

Activities of the Civil Society Support Center at Assiut University

1- Participating in organizing the Economic Empowerment Forum for Rural Women, in cooperation with the National Council for Women and the University's Center for Monitoring Social Problems , on January 13, 2025.



2- Organizing a session on disseminating scientific evidence and its application in the design and implementation of social policies (December 18, 2024)

The Center for Supporting Civil Society at Assiut University and the Abd El-Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) organized a special session on disseminating and utilizing practical evidence in the design and implementation of social policies.

This collaboration between them is part of a series of seminars aimed at achieving several objectives, including:

- 1- Providing participants with fundamental knowledge of impact assessment methodologies and the use of evidence -based research to develop public policies.
- 2- Adapting global evidence to local context.
- 3- Exchanging experience by opening channels for dialogue and interaction to promote the use of evidence to improve the design of development programs and public policies.

This session highlighted the topic of “social gender” by presenting evidence from various projects and experience.

3- Organizing a meeting entitled “ Random Assessments in Policy making: The Importance of Formulating Evidence - Based Policies” on October 13,2024

Within the frame work of cooperation between The center for Civil Society Support and (J-PAL) -(MENA) at the American University in Cairo, and under the auspices of Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawy, the President of the University and Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development, a seminar entitled “Random Assessments in Policy making: The

Importance of Formulating Evidence - Based Policies” was organized. The seminar was presented by Prof. Ahmed Al-Sayed, Executive Director of J-PAL and professor of Economics at the American University in Cairo.



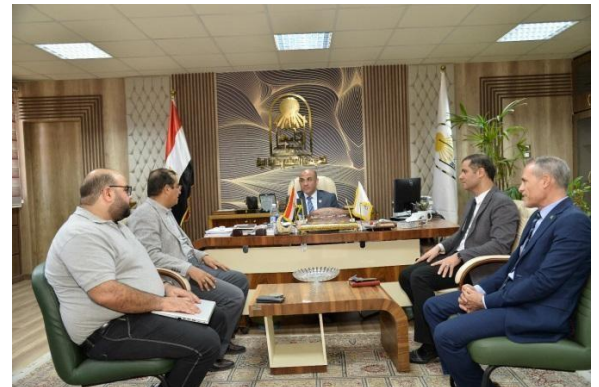
4- Organizing a meeting with Misr El- Kheir Foundation on September 15, 2024.

The center hosted Dr.Mohamed Mamdouh, Head of the Associations Development Sector at Misr El- Kheir Foundation, Mr. Mahmoud El-Shemi, Director of the Governance and Sustainable Development Department at Misr El- Kheir and Mr. Mohamed Farrag, Director of Misr El-Kheir Foundation in Assiut.

The meeting focused on ways to activate cooperation between the center and Misr El- Kheir foundation, in the light of the cooperation protocol signed between them.

Assiut University received a delegation from Misr El- Kheir, under the auspices of Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawry, the President of the University and Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development to discuss avenues of joint cooperation between the University's Civil Society Support Center and Mise El-Kheir Foundation.

The meeting reviewed various areas of cooperation between the two parties to activate the provisions of the signed protocol in the coming period. These include participating in supporting and sponsoring the Arab Center for the Sustainability of Civil Work, which serves as its strategic arm for researching civil society organizations to achieve the Center's objectives through this cooperation. Additionally the Foundation and the Arab Center will participate in developing local cadres from civil society organizations in the fields of institutional development and sustainable development.



5- Organizing a seminar on labor policies, presented by Prof. Burno Crepon , Advisor for Abd El-Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Dr. Abd El-Rahman Nagi, Director at the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development on April 29, 2024.



