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IS ELIMINATION OF HCV BY 2030 A REALISTIC ? Egypt's Experience

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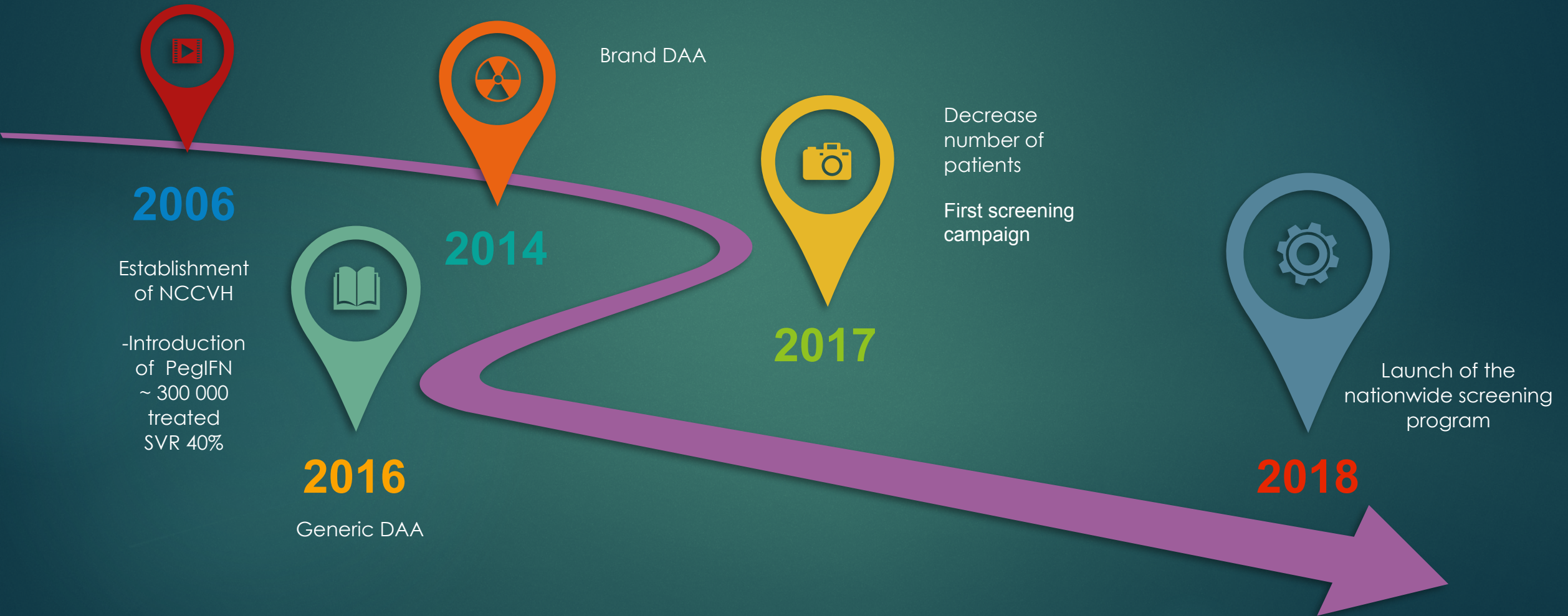
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, OCTOBER 6 UNIVERSITY

EGYPT



- ▶ Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is a major global health problem affecting 1% of the world population.
- ▶ In May 2016, the World Health Assembly set targets for the elimination of viral hepatitis, including reaching diagnosis, treatment coverage, and a reduction in related mortality by 2030.
- ▶ At that time, Egypt had the highest prevalence of HCV infection, a consequence of the prevalence of schistosomiasis and its mass treatment by unsafe intravenous injections in the 1950s to 1980s.

Milestones in HCV treatment in Egypt



Screening and Treatment Program to Eliminate Hepatitis C in Egypt “100 Million Health Campaign”

- ▶ In early 2018, the Egyptian government decided to embark on a massive effort to identify and treat all HCV-infected persons to achieve disease elimination over the shortest time period possible.
- ▶ Screening was planned to be conducted in all Ministry of Health hospitals, all primary and rural health units, Egyptian Health Insurance Organization– managed clinics, university hospitals, and military and police hospitals, and all youth centers

Phases of '100 million Health' campaign.

