



# Egypt

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

© IOM June 2024 - Please note that information provided herein may be outdated due to dynamic developments in the country.

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# 1 Health Care

## General information on health care

The Egyptian healthcare system is pluralistic, comprising a variety of healthcare providers from the public and the private sector. The Government ensures basic universal health coverage, and several recent efforts have been directed towards enhancing the system. Doctors and medical facilities are mostly available everywhere. However, in some rural areas, they might be limited to only one center for the medical services. More general information on health care in Egypt is available on the Egyptian Healthcare Authority's website.

## Accessing Healthcare in Egypt

Securing access to quality healthcare is an essential part of any successful reintegration process. This section outlines the key steps returning Egyptians need to take to utilize healthcare services in their home country.

### Required Documents:

- **National Identification Card:** A valid Egyptian national identification card (ID) is the primary document required to access healthcare services. This card serves as proof of citizenship and facilitates patient registration within the system.
- **Health Insurance Card (if applicable):** For individuals possessing health insurance, presenting their insurance card alongside their national ID is crucial. Possessing health insurance can significantly reduce out-of-pocket medical expenses.

## Public Health Insurance

While Egypt currently does not have a public health insurance program for all citizens. However, The Ministry of Health (MOH) establishes eligibility criteria and oversees the public health insurance program, and enrollment in public health insurance is generally linked to formal legal employment. The specific registration process for public health insurance might vary depending on employment details and location within Egypt. Here are some recommended steps to initiate the registration process:

1. **Contact the Ministry of Health (MOH):** The MOH website provides various resources and contact information. Utilize these resources to inquire about the specific registration process based on your employment situation.
2. **Consult with your Employer:** If you are formally employed, your employer might handle aspects of health insurance registration for you. Discuss your health insurance options with your employer's human resources department.
3. **Visit Local Health Authorities:** In some cases, registering for public health insurance might involve visiting local health authorities in your city or governorate. The MOH website can provide guidance on locating the appropriate authorities.

Regarding access to medication, Egypt offers a two-tiered system for accessing medications:

- **Public Hospitals:** Essential medications are often available in public

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hospitals, providing a cost-effective option for some residents.

- **Private Market and Pharmacies:** A wider range of medications, including most commonly prescribed medicine, are readily available through private pharmacies. These medications typically do not require a prescription for purchase.

Pharmacies are conveniently located throughout Egypt, offering easy access to medications. Major pharmacy chains such as El-EZABY, 19011, and Misr pharmacies operate 24 hours a day, ensuring round-the-clock availability. Furthermore, many pharmacies offer convenient home delivery services, which can be arranged by phone or online. This additional service enhances access to medications for those with mobility limitations or other needs.

## Public Health Initiatives in Egypt

The Egyptian government prioritizes public health through various national campaigns targeting both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

- **Polio Vaccination Campaign (2023):** This free initiative aims to vaccinate 16 million children under five years old, including both Egyptian and non-Egyptian children, against polio.
- **Egyptian Women's Health Initiative:** This comprehensive program focuses on early detection and treatment of breast cancer in 28 million women nationwide. It provides free mammograms, clinical



Photo: Unsplash 2018/ Marcelo Leal



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examinations, and treatment if necessary. Additionally, the initiative promotes reproductive health, family planning, healthy lifestyles, and awareness of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. It also educates women on self-examination for early detection of breast cancer.

- National Communication Campaign for Hepatitis C Elimination (Launched 2018): This campaign aims to eradicate Hepatitis C infection in Egypt by 2023 through widespread testing and treatment programs.
- “100 Million Siha” Campaign: This large-scale initiative focuses on identifying and treating chronic diseases like hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and Hepatitis C. It offers free screening and treatment options for these conditions.

## Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Egyptian Healthcare

Egypt has a vibrant network of NGOs that play a significant role in supplementing government healthcare initiatives. These organizations offer various medical assistance programs, each with specific eligibility criteria and requirements. However, it is important to note that these NGOs prioritize urgent and vulnerable cases due to long waiting lists and limitations in the availability of funds. Some prominent NGOs include the following:

- 57357 Children’s Cancer Hospital (Cairo): This facility provides free-of-charge cancer treatment for children.
- Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation

(Aswan): The foundation focuses on complex heart surgeries, offering advanced medical care in this area.

