

## CIRA Education Announces Landmark Partnership to Advance Inclusion and Safeguarding in Education



*The signing ceremony, held under the theme Empowering Communities: Partnerships for Inclusion and Safeguarding, brought together leaders from the civil and private sectors to celebrate this significant milestone.*

### Cairo, 17 December 2024

CIRA Education ("CIRA" or the "Group", CIRA.CA on the Egyptian Stock Exchange), the largest fully integrated education service provider in the Egyptian private sector, proudly announces the signing of a transformative partnership with Ataa Charitable Investment Fund for Persons with Disabilities ("Ataa Fund"), Fahim Foundation for Mental Health Support ("Fahim Foundation"), and Safe Egypt ("SAFE") for safeguarding implementation programs. This groundbreaking collaboration represents a historic step towards fostering inclusion and safeguarding across educational institutions in Egypt.

The collaboration between CIRA Education and its partners harnesses a diverse range of expertise to address multiple facets of educational enhancement. The **Fahim Foundation** brings vital psychological support, ensuring that mental health is prioritized in educational environments, which is essential for student well-being and academic success. The **Ataa**

**Fund** contributes its focus on educational and social inclusion, advocating for the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities, thereby fostering a more equitable educational landscape. Meanwhile, **SAFE Egypt** empowers children, youth, adults and care givers through education, awareness and edutainment through addressing critical issues like sexual harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, violence against women, and engaging men to promoting healing and empowerment for all. The partnership unites CIRA Education's extensive infrastructure and expertise in delivering quality education with the specialized initiatives of the three esteemed civil society organizations. Together, this coalition aims to develop comprehensive frameworks that integrate cutting-edge methodologies, targeted interventions, and collaborative approaches to promote inclusion and safeguarding at every educational level, from nursery to K-12 and higher education.

The partnership was signed by representatives from each entity, led by **Dr. Hassan El Kalla**, Chairman of CIRA Education, **Ambassador Nabila Makram**, Founder and Chairperson of the Fahim Foundation, **Dr. Sherif Sami**, Chairman of the Ataa Fund and **Ms. Sara Aziz**, Founder and CEO of SAFE Egypt. Their collective presence underscored the commitment of each organization to creating a safer and more inclusive educational landscape for all students. The event was further honored by the attendance of distinguished guests, including **Eng. Margaret Sarofim**, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, **Dr. Sahar El Sonbaty**, Chairperson of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, **Dr. Hayam Nazif**, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, and **Dr. Iman Karim** General Supervisor of the National Council for People with Disabilities.

Following the signing ceremony, a panel discussion was held to delve deeper into the themes of inclusion and safeguarding. The discussion featured esteemed panelists including **Dr. Abdel Nasser Omar** from the Fahim Foundation, **Dr. Iman Karim** from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, **Mr. Ihab Abdalla** from AUC/USAID, **Ms. Maha Helali** from The Learning Resource Center (LRC), **Ms. Dina Abdel Wahab** from Innovvete for Education, and **Ms. Sarah El-Kalla** from CIRA Tech. The experts shared their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in fostering inclusive and safe educational environments, providing actionable insights and emphasizing the importance of collaboration in achieving shared goals.

**Dr. Hassan El Kalla, Chairman of CIRA Education**, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership, stating: "This partnership represents a pivotal step toward transforming education in Egypt. By collaborating with Fahim Foundation, Ataa Fund, and SAFE, we are building a sustainable model for inclusion and safety that empowers every student to thrive, regardless of their background. At the heart of this progress are our students, the true locomotive for Egypt's future, emerging as leaders from this inclusive system. Together, we are setting a new standard for equity and innovation, paving the way for a brighter and more promising future."

**Mr. Mohamed El Kalla, CEO of CIRA Education**, added: "This initiative represents Egypt's first comprehensive strategy for inclusion and social protection, spanning the entire educational journey—from nursery to higher education. At CIRA, we are committed to building an integrated ecosystem across all levels of education that bridges gaps and ensures no school is left behind, creating a continuous and inclusive environment where all students can flourish and contribute meaningfully to society. This commitment underscores our vision of education as a transformative force for individual and collective progress."

**Ambassador Nabila Makram, Founder and Chairperson of the Fahim Foundation**, commented: "Mental health is integral to a student's success. By integrating mental health awareness and support into educational environments, we are addressing a critical need for our students. This collaboration demonstrates the power of collective effort to ensure that every student feels supported and valued throughout their educational journey."

**Dr. Sherif Sami, Chairman of the Ataa Fund** emphasized the importance of this initiative in supporting individuals with disabilities: "Inclusion is not just a concept; it's a necessity. Our work with CIRA Education aims to ensure that individuals with disabilities are recognized, supported, and provided with the opportunities they deserve. This partnership is a vital

step towards social inclusion, enabling us to provide resources for students with different kinds of disabilities. Together, we are paving the way for a more inclusive society.”

**Ms. Sara Aziz, Founder and CEO of SAFE**, concluded: “This partnership is a beacon of hope for vulnerable communities, strengthening our commitment to fostering safe and inclusive learning environments where all students can flourish. Empowering kids, teens, youth and women is at the heart of our mission. This collaboration enables us to broaden our impact and ensure that every student has the resources they need to be safe, speak up, thrive and succeed.”

This groundbreaking partnership serves as a testament to the potential of cross-sector collaboration to address systemic challenges in education. By leveraging their combined resources and expertise, the four organizations aim to create meaningful, lasting change that advances equity, safety, and opportunity within schools and institutions nationwide.

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## About Fahim Foundation

The Fahim Foundation is dedicated to promoting mental health awareness and providing psychological support to individuals with mental health challenges. Led by Ambassador Nabila Makram, the foundation emphasizes family involvement and works collaboratively to reduce stigma and enhance mental health services across Egypt.

## About Ataa Fund

Ataa Fund is the first charitable investment fund in Egypt for persons with disabilities running on the model of endowment. It allows individuals or companies to purchase certificates in the fund, waiving their entitlement to the proceeds in support of those with disabilities. This unique model aims to design and finance projects that serve, empower, and foster the inclusion of persons with disabilities into society. Through funding governmental and non-governmental organizations, Ataa Fund effectively monitors these projects. The fund currently focuses on three main pillars: Equal Educational opportunities, Economic Empowerment and Community-based Rehabilitation in deprived villages.

## About SAFE

SAFE is a charitable organization committed to empowering youth and women in vulnerable communities. By providing educational opportunities, vocational training, and mental health support, SAFE fosters community development and promotes equity and safety across Egypt.

## About CIRA Education

Established in 1992, CIRA Education is the largest provider of integrated educational services in Egypt. It adopts a vision based on its belief in improving educational activities in Egypt. The company manages and operates 30 schools, three universities and 9 Pre-Schools/Enrichment Centers in 12 different governorates, providing high-quality educational services. CIRA Education provides diverse portfolio of curricula in the K-12 sector, such as British, American, Canadian, French, German in addition to the Egyptian National curriculum.

The PreK student body is 668 students, while K-12 sector has more than 34,000 students. As for higher education, currently has almost 20,000 students in 26 different faculties, according to 2024/2025 academic year's numbers.

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