

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on social and economic life. Not only does the disease pose an imminent threat to life but it has also proven to be a disruptor of livelihoods. Battling the disease involves not only health and health system interventions but also demands a revision of social and economic policies and of social protection provisions.

**Hania Sholkamy** has been involved in a number of initiatives and projects that aim to understand the linkages of disease to social protection, enable capacity in policy making in the field of social and economic policy and provide an academic grounding in the social study of diseases and epidemics. Here is a summary of some of these activities.

1. **Webinar on Covid-19 and Social Policy 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020:** The talk addressed the articulation of social policies and public health arrangements as necessary steps towards recovery and survival. It built on known practices that have been implemented in times of acute and long-term crises, so as to ensure that the needs of all are privileged and realized. ([https://www.facebook.com/AlternativePolicySolutions/videos/242627683605350/?\\_\\_so\\_\\_=channel\\_tab&\\_\\_rv\\_\\_=all\\_videos\\_card](https://www.facebook.com/AlternativePolicySolutions/videos/242627683605350/?__so__=channel_tab&__rv__=all_videos_card))
2. **Social Protection in Egypt: Mitigating the Socio-Economic Effects of the COVID 19 Pandemic on Vulnerable Employment.** This research, which is awarded a research grant from the American University in Cairo, highlights interventions in four main areas: employment security, social assistance, health insurance, and gendered protection. The research is mostly oriented to Egypt but could be applicable in countries of the Global South. **PI:** Dina Makram Ebeid (Sociology) **CO-PI:** Amr Adly (Political Science), Hania Sholkamy (Social Research Center), Samer Atallah (Economics).
3. **Offering a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Edraak Platform in May 2020.** This four-week MOOC focused on social and poverty alleviation policies in general. It was taught in Arabic and had over 1000 registered learners.
4. **Paper submitted titled Middle East Women's Health in the Context of Patriarchy and Social Change** on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 for Egyptian Centre for Economic Studies on Social Policy Reform in Egypt. The paper examines the trends of social spending in Egypt over the past decade and questions the policy decision making mechanisms that determine spending on social protection. The paper will be a chapter in a book on policy reforms in Egypt.