- Mersal Foundation: This organization offers a broad spectrum of free healthcare services to those in need.
- Resala: this organization provides financial support to cover surgery costs and prosthetic devices for patients.
- Aldemerdash Children’s Hospital: This hospital specializes in pediatric care.
- Ahl Misr Hospital: This facility focuses on treating burn victims, providing specialized care and rehabilitation.
- Misr Elkheir Foundation: A multifaceted NGO, Misr Elkheir operates in healthcare, education, social solidarity, and scientific research, potentially offering various health-related programs.
- Life Makers Organization: This organization provides medical and social support to individuals in need, with specific programs dedicated to assisting Egyptian returnees.

# 2 Labour Market

## General information on labour market

### *Ministry of Manpower*

The government of Egypt assists in providing updated job opportunities through The Ministry of Manpower. The Ministry publishes a monthly report with all the available job opportunities, and information on how to apply, the report can be accessed here.

### *Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) Initiatives*

Egypt’s Forsa Programme: This programme represents a comprehensive initiative designed to empower individuals and facilitate their transition from social safety nets to the formal labor market. It complements existing social programs by equipping participants with the skills and resources needed to achieve financial independence and self-sufficiency. The Forsa program will help establish microenterprises and income-generating pooled production units.

The program leverages the expertise of NGOs, ministries, and other relevant public bodies with a strong presence within communities. This collaborative approach ensures effective program delivery and outreach. Their strategic Objectives is to Enhance the spirit of work and production and the transition from dependence to economic independence. Provide alternative opportunities for poor youth, women, and persons with disabilities.

The program will invest in targeted individuals by modifying their behaviors and encouraging them to engage in productive activities and move from dependence on cash transfer from the

protection network to physical independence through the development of human capital, financial literacy, life skills, training, and investment in collective and small private businesses with a focus on establishing value chains.

- Nawart Baladak Initiative: The government has launched an initiative “Nawart Baladak”, to help Egyptian returnees to find job opportunities whenever possible. The initiative works by collecting the data of the returnees wishing to find job opportunities to register, using this website: <https://nawartbaladk.gov.eg/>

There are also several websites where Egyptians can register to view the available employment postings and apply when relevant:

- <http://www.jobzella.com>
- <http://www.wuzzuf.com>
- <http://www.akhtaboot.com>
- <http://www.wzayef.com>
- <http://www.bayt.com>
- <http://mom.manpower.gov.eg/>

### *International Organization for Migration (IOM) Egypt*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Egypt can assist returnees in starting a microbusiness as part of their Reintegration. However, it is subject to certain eligibility criteria and the country of return. Generally, IOM provides services for returnees to ensure the sustainability of their reintegration into society. These services vary from medical, educational, housing, and microbusiness assistance. The returnee is required to get in contact with IOM Egypt

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within six months of his return to inquire about his eligibility for the reintegration programme.

### Transportation

The choice of transportation depends on various factors such as budget, travel time, desired comfort level, and destination accessibility. Public transportation options are generally the most affordable as a convenient option with a lower quality. Taxis can be a faster alternative but require fare negotiation to avoid overpricing. Egypt offers a diverse range of transportation options catering to various needs and budgets. These options can be broadly categorized as follows:

- **Metro:** A fast and efficient metro system operates in major cities like Cairo and Alexandria.
- **Buses:** An extensive network of buses provides affordable transportation within and between cities.
- **Microbuses:** These smaller, shared buses offer a more flexible and route-specific alternative to regular buses.
- **Taxis:** Taxis are a popular choice for faster and more personalized travel. It is recommended to agree on the fare with the driver beforehand or request the use of the meter to avoid inflated charges.
- **Railways:** The Egyptian National Railways connect major cities and offer a scenic travel option.
- **Waterway Transportation:** River buses, ferries, and boats provide transportation along the Nile River and other waterways.

- **Ride-Hailing Apps:** Mobile applications like Uber, Careem, InDriver, Didi, and SWVL allow users to book private car services with predetermined fares calculated based on distance and traffic conditions. These services often offer faster pick-up times, cleaner vehicles, and greater transparency in pricing compared to traditional taxis.