6- Organizing a meeting between Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawry and the scientific Director of the Abd El-Latif Jameel Lab at the American University in Cairo, and the director of Learning and Strategies at the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development on April 28, 2024

Dr. Ahmed El-Menshawry, Assiut University President, welcomed Dr. Burno Crepon, Scientific Director of the Abd El- Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab at the American University in Cairo, and Dr. Abd El-Rahman Nagi, Director of the Learning and Strategies Sector at the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, at his office. This meeting took place during their academic visit to the university to participate in a seminar organized by the University's Center for Supporting Civil

Society, entitled “ What Works and What Doesn’t in the Labor Market”. Also were present Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development, Prof. Alaa Abd El-Hafez, Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, and Prof, Abdullah Faisal, Director of the Center.

At the beginning of the meeting Dr. El- Menshawy welcomed the university’s guests and expressed his sincere gratitude to them. To participate in the symposium’s activities, emphasizing the importance of the joint cooperation between the university , represented by the Center for Supporting Civil Society and the civil society organizations.

This cooperation focuses on combating poverty, providing training and employment opportunities for youth, developing student’s skills and preparing them for he job market.

Dr. El-Menshawy affirmed Assiut University’s commitment to participating in the implementation of numerous national initiatives aimed at poverty reduction, most notably the “ Decent Life” initiatives and the “ National Project for the Development of the Egyptian Family”, under the patronage of his Excellency President Abd El-Fattah El- Sisi. These initiatives aim to improve living conditions, alleviate poverty and enhance the quality of life for Egyptians, thereby achieving the sustainable Development Goals and eradicating poverty.

Dr. El-Menshawy also highlighted the importance of joint cooperation Assiut University and the Abd El-Latif Jameel Laboratories for the Middle East and North Africa (J- NAME) to strengthen the impact of national initiatives, enhance labor market efficiency, promote ther use of evidence- based policies, and translate them into actionable visions. This collaboration is crucial for achieving the state’s national goals of development , as outlined in Egypt’s vision 2030.

For his part, he praised Dr. Crepon was warmly welcomed at the prestigious Assiut University, one of the oldest universities in Egypt.

He also commented the university's keen interest in youth, its commitment to developing their skills and its provision of significant support to them so they can become the driving force behind innovation and development.

He expressed his desire to broaden the scope of cooperation between the university and (J-PAL).

Dr. Abd El-Rahman Nagi welcomed the efforts made by Assiut University to enhance joint cooperation , emphasizing the foundation's commitment to expanding collaboration in many areas in the future, particularly those related to youth training and development.

The meeting was attended by the J-PAL team at the American University in Cairo, including Sabreen Attallah, Mona Osama, Menna Badr, Mariam George and Dr. Emad Mahmoud, a lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at the Faculty of Arts, Assiut University, and a member of the center's board of directors.





7- Organizing a seminar entitled “ Programs to Reduce Poverty in Egypt” in cooperation with Sawiris Foundation for Social Development on August 3, 2024.

Under the patronage of Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawy, the President of the University and in the presence of Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development, The Center in cooperation with the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development organized a seminar entitled “ Programs to Reduce Poverty in Egypt”. The seminar aimed to review the “Bab Al-Amal” (Gate of Hope) program, implemented by the Sawiris Foundation in the governorates of Assiut and Sohag to express the potential role of Assiut University in supporting some components of this program, as well as the scope of the university’s role in various poverty reduction programs. Speakers at the seminar included Dr. Abd El-Rahman Nagi, Director of

Learning and Strategies at the Foundation and Dr. Nahed Yousry,
Director of the Social Empowerment Sector at the Foundation.



8- Organizing a training program entitled “ Job Market Skills” in cooperation with Misr El-Kheir Foundation on March 7, 2024.

The Center in cooperation with Misr El-Kheir Foundation organized a training program entitled “ Job Market Skills” as part of the “ Pioneers” initiative. This four-day training program was held under the auspices of Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawy, the President of the University and in the presence of Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development and Chairman of the Center’s Board of Directors, and Dr. Abdullah Faisal Allam, Director of the Center.

