based on five basic issues mentioned in the qualitative documents of the curricula, at the top of which are issues of equality and non-discrimination, including religious discrimination, discrimination against children, discrimination against women, and discrimination against people with special needs. Maat notes the weakness of programs specifically designated for youth, which aim to build their capacities in human rights issues, which requires additional efforts to achieve this result. Designing specialized and continuous training programs for media workers in the field of human rights. Maat did not note any efforts made to implement this targeted result, and National Strategy Follow-up Report issued by the Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights did not include any efforts to achieve the target of this result.

Regarding the targeted results that have not yet been worked on, we find that the entities responsible for implementation have not yet made sufficient efforts to begin achieving the target of these results for targeted results 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12, and the efforts mentioned in the report of the Permanent Supreme Committee for Human Rights were not sufficient to evaluate these results as implemented or even close to implementation. The General Authority for Inquiries has also stopped issuing the periodic “Human Rights Bulletin” since the third issue issued in July 2023.

### **B. Sub-item Two: Integrating Human Rights into Different Stages of Education**

National Human Rights Strategy aims to achieve four target results regarding the integration of human rights into educational stages. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these results indicates that two of the target outcomes are close to being achieved, while the remaining outcomes have not yet been initiated. The table below summarizes these target results.

<b>Integrating Human Rights into Stages of Education</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Preparing and launching the national plan for education in the field of human rights at the various educational levels.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>2</b>	Improving the skills of those responsible for the educational process, training them in the field of human rights education, and integrating human rights into teacher preparation programs.	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>3</b>	Expanding the conduct of research and scientific studies on developing methodologies for teaching human rights subjects, and including them in pre-university and higher education curricula.	<b>Not Started</b>
<b>4</b>	Using the latest information and communications technology; To help students learn remotely in the field of human rights.	<b>In Progress</b>

Efforts have been made to enhance the skills of those involved in the educational process through training in human rights education. Ministry of Education and Technical Education launched the Insan Initiative to promote the culture of human rights and align with National Human Rights Strategy. This initiative includes preparing an institutional achievement guide for educational units to monitor and evaluate their activities.

Additionally, Ministry organized various training activities aimed at developing the skills of educators. Notably, a training package was implemented to raise awareness among teachers and managers about climate change, in collaboration with UNICEF. Another training initiative targeted school principals, emphasizing the role of schools in fostering loyalty and belonging among students through national projects. However, these efforts remain uncoordinated, and there is currently no requirement to include human rights education in teacher preparation programs.

Maat noted some progress in using modern technologies for remote learning in human rights education. Ministry signed a cooperation protocol with the Educational Foundation for Capacity Building to support students with visual disabilities through assistive technology, ensuring their access to digital education. Additionally, under Ministry supervision, the Executive Offices League Competition was organized by the General Union of Students for the academic year 2021/2022. This initiative aims to enable students to utilize technology in implementing community projects and initiatives while instilling citizenship values. However, the full implementation of this result requires establishment of specialized platforms to teach students remotely in field of human rights.

Specifically, the first target result—preparing and launching a national plan for education in the field of human rights across various educational stages—has not yet seen any announced steps from the responsible entities. Achieving this outcome requires the issuance of an executive decision to form a committee comprising experts in human rights, education, higher education, and academia. This committee would be tasked with developing National plan for human rights education. Additionally, it is crucial to establish elected student councils through competitive and free elections, facilitate communication between students and civil society organizations (including justice institutions), and ensure that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights agreements ratified by Egypt are foundational pillars of the Strategy.

Target result No. 4 focuses on expanding scientific research and studies aimed at developing methodologies for teaching human rights subjects, and incorporating them into pre-university and higher education curricula. Despite some measures outlined in the Strategy's implementation follow-up report, Maat observed that these measures do not effectively contribute to achieving this result. Maat noted a lack of efforts to implement this target due to the Civil Service Practice Law and its executive regulations, which require civil

society organizations to obtain approval from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics before conducting any opinion polls or scientific research. In practice, obtaining this approval can be quite challenging, as indicated by various reports.

### C. Sub-item Three: Training Members of Police Force

Strategy aims to achieve four target results related to training police force members, focusing on building their capacities and integrating rules of conduct for law enforcement personnel. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these results indicates that two outcomes have been fully implemented, while two others are close to achievement. The table below summarizes the target results in this sub-item.

