



# The Erosion of Economic and Social Rights in Egypt

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# BY THE NUMBERS

## *INEQUALITY*

- Richest 1% receive nearly half of the income and one-third of wealth *versus* the bottom half of the population receiving 18% of income and only 4% of wealth
- Egypt in Gini coefficient measuring global inequality:
  - 0.77 for wealth inequality
  - 0.57 for income inequality

# BY THE NUMBERS



## ***POVERTY***

- 3 out of 10 Egyptians were poor, with another quarter of Egyptians on the brink of poverty, in March 2020.
- Two-thirds of wage earners in the private sector live below the poverty line
- World Bank: > 70% of Egyptians spend less than \$6.85 per day = below national poverty line adjusted by inflation in 2024



# BY THE NUMBERS

## ***EXTERNAL DEBT***

**Increased by 75% over last 5 years** to \$168 billion, bringing the total state-guaranteed debt to about 158% of GDP in early 2024.

Debt installments and interest consume **62% of all public spending** in current fiscal year budget

## ***PUBLIC SPENDING***

Decrease to record lows on health and education this year:

**1.2% for health** vs 3% Constitutional mandatory level

**1.7% for education** vs 4% Constitutional mandatory level

# BY THE NUMBERS

## ***DISPROPORTIONATE GENDER IMPACT***

1) Working women in 2022 = 4.2 million

Working women in 2014 = 5.2 million

2) 15.3% of the employed BUT 47.6% of the unemployed

3) Descent in Labor Market Equality Index= 175 out of 190 economies

4) 2023 average wage for women in the private sector was below the national minimum wage

5) *First time in decades: 2023-2024 decline in girls' enrollment in secondary education*

# RECOMMENDATIONS



- Increase budget allocations for social spending, particularly on health, education and social protection, which has decreased in real value over the last four years, in order to ensure that these allocations are adequate and meet constitutionally-mandated levels.
- Conduct and publish an assessment of the socioeconomic impact of the two IMF programs implemented since 2016, to measure the effect of their austerity measures on poverty and inequality, especially for women and girls.
- Launch a comprehensive audit of public debt over the last 10 years, and develop a comprehensive plan for the transparent governance and restructuring of public debt service, which crowds out social spending and leads to the continued impoverishment of large sectors of the population.



Thank you!

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