



**POLICY DIALOGUE ON
THE IMPACT OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS
ON CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS IN EGYPT**

5 - 6 DECEMBER 2022

SHERATON CAIRO HOTEL (DOKKI) – SALAH EL DIN BALLROOM 1

CAIRO, EGYPT

AGENDA

Egypt is being significantly affected by the Ukraine crisis, especially through its dependence on Russian and Ukrainian wheat (previously 80% of total wheat imports). The crisis' repercussions are visible in the macroeconomic context, the cost of living and poverty, food security and child nutrition, with possible amplified impacts on the most vulnerable populations, including poor and vulnerable communities, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Arguably, inflation is the main channel through which people in Egypt have been affected by the conflict, especially in relation to food but also non-food items and services. These effects are even more significant given the socioeconomic stress brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. Headline inflation was more than 15% in May 2022, the highest level in three years (CAPMAS). This compares to 8% in January. The continued rise in global food prices has been the main driver of this increase. Food price inflation in Egypt was nearly double the overall level of inflation in May 2022 (28% according to CAPMAS). The impacts have been further compounded by the recent loss in the value of the Egyptian Pound.

To respond to the effects of the Ukraine conflict and mitigate its negative impact, especially on the poorest and most vulnerable populations, countries should adopt a set of monetary, fiscal, and social policy responses. Shock-responsive social protection programs are particularly vital to mitigating the negative impacts of these developments. Notably these responses should be holistic in their approach to address multidimensional poverty in areas, including, nutrition, health, and protection.

This policy roundtable series is jointly organized by the Economic Research Forum and UNICEF Egypt to inform and facilitate policy dialogue around the impact of the Ukraine crisis on children and families in Egypt and accordingly propose evidence-based policy recommendations.

POLICY DIALOGUE ORGANIZATION AND SETTING

Over two days, this policy dialogue will aim to discuss evidence on the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the Egyptian economy, especially in relation to the significant effect on households and children. The dialogue will then seek to identify the policy measures required to best support children and families, with particular focus on how to enhance shock responsive social protection systems that are able to respond to crises.





Each day will start with a presentation of the policy brief prepared in collaboration with UNICEF. The policy brief aims to tackle the issues of disruption in imports caused by the conflict on food shortages and high prices of essential commodities, including wheat, edible oils, and fuel. Beyond the immediate impact of the crisis, the policy brief also investigates the long-term consequences of the crisis on social cohesion and what the governments in the region, especially Egypt, can do to mitigate and manage these impacts. The presentation of the policy brief will be followed by a panel of experts to provide insights on existing as well as desired policy interventions from different stakeholders' perspectives as well as enhance the policy recommendations of the Policy Brief.

The first day is dedicated for researchers, scholars and CSOs from relevant professional and academic fields to review how the impact of the crisis can best be captured and analysed from the macro and micro perspectives and propose policy recommendations.

The second day is dedicated to government and development partners to review the evidence available and propose policy solutions as the way forward, reflecting policymakers' perspectives on the crisis. The outcome of the policy dialogues would be a policy paper to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis on children and families in Egypt.





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FOR ACADEMICS, RESEARCHERS AND CSOS**

DAY ONE - 5 DECEMBER 2022

SHERATON CAIRO HOTEL (DOKKI) – SALAH EL DIN BALLROOM 1

AGENDA

10:30 – 11:00 Registration

11:00 – 11:30 Welcome Remarks (30 mins)

- Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum.
- Mr. Jeremy Hopkins, UNICEF Representative in Egypt.
- Overview of the partnership between ERF and UNICEF: Dr. Luigi Peter Ragno, Social Policy Chief, UNICEF Egypt.

11:30 – 12:00 Session 1: Evidence from the policy paper: The impact of the Russia-Ukraine Crisis on Children and Vulnerable Households in Egypt and the Long-term Socio-Economic Consequences (30 mins)

Speakers:

- Dr. May Gadalla, Statistics Manager at ERF and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in Cairo University.
- Dr. Nesma Mamdouh, Senior Statistician at ERF. (20 mins)

Commentator:

- Dr. Sherine Al Shwarby, Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in Cairo University. (10 min)



Access the event web page
for all related information and all presentations



12:00 – 12:30 Session 2: What Can the Research Tell us about the Impact of the Crisis (30 mins – 7 to 10 mins each)

The purpose of this session is to discuss the evidence presented in the policy paper, highlight the data gaps, and propose appropriate policy responses to shield families and children from the impacts and mitigate negative coping mechanisms. The session will also shed light on the impact of the crisis from a research standpoint and provoke discussions among researchers and scholars on the most pressing questions in relation to the crisis, such as how to best capture the impact of the crisis on food security, how to best measure its effect on the economy from the Macro and Micro perspectives, as well as the impact on non-nationals.

Moderator:

Dr. Luigi Peter Ragno, Social Policy Chief, UNICEF Egypt

Speakers:

- “The Impact of the crisis on the Economy from the Macro Perspective”: Dr. Chahir Zaki, Professor of Economics at Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and ERF.
- "Coping Mechanisms for Children and Families": Ms. Alison Fahey, Executive Director of J-PAL MENA.
- “The Impact of the Crisis on Food Security”: Dr. Heba El-Laithy, Professor of Statistics at Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University and ERF.

12:30 – 1:10 Moderated discussion on the policy paper and policy recommendations (40 mins)

1:10 – 2:00 Networking





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FOR GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

DAY TWO – 6 DECEMBER 2022

SHERATON CAIRO HOTEL (DOKKI) – SALAH EL DIN BALLROOM 1

AGENDA

10:30 – 11:00 Registration

11:00 – 11:10 Welcome Remarks (10 mins)

- Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director of Economic Research Forum
- Mr. Jeremy Hopkins, UNICEF Representative in Egypt

11:10 – 11:40 Session 1: Evidence from policy paper: The Policy Interventions Aiming to Offset the Impact on the Crisis (30 mins)

Speakers:

- Dr. May Gadalla, Statistics Manager at ERF and Associate Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in Cairo University.
- Dr. Nesma Mamdouh, Senior Statistician at ERF. (20 mins)

11:30 – 11:40 Key takeaways from roundtable discussion with academics, researchers and CSOs (Day 1) (10 mins)





11:40 – 12:20 Session 2: Panel on “Policy making in the face of the crisis” (40 mins – 7 to 10 mins each)

The purpose of this session is to discuss the evidence presented in the policy paper and propose appropriate policy responses to shield families and children from the impacts and mitigate negative coping mechanisms. The session aims to address the policy recommendations to address the most pressing questions in relation to the crisis, such as addressing child nutrition, food security, poverty, inflation, and cushioning the impacts on migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Moderator:

Mr. Samman Thapa, Regional Adviser on Social Policy and Social Protection, UNICEF MENA.

Speakers:

- Dr. Mervat Sabreen, Assistant Minister for Protection and Social Safety Nets, Ministry of Social Solidarity.
- Mr. Scott Standley, Economist at the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt.
- Dr. Imane Helmy, Senior Economist, Poverty and Equity Global Practice, World Bank.

12:20 – 1:00 Moderated discussion on the policy paper and policy recommendations (40 mins)

1:00 – 1:15 Closing remarks and next steps (15 mins)

- Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum.

1:15 – 2:15 Networking