Training Members of Police Force		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Continuing to build the capabilities and training of members of the police force in the field of commitment to internationally recognized human rights values and principles.	Implemented
2	Strengthening and building the capabilities of those in charge of prisons and places of detention in accordance with what is stipulated in the law and prison regulations, and benefiting from the best international practices in this regard.	Implemented
3	Implementing advanced training programs in the field of human rights on more specialized topics in the field of women's rights, children's rights, persons with disabilities, human trafficking, and illegal immigration.	In Progress
4	Integrating codes of conduct into awareness and training programs for those in charge of law enforcement in the police force	In Progress

Regarding the two results that were implemented, we find the first implemented outcome pertains to the ongoing capacity building and training of police force members regarding internationally recognized human rights values and principles. Maat noted several steps taken to achieve this target, with Ministry of Interior reporting that a total of 345 capacity-building courses have been conducted. These training sessions, organized by the Police Research Center affiliated with Ministry, primarily focus on best practices for interacting with detainees and community protection.

A notable example documented was a training workshop on Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) held on August 15, 2023. This workshop was part of National Council for Human Rights' visit to Correctional and Rehabilitation Center and emphasized five rules that explicitly protect prisoners from various forms of abuse and torture. Maat commends the promising partnership between the Egyptian

Ministry of Interior and the International Committee of the Red Cross. In August 2023 alone, Ministry organized eight training courses for police personnel in collaboration with the organization.

Ministry of Interior, represented by Police Research Center, also held a number of events for training on National Human Rights Strategy. In February 2022, Ministry hosted an event titled "Role of Ministry of Interior in Enforcing Determinants of National Human Rights Strategy," focusing on protecting vulnerable citizens and rehabilitating inmates in correctional facilities. On November 21, 2021, the Human Rights Sector of Ministry conducted three lectures across various sectors and departments to promote a culture of human rights and improve skills in citizen interactions.

Another target outcome achieved is enhancing the capacities of those managing prisons and places of detention according to legal provisions and prison regulations, while incorporating best international practices. Maat noted progress in this area, with numerous training courses conducted in reform and rehabilitation centers aimed at building the skills of personnel. From January 2019 to June 2023, Ministry held 47 training courses for its employees in collaboration with various international organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. These courses covered topics such as human rights, violence against women, healthcare development in reform facilities, and the Nelson Mandela Model Rules for inmate treatment. Additionally, the Public Prosecution conducted 29 training courses on combating human trafficking between 2019 and June 5, 2023, involving 577 members of the Public Prosecution, along with 16 courses focused on human rights topics that trained 257 participants.

As for the target results that implementing agencies are close to achieving, the third result focuses on the implementation of advanced training programs in human rights, specifically on specialized topics such as women's rights, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, human trafficking, and illegal immigration. Maat observed several efforts toward this goal. Ministry of Interior participated in the first training course for its personnel on combating violence against women and attended conferences organized by Ministry of Social Solidarity aimed at empowering persons with disabilities to facilitate their reintegration into society. Maat reported that Ministry of Defense conducted 95 courses aimed at training 2,184 workers in border control and military law enforcement agencies, collaborating with various international organizations, including International Organization for Migration. In relation to the fourth outcome concerning the integration of codes of conduct into training programs for law enforcement officers, Maat noted the ongoing efforts by Ministry of Interior to incorporate human rights as a Fundamental subject in the curricula of police colleges and institutes. This includes specialized training courses for police college



students focused on human rights. However, additional efforts are still required to fully implement this result.

#### **D. Sub-item Four: Training Members of Judiciary**

Strategy aims to achieve two target results related to training members of the judiciary. Maat follow-up on the implementation of these results indicates that one target result has been fully implemented, while another is close to completion. The following table summarizes the target results for this sub-item.

<b>Training Members of Judiciary</b>		
<b>#</b>	<b>Target Result</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>1</b>	Expanding specialized programs for members of judicial bodies and bodies to educate on human rights issues, especially fair trial standards and guarantees.	<b>Implemented</b>
<b>2</b>	Developing training centers affiliated with judicial agencies and bodies, in terms of preparing specialized training and guidance manuals, developing indicators to measure the impact of training programs in the field of human rights, and developing a scientific method for studying, following up, and evaluating those programs.	<b>In Progress</b>

Regarding the targeted outcome of expanding specialized programs for members of judicial bodies and authorities to educate them on human rights issues, particularly fair trial standards and guarantees, Maat has noted several measures taken to achieve this goal. Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, held a workshop focused on facilitating victims' access to justice as part of National Human Rights Strategy. This two-day workshop brought together a group of national and international experts on victim access to justice, aligning with specific sub-items in the first axis of National Human Rights Strategy and the fourth axis related to education and capacity building in human rights.

