

## Evidences

### Study #2171

**Contributing Projects:**

- P688 - 4.1.2 Improving Design and Delivery of Social protection for Nutrition and Other Outcomes
- P582 - 2.4.7 MENA Regional Policy Engagement

**Part I: Public communications**

**Type:** OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

**Status:** On-going

**Year:** 2020

**Title:** Uptake of research-based recommendations to increase the impacts of Egypt's national cash transfer program on the very poor

**Short outcome/impact statement:**

In response to research-based recommendations, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity made several changes to the Takaful and Karama cash transfer program: the targeting methodology was adjusted to reach more beneficiaries, the public communications around the program was improved, and expanded collaboration with other ministries turned Takaful and Karama into the centre-piece of a new national social protection system.

**Outcome story for communications use:**

IFPRI/PIM researchers conducted an impact evaluation of Egypt's national social protection program. The results prompted policy makers to allocate more funds to the program and make several adjustments to increase its impacts on the poor.

In 2015, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity, with support from the World Bank, launched "Takaful and Karama", the country's first national conditional cash transfer program. The Takaful (Solidarity) component, conditional on health monitoring and school attendance, targets poor households with children. The Karama (Dignity) component targets the elderly poor, people with disabilities, and orphans.

The results of IFPRI's study showed that the program increased household consumption and reduced the probability of a household being poor. Recipients spent transfers on children's education, including school supplies and school transportation, and on higher quality food, particularly fruits, meat and chicken. A more surprising finding was that the program did not increase women's decision making, perhaps due to increased tensions within the household regarding control of the allocation. Eligibility criteria were found to exclude a large proportion of the poorest households, particularly in urban areas. Finally, the evaluation noted that many households were confused by the registration and selection process and did not understand the eligibility criteria.

During an online conference held in December 2020 [5], Dr. Nivine El-Kabbag, Ministry of Social Solidarity, described the changes that were inspired by the recommendations of the impact evaluation. The reach of the program was expanded from about 2 million to 3.8 million households. The coordination with other ministries was enhanced via an electronic network (Unified National Registry initiative) for joint targeting of social protection programs. The transparency about the beneficiary selection process was enhanced through the creation of social accountability committees and a communication strategy using mass media was put in place to share messages regarding the program. Lastly, female Takaful beneficiaries were prioritized for inclusion in the new Forsa (Opportunity) program, which focuses on economic empowerment.

The IFPRI-led impact evaluation was referenced in the World Bank's 2019 Project Appraisal Document for an additional financing of \$500 million for the program [6] and played a role in the decision of Egypt's Ministry of Finance to increase the program's budget [7]. During an IFPRI podcast [8], Dr. Nivine said "So, I think I can say, comfortably, that the results of the research were used in a good manner with the policymakers, with Ministry of Finance to allocate more funds."

**Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:**

- <https://tinyurl.com/yhuasyh5>
- <https://tinyurl.com/ygx57wgx>
- <https://www.ifpri.org/podcast/research-talks/episode-6-power-safety-nets-egypt>
- <https://tinyurl.com/yjeqlnt8>
- <https://tinyurl.com/yfua7xug>
- <https://tinyurl.com/yj4kmxjo>

**Part II: CGIAR system level reporting**

**Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies :** Yes

**Policies contribution:**

- 736 - Additional financing of USD 500 million from the World Bank for Egypt's Takaful and Karama cash transfer program (2019)
- 26 - Changes to Egypt's Takaful and Karama Cash Transfer Program to increase its impacts on the poor
- 737 - Increase of the Egyptian Government's budget for the Takaful and Karama national cash transfer program

**Stage of maturity of change reported:** Stage 2

**Links to the Strategic Results Framework:**

Sub-IDs:

- Increased access to diverse nutrient-rich foods
- Optimized consumption of diverse nutrient-rich foods

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Yes

SRF 2022/2030 targets:

- # of more people, of which 50% are women, meeting minimum dietary energy requirements
- # of people, of which 50% are women, assisted to exit poverty

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

**Geographic scope:**

- National

Country(ies):

- Egypt

Comments: <Not Defined>

**Key Contributors:**

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- PIM - Policies, Institutions, and Markets

Contributing Flagships:

- F4: Social Protection for Agriculture and Resilience
- F2: Economywide Factors Affecting Agricultural Growth and Rural Transformation

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- FCDO - Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (formerly DFID)(United Kingdom)
- IFPRI - International Food Policy Research Institute
- Government of Egypt
- AUC - American University in Cairo
- CILAS - Cairo Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- The World Bank

**CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:**

Findings of the impact evaluation of the Takaful and Karama program [1]

**Innovations:** <Not Defined>

## **Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:**

In 2015, Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) launched the "Takaful and Karama" conditional cash transfer program.

In 2017, with support from the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, IFPRI followed a mixed-methods approach to assess the impact of the program [1]. A quantitative study was conducted, surveying nearly 8,000 households in most of the country's governorates. A qualitative study followed, including interviews and focus groups in six governorates to enrich the quantitative results with information on the local context and to study impacts on the poorest households, which were not part of the quantitative study. The results showed that the program increased household consumption (beneficiary households' consumption was higher by 8.4 percent compared to households not receiving the transfers, which is comparable to other successful conditional cash transfer programs) and reduced the probability of a household being poor. Recipients spent transfers on children's education and higher quality food. A more surprising finding was that the program did not increase women's decision making. Eligibility criteria were found to exclude a large proportion of households within the poorest quintile, particularly in urban areas.