1

9 GOVERNORATES

13 Millions
were screened

2

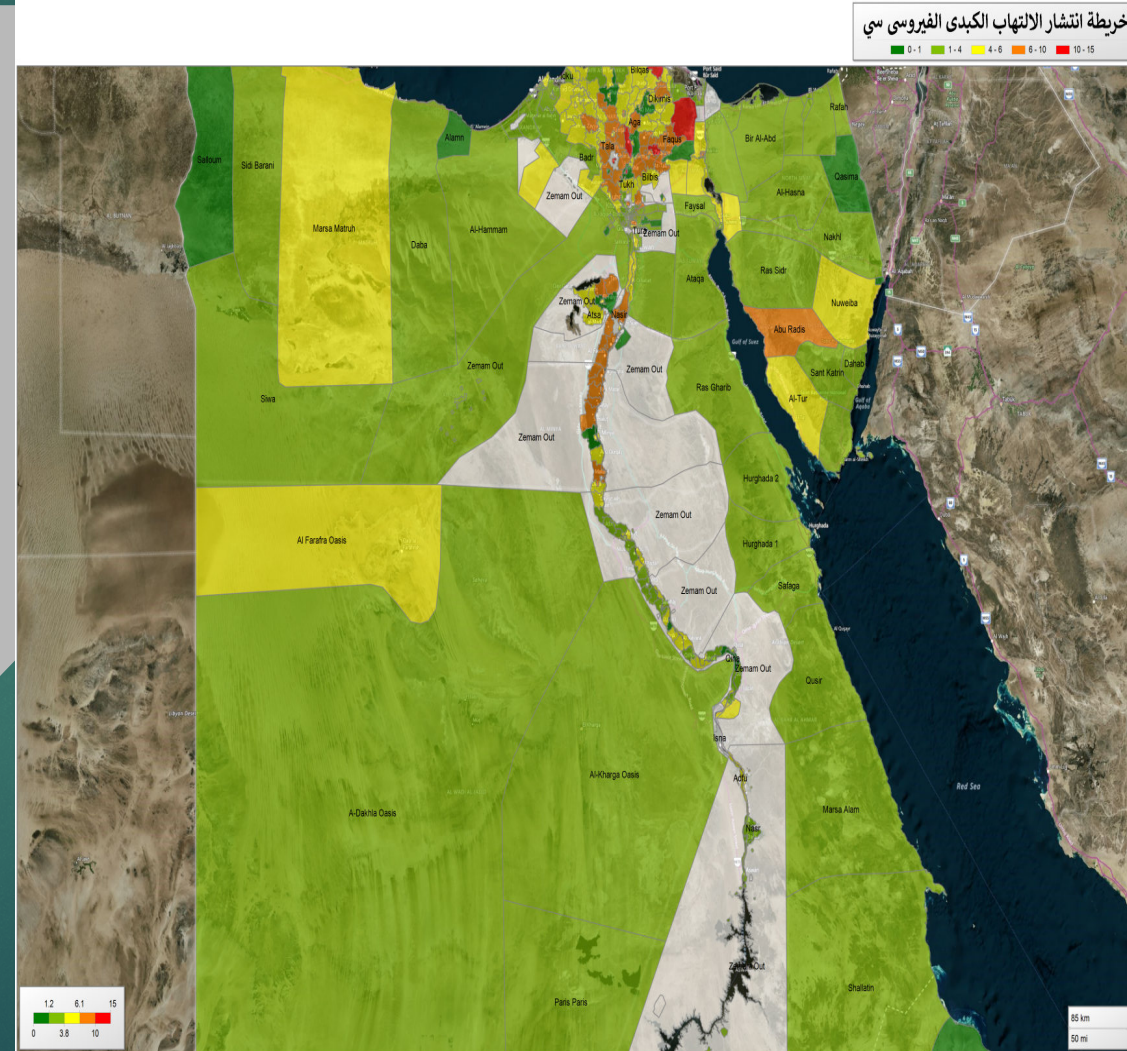
11 GOVERNORATES

18 Millions
were screened

3

7 GOVERNORATES


19 Millions
were screened



SPECIAL REPORT

Screening and Treatment Program to Eliminate
Hepatitis C in Egypt**Table 1.** Participation in Screening and HCV Seroprevalence According to Sex.*

