

Sawiris Foundation for Social Development

Covid-19 Emergency Response Initiative

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD) has been committed to support the Egyptian government as well as marginalized communities most affected by the ramifications of the pandemic. The foundation has rapidly mobilized efforts and resources to provide all possible relief to a variety of initiatives that address this crisis. SFSD has been highly responsive and agile to cope with the pandemic, as we swiftly expanded our portfolio to include the “COVID-19 Emergency Response Initiative”, making the foundation one of the first organizations to play an integral role in alleviating the economic and social burdens faced by vulnerable communities. This was done in parallel to sustaining the critical contributions we provide across our core areas of work: supporting quality education, as well as the economic and social empowerment of disenfranchised people.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, SFSD launched a strategy with the objective of immediate relief in mind:

The first pillar of the strategy aimed to provide financial support and vital assistance to individuals who have been severely affected, by delivering food and medical supplies, psychological support, cash assistance, and job opportunities, especially for the most impoverished communities in remote areas. This was done through new initiatives specifically launched to combat the effects of COVID-19, or through our running initiatives where we readjusted our plans to cater to this crucial situation.

The second pillar of the strategy was to contribute to limiting the spread of the virus by supporting the efforts of governmental, as well as local and international organizations, to implement disinfection and sterilization campaigns, raise awareness on good health practices and prevention efforts, set up isolation venues, and support medical service providers with all necessary equipment to protect them from infection.

SFSD allocated approximately 109 million EGP to its relief initiatives to combat COVID-19, increasing the foundation's budget in 2020 to 290 million EGP. The allocated funds were disbursed as follows:

First: 51.46 million EGP in direct support of the relevant ministries and governmental agencies:

1. **The Ministry of Health and Population** with a total budget of 20 million EGP to provide its beneficiaries with preventive supplies, and cover medical needs.
2. **The Tahya Misr Fund** with a total budget of 15 million EGP to provide medical equipment, supplies and medicines, as well as necessary support to irregular daily laborers most affected by the situation.

3. **The Ministry of Social Solidarity**, with a total budget of 6 million EGP, to support affected irregular daily laborers, especially for women with families who have lost their main source of income, and to cover 50% of their debts.
4. **An initiative in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research** to support the Supreme Council of University Hospitals to meet their needs, with funding amounting to 10.46 million EGP.

Second: 51.5 million EGP to civil society organizations to support their relief initiatives:



1. **The Egyptian Food Bank Association** with a total of 11.6 million EGP, to provide food packages and medical supplies to support irregular laborers. This initiative reached more than 60,000 households.
2. **The Egyptian Red Crescent**, with a total of 11 million EGP, to help in reducing the spread of the virus and support the psychological state of those affected by it, reaching more than 100,000 households.
3. **Life Makers Foundation**, with a total of 12 million EGP, to provide the basic needs of the most affected families and communities, as well as medical service providers, reaching more than 10,000 households, and 1,350 medical service providers.
4. **Sonaa El Kheir Foundation**, with a total of 10 million EGP, to disseminate urgent relief supplies (hygiene kits, food packages, and cash assistance), as well as raise awareness on prevention methods, reaching more than 16,000 households.
5. **Al-Fayrouz Association for Social, Economic and Environmental Services**, with a total of 3 million EGP, to provide job opportunities to the most marginalized families in North Sinai, helping them establish a production line of medical supplies, impacting more than 1,000 households.

6. **Ahl Misr Foundation**, with a total of 3.9 million EGP, with an objective of protecting doctors, service providers, and health care staff against infection in university hospitals throughout Egypt, reaching more than 5,500 medical service providers.



Third: 6 million EGP to SFSD’s current implementing partners, through adjusting our running programs to include immediate relief components.



SFSD fully supported its implementing partners who faced difficulties during the first months of the pandemic by requesting that they halt their work on our funded projects for a period of three-months to ensure the safety of their employees, as well as the beneficiaries, while continuing to provide them with financial support to cover their full administrative costs. Afterwards we’ve modified our running interventions to help address the ramifications of COVID-19. **Our adjusted interventions reached more than 18,000 households who were most affected by the pandemic.**

Most notably, SFSD supported the World Food Programme with a total of 2.2 million EGP, to cover the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups of pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and children below the age of two who are food insecure. The initiative served more than 4,000 women in the most marginalized communities in Egypt.

Fourth: The Foundation provided technical support and follow-up for the grant provided by Engineer Samih Sawiris to the UNHCR.

Engineer Samih Sawiris provided the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with a grant totaling 900,000 USD to provide cash assistance to more than 2,000 refugee families most affected across Egypt.

Fifth: Ebda3 Men Masr goes digital

In collaboration with our strategic partner, ALEXBANK, and their ‘Ebda3 Men Masr’ initiative, we have worked on providing immediate liquidity to artisans who have been severely affected by the pandemic and the declining level of sales that have ensued. Their handmade products have also been placed on Jumia’s online platforms, which will help digitize the creative economy.

COVID-19 Response – Summary of Initiative

SFSD’s Contribution		Supported Entities		Number of Beneficiaries		Geographical Scope			
									
109 million EGP		15 Entities		More than 200,000 Families		All Over Egypt			
Interventions									
									
Cash Assistance	Food Supplies	Preventive and Medical Kits	Awareness Raising	Psychological Support	Job Opportunities				
Beneficiaries Profiles									
Irregular and casual labor	Economically affected groups due to the pandemic	Doctors and medical service providers	Covid-19 patients and their families	Individuals affected psychologically	Elder individuals in elderly homes, and children in shelters	Dialysis patients infected with the emerging corona virus	Pregnant and lactating mothers and their children during the first 1,000 days of life	Bab Amal beneficiaries	The most affected refugees nationwide