The findings [1] [2] [3] were presented at a MOSS Seminar in October 2018, then at the Annual Takaful and Karama Conference (which was attended by 300 people including the Prime Minister and several Ministers) in November 2019 [4]. Hardcopies of IFPRI's briefs in English [1] and Arabic were included in the conference folders.

Dr. Nivine El-Kabbag's remarks during an online conference in December 2020 mentioned direct links between the evaluation's recommendations and subsequent policy changes [5]: "IFPRI conducted the baseline for us on our first conditional cash transfer program and according to the results that were issued by IFPRI and the recommendations that were passed, many things have been done that was positive in the program including ... [in relation to a recommendation on improving targeting] adjusting the proxy-means testing formula in 2018 and in 2020 [...] One of the issues that IFPRI has grabbed our attention on is how much the community knows about the conditional cash transfer and that our outreach needs to be strengthened, [which] we did."

The impact evaluation was referenced in the World Bank's 2019 Project Appraisal Document for an additional financing of \$500 million for the program [6] and played a role in the decision of Egypt's Ministry of Finance to increase the program's budget [7].

**References cited:**

- [1] Breisinger, Clemens; ElDidi, Hagar; El-Enbaby, Hoda; Gilligan, Daniel; Karachiwalla, Naureen; Kassim, Yumna; Kurdi, Sikandra; Jilani, Amir Hamza; and Thai, Giang. 2018. Egypt's Takaful and Karama cash transfer program: Evaluation of program impacts and recommendations. IFPRI Policy Brief October 2018. Washington, D.C.: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).  
<https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896295964>
- [2] Kurdi, Sikandra; Breisinger, Clemens; ElDidi, Hagar; El-Enbaby, Hoda; Gilligan, Daniel; and Karachiwalla, Naureen. 2018. Targeting social safety nets using proxy means tests: Evidence from Egypt's Takaful and Karama program. In Boosting growth to end hunger by 2025: The role of social protection, eds. Fleur Stephanie Wouterse and Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse. Chapter 10, Pp. 135-153. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).  
[https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896295988\\_10](https://doi.org/10.2499/9780896295988_10)
- [3] International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). 2020. Symposium policy note 3: Cash transfers as an effective tool for social protection and shock response in Egypt. MENA Policy Note 13. Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).  
<https://doi.org/10.2499/p15738coll2.134166>
- [4] Announcement of the Third Takaful and Karama annual conference.  
<https://www.ifpri.org/event/third-annual-takaful-karama-conference>
- [5] Remarks of H.E. Dr. Nivine El-Kabbag at online conference "Beyond COVID-10: Recommendations from five years of policy research in Egypt and directions for the future". Audio recording available at:  
<https://egyptssp.ifpri.info/2020/12/17/proceedings-beyond-covid-19-recommendations-from-five-years-of-policy-research-in-egypt-and-directions-for-the-future/>
- [6] World Bank. June 11, 2019. Project Paper on a Proposed Additional Loan in the Amount of US\$500 Million to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the Strengthening Social Safety Net Project. PAD 3054. (see page 10)  
<http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/257141562378463646/pdf/Egypt-Strengthening-Social-Safety-Net-Project-Additional-Financing.pdf>
- [7] UNICEF and Ministry of Finance of Egypt. Co-Published Brief on State Budget for FY 20/21. Transparency Brief No.4.  
[https://www.cabri-sbo.org/uploads/files/Covid19BudgetDocuments/Egypt\\_2020\\_Formulation\\_External\\_BudgetFramework\\_MinFin\\_COMESACEN-SAD\\_English.pdf](https://www.cabri-sbo.org/uploads/files/Covid19BudgetDocuments/Egypt_2020_Formulation_External_BudgetFramework_MinFin_COMESACEN-SAD_English.pdf)
- [8] IFPRI Podcast Series Episode 6: The Power of Safety Nets in Egypt.  
<https://www.ifpri.org/podcast/research-talks/episode-6-power-safety-nets-egypt>

**Quantification:** <Not Defined>

## **Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:**

**Gender relevance:** 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: The impact evaluation found a negative impact of the Takaful and Karama program on women's ability to influence decision making. Women's labor supply in income generating activities was also found to be lower among the program's beneficiaries. These findings encouraged the Ministry of Social Solidarity to emphasize gender more broadly in their programming, including mandating that 30% of economic empowerment opportunities in the Forsa program aimed at graduating Takaful beneficiaries go to women.

**Youth relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**CapDev relevance:** 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: Through several rounds of reporting on the findings of the impact evaluation, the IFPRI team shared lessons with the Ministry of Social Solidarity about how to improve the targeting and impact of the Takaful and Karama program. This dialogue with MOSS and other stakeholders improved these organizations' understanding of how the program is shaping outcomes for poor households.

**Climate Change relevance:** 0 - Not Targeted

**Other cross-cutting dimensions:** No

**Other cross-cutting dimensions description:** <Not Defined>

**Outcome Impact Case Report link:** [Study #2171](#)

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