The workshop also corresponds with the sixth axis of Ministry of Justice's Strategy, which aims to promote a culture of human rights and protect vulnerable groups. Among its objectives is the exchange of experiences and best practices among judges to enhance their capabilities in human rights. The workshop was conducted in an interactive format, exploring the concept of human rights within Criminal justice context according to international treaties, as well as the principles and standards set by the United Nations regarding victims' access to justice. Additionally, it addressed combating violence against women and included best practices for protecting and supporting victims of human trafficking and illegal immigration, while highlighting Ministry of Justice's role in facilitating access to justice and

the involvement of children within the justice system. Maat believes that this workshop can serve as a foundation for developing practical recommendations to enhance victims' access to justice and strengthen the judicial system for child witnesses, as outlined in the fourth axis of National Human Rights Strategy.

As for the targeted outcome of developing training centers affiliated with judicial bodies and authorities, the focus is on preparing specialized training and guidance manuals, developing indicators to measure the impact of training programs in human rights, and establishing a scientific approach to study, follow up, and evaluate these programs. Maat has noted some efforts made by the entities responsible for implementing this outcome, including the issuance of a procedural rights guide for child victims and witnesses of crimes by Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNICEF. This includes contributions to the guide for collecting evidence, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking crimes while protecting victims in the context of law enforcement, in collaboration with National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Immigration and Human Trafficking.

Additionally, Ministry has issued periodicals on human rights principles derived from rulings by the Supreme Constitutional Court and the Administrative Court of the Administrative Judiciary. Ministry of Justice also signed a cooperation protocol with National Council for Human Rights to collaborate on judicial training related to human rights topics. This protocol aims to prepare joint research, organize scientific and practical conferences, seminars, and workshops focusing on fundamental human rights and public freedoms, as well as design programs addressing human rights issues. Furthermore, it seeks to exchange training and technical expertise regarding various legislations, including legal amendments or the introduction of new legislation related to human rights and public freedoms. However, Ministry of Justice has yet to develop an indicator to measure the impact of the training programs in the field of human rights, particularly those that Ministry contributes to creating.

#### **E. Sub-item Five: Enhancing Training Programs for Administrative Employees**

Strategy aims to achieve six target results related to enhancing training programs for employees in the administrative apparatus. Maat follow-up indicates that the implementing entity is close to achieving four of these target outcomes, while two results have not yet been initiated. The following table summarizes these target results.

Enhancing Training Programs for Administrative Employees		
#	Target Result	Implementation
1	Developing the capabilities of those concerned with official bodies and bodies to harmonize national legislation with international agreements related to human rights to which Egypt is a party.	In Progress
2	Providing technical support in the field of human rights to national training institutions concerned with building the capabilities and training of civil service employees.	In Progress
3	Holding specialized, graded training courses on implementing the national human rights Strategy.	In Progress
4	Updating indicators to measure the impact of training programs in the field of human rights that are based on scientific methods for studying, following up, and evaluating these programs, their effectiveness, and their applicability to practical application.	Not Started
5	Capacity building and training of workers in human rights units in the governorates	In Progress
6	Establishing electronic platforms specialized in the fields of human rights, to expand the availability of knowledge and training remotely.	Not Started

One target result involves enhancing the capacities of officials to harmonize national legislation with international human rights agreements to which Egypt is a party. Maat reviewed efforts to achieve this, including the organization of the first training program for employees of Ministry of Justice in collaboration with National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. This program aimed to raise awareness among fifty employees about the crime of female genital mutilation. However, Maat believes that this step alone is insufficient to achieve the desired outcome.

The second target result focuses on providing technical support in the field of human rights to national training institutions responsible for building the capacities of civil service employees. Maat noted Ministry of Local Development's commitment to enhancing the training system and capacity building for workers at various administrative levels, aimed at improving efficiency and developing skills. The training plan for the fiscal year 2023 includes various topics, such as: Community protection units; Equal opportunities; Child protection; Empowering female executive leaders and pioneers; Human rights; International cooperation; Population policy units.