| Variable | Men | Women | Total |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Screening target population — no.† | 32,207,165 | 30,298,399 | 62,505,564 |
| Participated in screening — no. (%)‡ | 24,018,428 (74.57) | 25,611,891 (84.53) | 49,630,319 (79.40) |
| Previously treated for HCV infection with direct-acting antivirals since 2014 — no. (%)§ | 692,632 (2.88) | 591,739 (2.31) | 1,284,371 (2.59) |
| Screened for HCV antibodies — no. (%)§ | 23,325,796 (97.12) | 25,020,152 (97.69) | 48,345,948 (97.41) |
| HCV seropositive | | | |
| No. of adults | 1,252,443 | 976,885 | 2,229,328 |
| Percent (95% CI)¶ | 5.37 (5.36–5.38) | 3.90 (3.90–3.91) | 4.61 (4.61–4.62) |



All patients were treated with sofosbuvir (400 mg daily) plus daclatasvir (60 mg daily) with or without ribavirin for a duration of 12 or 24 weeks, depending on the presence or absence of cirrhosis and the stage of cirrhosis

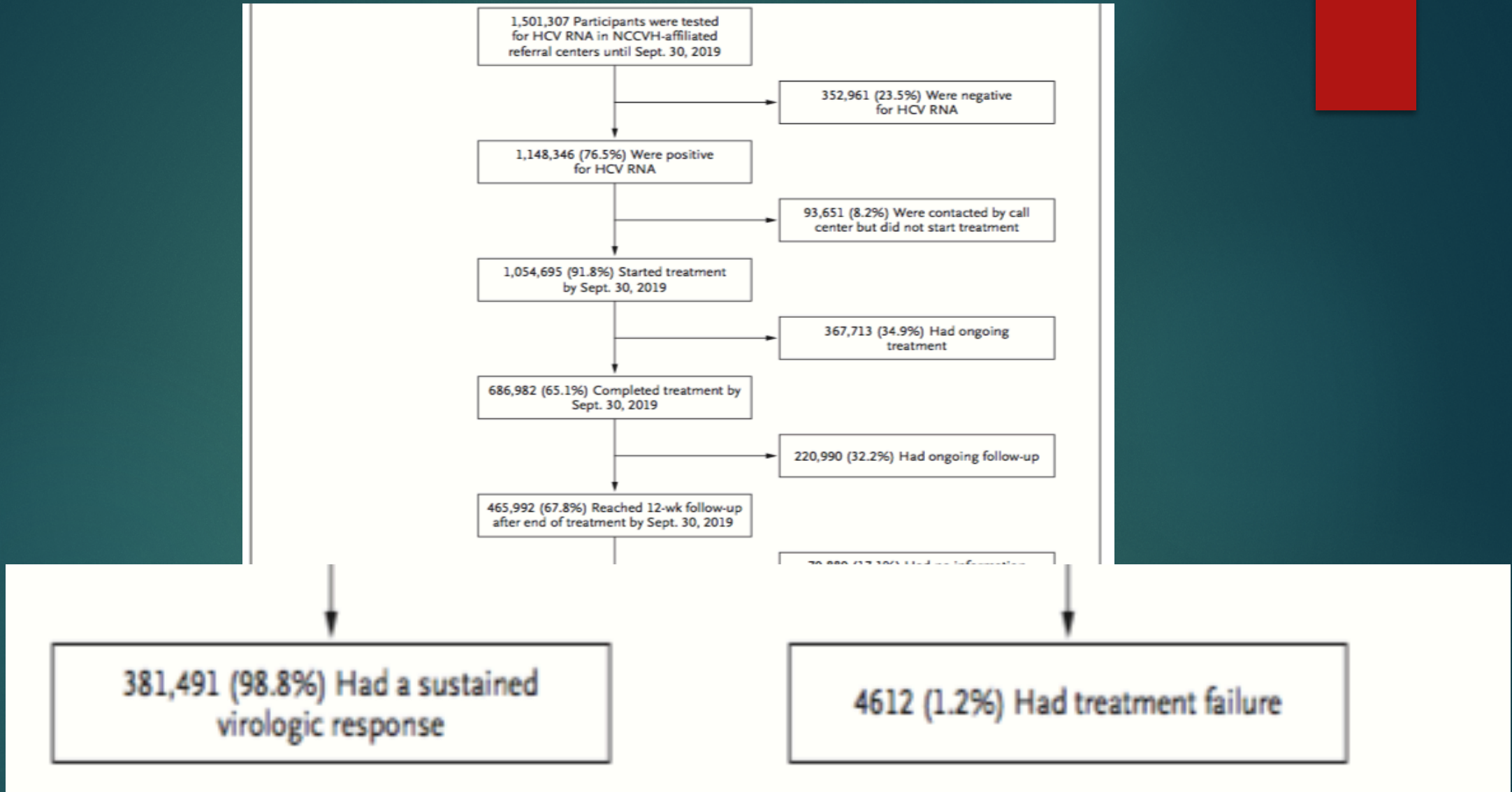


Figure 1. Outcome of Virologic Evaluation and Treatment in NCCVH Centers.

