

Strengthening the Evidence Base to Support Healthy Aging in the Arab region.

An International Policy and Experts Meeting

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 during February 6th and 7th to discuss the regional needs for strengthening the evidence base for policies and actions to support healthy aging. The meeting aims to investigate the regional demands to launch an initiative for an aging study modeled on the international and well-acclaimed SHARE experience. Such an experience provided a rich evidence base that successfully contributed to knowledge and influenced policies and actions (e.g. health care, health insurance, pension and social protection, etc....) in more than 50 Countries in Europe, Asia, and the American Continent.

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 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), Global brain Health Institute (GBHI), European Brain Council (EBC), and NATcen International.

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

Participants in the meeting include high level actors, scholars and experts from the Arab region. They include: The Minister of Health and Population in Egypt, the Minister of Planning and Economic Development in Egypt, and high-level representations of actors in the Planning, Health and Social sectors in different Arab countries, representatives of statistical offices, and universities

Structure of the meeting

Day 1: Focused policy level discussion: Do we need aging study in the Arab region?

Session 1: The International Experience and its Relevance to Egypt

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

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

The EM-age Egypt experience as a model for collaboration: Axel Boerche Supan (SHARE)

Roundtable discussion: 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, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, President of National Planning Institute, President of Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), President of Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF).

Moderator: Ahmad Dallal, AUC President

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.

Session 2: Regional Efforts and their Evidence Requirements

ESCWA: Overview of efforts to develop national strategies for aging (Sara Salman)

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

Country Experiences: Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

Moderator: Samar ELfegy, WHO/EMRO

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

Day 2: How to Ensure Effective Utilization of Data and Findings of Aging Study?

Session 1: Detailed model of HCAP study and its knowledge contributions

Towards an Egyptian HCAP study David Weir and Kenneth Langa

Moderator: Hassan Elfawal, Director of IGHHE

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

Session 2: The Potentials of the SHARE tool to contribute to knowledge and actions

The potentials of SHARE tool to guide strategies Zeinab Khadr

Supporting health care policies : Learning from SHARE Shereen Hussein

Social determinants of health equity in analysis Sherine Shawky

NATcen Presentation Sherine McCarthy

Moderator: Hoda Rashad, Director SRC

Session 3: The Egyptian Experience: Potential Knowledge Contributions

Report on EMage experience and its implications for national study

Illustrative Research: Presentations by Scholars

Moderator: Mohamed Salama, IGHHE

Session 4: Closing session