In a related context, Minister of Local Development issued Decision No. 67 of 2021 regarding the restructuring of human rights units in the governorates, which stipulated the development of the skills of workers in human rights units and building their technical and scientific capabilities by preparing and implementing rehabilitation and training programs and plans, as well as setting guidelines for the work of these units. Ministry of Local Development organized a number of training courses for employees of human rights units on the basic principles of human rights and National Human Rights Strategy. It also organized training courses on preparing trainers to spread the culture of human rights at the local level. However, achieving the target of this result requires expanding the base of those targeted by technical support, holding specialized and gradual training courses on implementing National Human Rights Strategy, and integrating General Administration Department of the Central Agency for Organization and Strategic Management into the training plan of the agency, targeting employee awareness of human rights concepts among employees in the Central Agency for Organization and Administration, according to “Saleh Al-Sheikh,” head of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration. Number of programs that approved Strategy as one of its axes reached 42 training programs, from which 495 leadership employees benefited.

Ministry of Local Development's training plan for 2022-2023, which incorporates National Human Rights Strategy, aims to qualify 6,000 employees in localities across various governorates in an institutional manner. However, fully implementing this target requires the generalization of training plans, the establishment of codes of conduct, and the dissemination of National Human Rights Strategy throughout all ministries and their affiliated institutions. On February 10, 2022, the Police Research Center at the Police Academy held a symposium titled “The Role of Ministry of Interior in Achieving the Determinants of National Human Rights Strategy.” This event was attended by a group of Egyptian university students, participants from Ministry of Youth and Sports, students from military colleges and the Police College, and several leaders from Ministry of Interior. The symposium focused on the key features and determinants of National Human Rights Strategy, Ministry of Interior's role in its enforcement, and efforts to develop social and humanitarian initiatives. It also highlighted the Ministry's initiatives to protect vulnerable groups and rehabilitate inmates in reform and rehabilitation centers, alongside efforts to build and enhance the capabilities of police officers in protecting human rights.

Maat has found that the implementing entity is close to achieving Targeted Result No. 5, which relates to building the capacities and training of personnel in human rights units across the governorates. Ministry of Local Development's training plan includes qualifying and building the capacities of 6,000 employees by the end of 2023, among whom are workers in human rights units. In this context, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Supreme

Standing Committee for Human Rights, conducted capacity-building training for 25 personnel from human rights units in various governorates, including 9 women. This training aims to equip participants with the skills to conduct training at the local level and covers cognitive aspects of human rights, including the United Nations system, regional and national mechanisms, and international treaties. The program also addressed National Human Rights Strategy, its axes and objectives, the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights—its formation, competencies, and role—and the relationship between human rights and sustainable development. It further examined Egypt's international commitments in combating corruption, the principles of equality, equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and mechanisms for cooperation with civil society institutions.

However, the implementing entity has not yet begun work on two results. The first is Targeted Result No. 4, which involves updating indicators to measure the impact of training programs in the field of human rights, based on scientific approaches for studying, following up, and evaluating the effectiveness and practical applicability of these programs. Maat has not observed any efforts to measure the impact of training programs in the field of human rights or to follow up on them. In general, Maat notes the absence of any mechanism for follow-up and evaluation regarding the Strategy as a whole and its targets. This includes the sixth result related to the establishment of electronic platforms specialized in human rights, aimed at expanding the availability of knowledge and training remotely.

## Recommendations

- ☞ The necessity of developing an executive action plan for Strategy to achieve the results it includes and clarifying the roles assigned to each party to implement target results of Strategy and the time frame to achieve each result to complete the implementation track of Strategy before the end of the first phase;
- ☞ Coordination mechanism should be established with stakeholders to consult on target results that have not yet begun;
- ☞ Work on adopting a national program to disseminate the culture of human rights, with the involvement of stakeholders, including specialized national councils and civil society, in its preparation and awareness.
- ☞ Consider placing priority legislation in the axis related to civil and political rights on the agenda of the fifth session of the House of Representatives, such as the Law on the Freedom of Information, Statistics and Official Data, and the Law on Combating All Forms of Violence against Women;
- ☞ Consider establishing an anti-discrimination commission, as it will achieve a set of target results in Strategy;
- ☞ Urge ministries that have not established human rights units to accelerate the process of establishing these units and training the human cadres who will undertake the tasks of these units;
- ☞ Work on promoting National Strategy for human rights more widely in public and private media;
- ☞ Consider supporting projects implemented by civil society organizations that are relevant to helping implement some of the outcomes in National Strategy;
- ☞ Consider updating Strategy document to change the phrases and terms contained in Strategy that have already been changed under legislation adopted by the House of Representatives.