Patients were referred for clinical and laboratory evaluation, hepatitis C virus (HCV) RNA testing, and treatment in National Committee for Control of Viral Hepatitis (NCCVH)-affiliated centers and in Egyptian Health Insurance Organization-managed clinics and hospitals. The data in the chart are for patients with complete data in NCCVH centers.

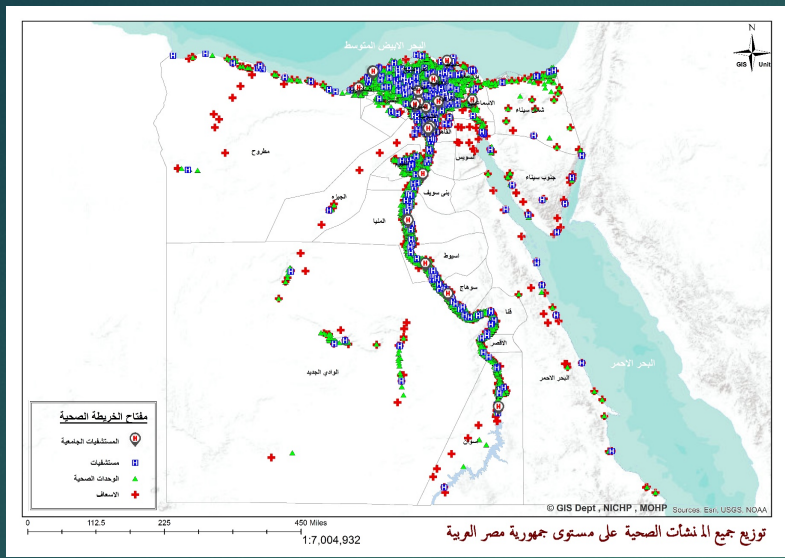


- ▶ Although Egypt used to have the highest prevalence of HCV infection in the world, the present results show that the HCV seroprevalence among untreated persons is lower than that reported in the 2015 DHS.
- ▶ Much of the decline in HCV prevalence between 2015 and 2019 reflects the effect of treatment with direct-acting antivirals, and some relates to background mortality and HCV-related mortality.



- ▶ The current screening program has shown that although Egypt had treated more than 2 million patients since 2014, HCV infection was still a major problem by the start of this program in 2018, with 4.6% of the previously untreated adult population seropositive.
- ▶ This still placed Egypt among the 10 countries with the highest HCV burden globally and represented a large health and economic burden.
- ▶ After treating patients identified in this campaign, Egypt has the potential to be the first country with a large HCV burden to meet elimination targets