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Photo: Unsplash 2019/ Alex Azabache



## 3 Housing

### General information on housing

#### *Government Initiatives for Affordable Housing*

The Egyptian government prioritizes providing suitable housing options for and low-income citizens. A key instrument in achieving this goal is the Social Housing and Mortgage Finance Fund, established by Presidential Decree No. 93 of 2018. This public service authority, with a legal personality, focuses on social housing and mortgage finance subsidization. For current information on available housing units and eligibility criteria can be found on the website of Ministry of Housing and Urban Communities. Egyptian returnees can explore housing options in their designated areas upon returning home. Nevertheless, it is significant to note that finding affordable housing in Egypt can be very challenging due to the increasing costs of living. These costs vary depending on location, with rents starting with a minimum of 100 Euros per month.

### Finding Accommodation

Returnees can depend on real estate agencies or online searching to find suitable housing according to the available budget. Returnees can generally consult real estate websites, such as:

- [www.Propertyfinder.eg](http://www.Propertyfinder.eg)
- [www.OLX.com.eg](http://www.OLX.com.eg)
- [www.Eg.Opensooq.com](http://www.Eg.Opensooq.com)
- [www.Aqarmap.com.eg](http://www.Aqarmap.com.eg)
- [www.bayut.eg/en/](http://www.bayut.eg/en/)

Purchasing a property in Egypt can be challenging, as the price of real estate is very high.

### Access for returnees

#### **Eligibility and requirements:**

There are no specific housing assistance that can be provided for Egyptian returnees from the government, except when requested by the sending IOM Mission through the reintegration assistance.

**Required documents:** Each project might have specific requirements for the registration.

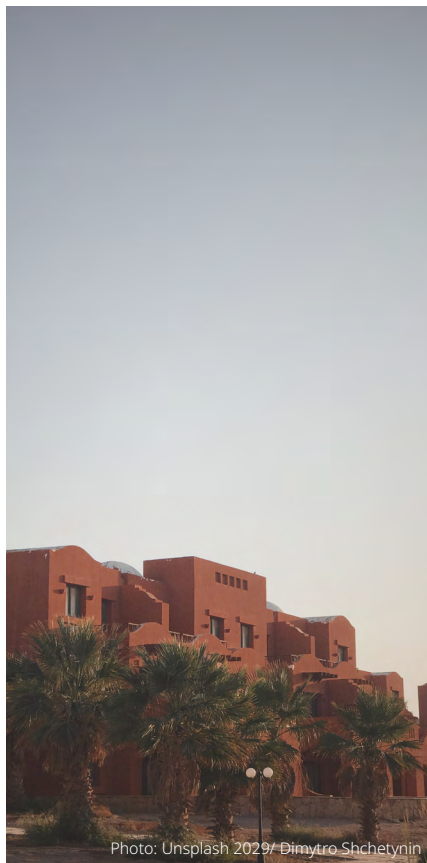


Photo: Unsplash 2029/ Dimytro Shchetynin

## 4 Social Welfare

### Social welfare system

The social welfare in Egypt is consisted of two separate funds. One fund covers government workers (civil servants, armed forces, police force). The other covers workers in the public and private enterprises, some self-employed, casual workers and Egyptians working abroad. Individuals are eligible for pensions at age 60 with at least 120 months of contributions. However, there is a new law raising that age to 65 for workers entering the workforce in 2012.

**Takaful and Karama Campaign:** An Initiative launched by the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide cash grants to certain households that are deemed eligible for this assistance. The programme hotline is 19680 via phone or via e-mail to receive and respond to complaints: [tk.grievance@moss.gov.eg](mailto:tk.grievance@moss.gov.eg)

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** No specific public insurance programme exists in Egypt for Egyptians. However, many private insurance companies are available; they provide full medical coverage with different programmes based on their criteria; their prices range from 1,500 to 3,000 EGP per month. It would also depend on whether a person is a member of a syndicate (Union), which allows the coverage of up to 90% of medical expenses depending on the syndicate in exchange of a small fee.

**Registration procedures:** Registration procedures for insurance would differ from one insurance company to another, and if the person is already a member of a syndicate or not.

