

**Strengthening the Evidence Base to Support Healthy Aging in the Arab Region.
An International Policy and Experts Meeting**

Venue: Moataz Al Alfi Hall (Gate 4), AUC, New Cairo Campus

February 6-7, 2023

The American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), and Egypt Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED) are hosting a strategic meeting **February 6th and 7th** to discuss the regional needs for strengthening evidence-based policies and actions to support healthy aging. The meeting aims to investigate the regional demands and to launch an initiative for a long-term aging study modeled according to international and well-established experience in the US and Europe. Such an experience provides a rich evidence base model that has successfully contributed to knowledge and influenced policies and actions (e.g. health care, health insurance, pension and social protection) in more than 50 Countries in Europe, Asia, and the American Continent. It also sets the basis for global collaboration and state-of-the-art training.

The meeting is organized by the Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (IGHHE) and the Social Research Center (SRC) of AUC, in collaboration and with support from the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO), the US National Institute of Aging (NIA), the International Health and Retirement Study (HRS), the Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol study (HCAP), the Survey of Health and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), and the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI).

The meeting draws on the international experience and expertise, the current regional efforts, and the experience of the Egyptian initiative EM-age at AUC.

Participants in the meeting include high level dignitaries, scholars and experts from the Arab region. They include: The Minister of Health and Population in Egypt, the Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development in Egypt, and high-level representations of Planning, Health and Social sectors in different Arab countries, and international scholars with relevant pedigrees at different international universities.

Agenda of the meeting

Venue: Moataz Al Alfi Hall (Gate 4), AUC, New Cairo Campus

Day 1 (February 6): Focused Policy Level Discussion: Do we need a study of aging in the Arab region?

9:30 – 10:00 Welcome:

- AUC President Ahmad Dallal
- H. E. Minister of Health and Population Khaled Abdel Ghaffar
- Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development Ahmed Kamaly
on behalf of H. E. Minister Hala Elsaeed

10:00 – 11:00 Session 1: The International Experience

Moderator: Hassan El-Fawal (Founding Director, I-GHHE)

HCAP: An introduction, David Weir and Kenneth Langa (PIs HRS and HCAP)

SHARE/EM-age a model of knowledge transfer, Axel Boersch-Supan (Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) and Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe)

11:00 - 12:00 Roundtable discussion

Moderator: Noha Mekawy (GAPP)

Challenges and Opportunities for having an Egyptian Aging Study Modelled on International Experiences.

Panel: High Level Decision Makers in Egypt

Minister of Health and Population, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, President of National Planning Institute & Former Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Professor Public Health & Former Minister

of Health and Population, a representative from the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT). The panel will discuss needs and demands for such a study; resource and capacities; roles and contributions of different bodies; organizational structure; engagement of different stakeholders (scholars, experts, civil society); public access; and sustainability issues.

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Breck

12:30 – 14:30 Session 2: Regional Efforts and their Evidence Requirements

Moderator: Samar Elfeky (WHO/EMRO)

Overview of efforts to develop national strategies for aging (Virtual): Dina Tannir (ESCWA)

Dignified aging; country profiles and the evidence gaps: Lina Alqurah (Help Age International)

Country Experiences:

Lebanon: Abla Sibai (American University of Beirut),

Jordan: Khadeejah Alaween (National Council for Family Affairs),

Qatar: Hanadi Al Hamad (Ministry of Health),

Saudi Arabia: Walid Alkeridy (Ministry of Health)

The session will discuss the level of commitment, engagement and approach to address aging challenges, and the availability of evidence to guide actions.

14:30 – 15:30: Lunch

15:30- 16:30: Session 3: Models of Successful Collaboration

Moderator: Mohamed Salama (I-GHHE)

GBHI/IGHHE, Brian Lawlor (Trinity College Dublin)

**NIA model of support for the HCAP and aging studies (Virtual): Minki Chatterji
(NIA)**

Health research prioritization: WHO perspectives: Ahmed Mandil (WHO/EMRO)

Day 2 (February 7): How to Ensure Effective Utilization of Data and Findings of Aging Study?

Venue: Room P022, next to Bassily Auditorium (Gate 4)

10:00 – 12:00 Session 1: Detailed Model of HCAP Study and its Knowledge Contributions

Moderators: Kenneth Langa (University of Michigan) and Jennifer Manly (Columbia University)

Key findings from the first wave of the HRS-HCAP study (USA): Jennifer Manly (Columbia University)

L'SAHA (Lebanon): Carlos Mendez (Georgetown University School of Medicine) & Monique Chayaa (American University of Beirut)

TILDA (Ireland): Ann Monaghan (Trinity College Dublin) and Joanne Feeney (Trinity College Dublin)

HAALSI (South Africa): Stephen Tollman (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

The session will discuss experiences from the international HCAP network, harmonization of HCAP studies worldwide, the Language challenges.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 15:00 Session 2: The Potentials of the SHARE tool to Contribute to Knowledge and Actions

Moderator: Hoda Rashad (SRC/AUC)

The SHARE tool and knowledge contribution: Axel Boersch-Supan (Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) and Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe)

The potentials of SHARE tool to guide strategies: Zeinab Khedr (SRC/AUC)

Social determinants of health equity in analysis: Sherine Shawky (SRC/AUC)

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Breck

15:30- 16:30 Session 3: The Egyptian Experience: Potential Knowledge Contributions

Moderator: Ramadan Hamed (SRC/AUC)

EM-age study. From the pilot study to the next steps: Sara El Farash (Faculty of Medicine, Mansora University).

Impact of family support on the cognitive functions of Egyptian elderly: Sara Aymen (Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology, AUC).

Falls and Associated Risk Factors in a Sample of Old Age Population in an Egyptian Community: Abd El Hameed Ebraheem (National Institute of Longevity Elderly Sciences, Beni Suef University).

The session will provide a report on EMage experience and its implications for national study and Illustrative Research.

16:30- 17:00 Session 4: Closing session

Hassan El-Fawal, Director Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology

Hoda Rashad, Director Social Research Center

Axel Boersch-Supan, Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging and
Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe
Mohamed Salama, Associate Professor, Institute of Global Health and Human
Ecology and P.I of Egypt EM-age Study