2

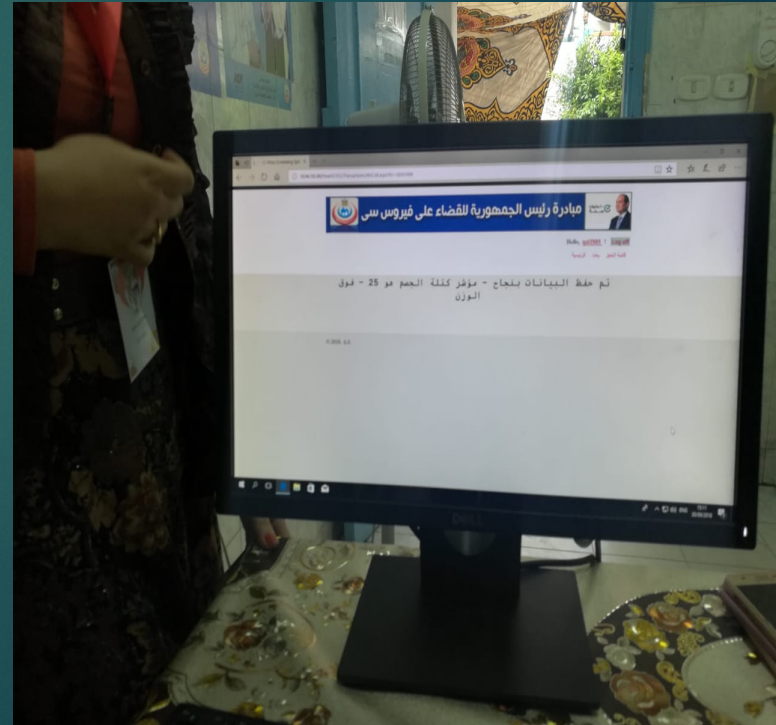


Started from the base of the health system (Primary health care units)



3

Build the simplest Information system.



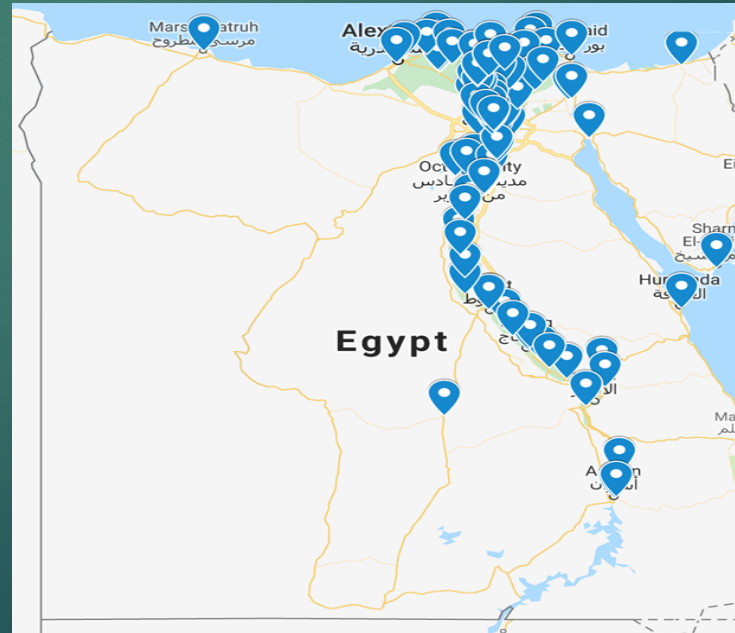
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Staff training



5

Highly equipped centers for viral hepatitis treatment



6

Community mobilization



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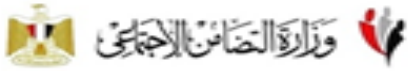


The success of the campaign for HCV screening and treatment in Egypt is also related to :

- ▶ The discovery of the highly efficient DAAs that turned HCV treatment history upside down
- ▶ The wide provision of the low cost generic DAAs in Egypt
- ▶ The support of the state with all its apparatus to the campaign

١٠ مليون
طحة

Multisectoral collaboration



منظمة
الصحة العالمية



البنك الدولي



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Conclusion

- ▶ Egypt has managed to implement a successful nationwide HCV screening and treatment program that was able to treat about 4 million patients.
- ▶ The sizeable Egyptian program relied on establishing a network of specialized viral hepatitis treatment facilities that provides integrated care for HCV patients.
- ▶ By screening 49.6 million persons over a period of 7 months, Egypt managed to identify 2.2 million HCV-seropositive persons and refer them for evaluation and treatment.
- ▶ Identifying and treating all infected patients is the major step toward disease elimination in the country that used to have the highest global prevalence and toward the first national-level elimination of HCV infection.



Despite these great efforts to eradicate HCV in Egypt, the expected result will be a significant elimination (not eradication) of the disease in Egypt

There is an urgent need to:

Strengthen prevention efforts as the nosocomial infection still represents an important challenge to the healthcare system in Egypt.

Thank
you!!!
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