**Required documents:** It depends on each entity covering for the insurance.



Photo: Unsplash 2021/ Claudette Bleijenberg

## 5 Education

### General information on Education

Egypt has a well-developed education system catering to students from pre-school to university level. This system offers diverse pathways, including public and private options which vary in fees. The Egyptian Ministry of Education and Technical Education provides a comprehensive overview of the education system and resources for students and educators. It's important to note that the education system in Egypt is undergoing continuous development. Staying updated through official channels is recommended for the most current information.

### *Early Childhood and Primary Education (Ages 4-12):*

- **Early Start:** Enrollment in Egypt's education system can begin as early as 4 years old, with kindergarten programs offered in both public and private institutions (<https://moe.gov.eg/en>).
- **Public vs. Private:** Public schools provide a foundational education at a minimal cost, sometimes referred to as a symbolic fee. Private schools offer a wider range of facilities and curriculum options, but tuition fees can vary significantly depending on the institution chosen (<https://moe.gov.eg/en>).
- **Primary Education:** Following kindergarten, primary education begins at age 6 and lasts for six years. This stage focuses on developing core literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills (<https://moe.gov.eg/en>).

### *Secondary Education (Ages 12-18):*

- **Three Stages:** Secondary education

in Egypt is divided into three stages: preparatory, general, and vocational/technical.

- **Preparatory Education (3 years):** Students enter this stage after completing primary school. This period emphasizes core subjects and assesses aptitudes to guide students towards the most suitable secondary education path (<https://moe.gov.eg/en>).
- **General Secondary Education (3 years):** This program equips students with a strong foundation in various academic disciplines, preparing them for university entrance exams.
- **Vocational and Technical Education (3-5 years):** These programs provide students with job-specific skills in various sectors like industry, commerce, or agriculture. The duration can vary, with technical secondary programs typically lasting five years (<https://moe.gov.eg/en>).

### *Tertiary Education and Al-Azhar University:*

- **Higher Education:** Egypt has a well-established network of universities offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs across diverse fields.
- **Al-Azhar University:** Founded in 970 AD, Al-Azhar holds a unique position as both the oldest degree-granting university in the world and a prestigious center for Islamic learning (<http://www.azhar.edu.eg/en/>). Originally focused on Islamic studies, it has incorporated additional secular subjects into its curriculum over time.
- **Equivalence of Foreign Diplomas:**

## 5 Education

A system exists for verifying and granting equivalence to foreign academic qualifications. The specific procedures and costs can vary depending on the academic discipline.



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ priscilla du preez



## 6 Children

### General situation of children and infants

- National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM):
- Egypt prioritizes child protection through the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM). This government body serves as the central authority for handling cases related to children and mothers.
- Protection Services: The NCCM offers a range of services to vulnerable groups, including identifying safe shelter when needed, legal assistance (e.g., custody cases, child representation), and various child protection programs.
- 24/7 Child Helpline: A crucial aspect of their work is the national 24/7 child helpline (16000), providing a vital resource for children in need.

### Non-Governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

- A network of NGOs plays a complementary role in safeguarding children's well-being and rights. Here are some prominent examples:
- Save the Children: This internationally recognized organization works to ensure the safety and well-being of children in Egypt.
- 57357 Children's Cancer Hospital: This specialized hospital provides free-of-charge cancer treatment for children.
- Banati Foundation: Focused on girls and women at risk of sexual and psychological abuse, the Banati Foundation provides critical support and intervention services.
- Wataneya Society: Dedicated to improving the lives of children

outside of parental care, Wataneya offers care and advocacy for these vulnerable populations.

- CARE Egypt: As part of the global CARE network, this organization addresses the root causes of poverty in Egypt, with a focus on children's well-being and community aspirations.
- FACE for Children in Need: This NGO works to protect and assist orphans and street children in Egypt.