The training was supervised by Dr. Essam Badry, Deputy Director of the Center, Dr. Mohamed Farag, Director of Misr El- Kheir office in Assiut, and Dr. Emad Idris, a member of the Center’s Board of Directors. Forty students from various university faculties participated in the training. Thank you to the training team from the Foundation:
Mr. Mahmoud El-Sayed, Head of HR department

Mr. Ahmed Rashwan, Quality officer, Assiut and New Valley office

Mr. Mohamed Hassan, Quality officer, Assiut and New Valley office

Thanks to the distinguished attendees:

Mr. Ahmed Hassan, CEO of Salhly company

Mr. Mohamed Khazami, CEO of Salek company

We are delighted to have implemented our first practical activity in cooperation with one of the largest civil society organizations in Egypt, and we hope to continue collaboration and expand its activities in the future.



9- Organizing a workshop on “ Writing the Strategic Plan for the Civil Society Support Center” (February 29 - March 2, 2024).

The workshop ran from February 29th to March 2nd, under the auspices of Prof. Ahmed El-Menshawy, the President of the University and in the presence of Prof. Mohmoud Abd El-Aleem, Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development and under the supervision of Dr. Abdullah Faisal Allam, Director of the Center, and Dr. Essam Badry, Deputy Director of the Center, with the participation of a select group of faculty members, civil society experts, and members of the Center’s Board of directors.

The report stated that on the first day of the workshop, the Center presented a lecture on analyzing the internal and external environment of its work, in order to identify strength, weaknesses opportunities and potential challenges facing the Center. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Hisham Issa, Project Director at the center for Development (CDS), Dr. Abd El-Rahman Nagi, Director of Education and Strategies at Sawiris Foundation for Social Development.

The second day was attended by Dr. Mohamed Karamani, Associate professor of Public Policy at the American University in Cairo and Director of the Public Policy Sector at Synergy Center for International studies, and Dr. Hisham Shafik, Director of Project Sector at Synergy Center for International studies, and a lecturer at the United Nations Research Institution. The workshop discussed an analysis of the Center’s relationships with various stakeholders, including those within the government sector, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations.

On the third day, the strategic objectives and initial draft of its implementation plan were finalized through discussion sessions. These

sessions included Dr. Saudi Mohamed Hassan, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, Dr. Heba Allah Rashed, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Dintestry for Community Service and Environmental DevelopmentCommunity Service and Environmental Development; Dr. Kamil Naoum, Capacity Bulding Consultsnt at CARE International; and Dr. Ahmed Bayad, Assistant Director at UNICEF.

The report explained that participants praised the workshop, emphasizing the importance of meetings that bring together scientific knowledge and expertise, represented by university faculty members, with representatives of development- oriented civil society organizations. The aim is to ensure that all development interventions offered to the community are based on scientific principals, contrubuting to the achievement of their intenede goals and supporting the state's sustinable development objectives.

The workshop saw broad participation from representatives of civil society organizations including, Sawiris Foundation, Misr El-Kheir, The Development Service Center, UNICEF, Save the Children, CARE international, Terre des Hommes Switzerland, and other major organizations.





The Center for Supporting Civil Society At Assiut University is one of the centers affiliated with the community service and environmental development sector at the university. It was established by a university council resolution in October 2023, with the aim of linking the service and development role undertaken by the university through the community service and environmental development sector with the development role played by various civil society organizations. This achieved by contributing to the building capacities of civil society organizations in Assiut Governorate and neighbouring governorates, utilizing all available specializations within the university, and thus helping to achieve the sustainable development goals.

In the light of Assiut University's strategic plan, the center aims to become a "Center of Expertise" for various civil society organizations. It

will act as a link between the advisory and technical needs of civil society organizations and the relevant units, centers, and faculty members within the university who are concerned with these needs this will contribute to the university's participation in a greater number of development programs and projects implemented by civil society organizations.

This is in addition to the center's role in organizing the presence and work of civil society organizations within the university, and supervising the various programs that civil society organizations implement within the university, or through cooperation with other units and centers within the university, in a way with the university's vision and plan and in a way that does not negatively affect the university's name and prestigious reputation.