Photo: Unsplash 2020/ Yousef Salham



## 7 Contacts

### International Organization for Migration

UN agency for Migration  
47C Abou El-Feda st., Zamalek,  
11211, Cairo  
+20 103 204 6064 /  
01501692086, iomegyptavrr@  
iom.int, <https://egypt.iom.int/>

### Egyptian-German Center for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration (EGC)

Labour  
Building 17, Street 18, Maadi,  
Cairo, Egypt.  
[www.egc.gov.eg](http://www.egc.gov.eg)

### The National Council for Women (NCW)

Protection of women's rights  
Providing protection assistance  
for vulnerable women Makram  
Ebeid, Al Manteqah as Sadesah,  
Nasr City (20) 2 15115 <http://ncw.gov.eg/>

### Programs of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)

- Child helpline: Misr El Kadema, CairoEgypt +20 2 16000. <http://www.nccm-egypt.org/>
- Adolescents' Health: [dcicunit.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:dcicunit.nccm@gmail.com) Child Anti-Trafficking Unit: [cicunit.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:cicunit.nccm@gmail.com)
- Combating Violence against Women and Children: [mbarsoum@stopviolence-eg.com](mailto:mbarsoum@stopviolence-eg.com)
- Family Justice: [Info@msdegypt.com](mailto:Info@msdegypt.com)
- Girls Education Initiative: [girlseducation@gmail.com](mailto:girlseducation@gmail.com)
- Information Center : [cicunit.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:cicunit.nccm@gmail.com)
- Information Technology: [cicunit.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:cicunit.nccm@gmail.com)
- Poverty Alleviation: [nohaAshary.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:nohaAshary.nccm@gmail.com)
- Programs for Street Children: [nohaAshary.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:nohaAshary.nccm@gmail.com)
- Protecting Youth from Drugs: [drugs.prevention.mofp@gmail.com](mailto:drugs.prevention.mofp@gmail.com)
- Volunteers Coordination Unit: [volunteers.mofp@gmail.com](mailto:volunteers.mofp@gmail.com)

### Other organizations that provide different types of assistances

- Life Makers: 16563 - [cicunit.nccm@gmail.com](mailto:cicunit.nccm@gmail.com)
- Misr Elkheir: 16140
- 57357 hospitals: 19057 - (20) 225 351 500
- Mersal foundation: 010 0065 4000
- Resala: 19540
- Ministry of Social Solidarity: 16439
- Beit el Zakah: Salah Salem, el Gamaleya, Cairo – 15111 - [info@baitzakat.org.eg](mailto:info@baitzakat.org.eg)
- Egyptian Clothing Bank: 17014 - <https://www.egyptianclothingbank.org/contact>
- Egyptian Food Bank: 16060 – [info@efb.eg](mailto:info@efb.eg)

## 8 At a glance

### Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Education:** If there is prior education in Germany before returning to Egypt, a certificate will be provided. However, acknowledgement of each certificate will be based on the issuing institution, and the institution receiving the document; it would depend on each person's case.
- **Medication:** There is no shortage of pharmacies in Egypt, with some of the larger chains like Ezaby offering 24-hour service. Most offer home delivery services, which can be arranged via the telephone.
- **Vaccination:** Vaccines are required for Egypt. The National Travel Health Network and Centre recommends the following vaccinations: Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Yellow fever, Rabies, and Tetanus. Proof of vaccination is required upon entry to the country. Further information: <https://www.fitfor-travel.nhs.uk/destinations/africa/egypt#Vaccinations>

### Measures to be undertaken immediately upon arrival

- **Reintegration Assistance:** The completion of reintegration assistance programs can take several months. The returnee must take this timeframe into consideration as he adjusts to life back in Egypt. Additionally, returnees may be questioned by security authorities upon arrival at the airport, which is a standard procedure. Financial and logistical support upon arrival is not automatically granted. The sending mission should notify IOM Egypt in advance if the returnee requires arrival assistance, such as pocket money, to ease the initial transition.
- **Transportation:** Transportation from the airport can be easily arranged. Taxis, Uber and renting cars can be arranged upon arrival. Public transportation can be found; however, it will be challenging with heavy luggage. Distance from the airport to the nearest place to get transportation is relatively long. Taking a taxi will be the best available option, although the person might have to negotiate the price or at least make sure the meter is running. Upon arrival, returnees must contact IOM Egypt within one month from the date of their return to arrange the receipt of the reintegration assistance, they will also need to have a valid ID document.