



ITALIAN EGYPTIAN DEBT FOR DEVELOPMENT SWAP PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
May 2006



Acronyms

AAE	NGO Association for the Advancement of Education
AES	Agricultural Experimental Station
ADEW	NGO Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women
ARC	Agricultural Research Centre
CBE	Central Bank of Egypt
CLEQM	Central Laboratory for Environment Quality Monitoring - NWRC
COSPE	NGO Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti
CPF	Counterpart Fund of the Debt Swap program
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
GAEB	General Authority for Education Building
ICED	NGO International Centre for Environment and Development
IEDS	Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Program
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMC	Executive Organization for Industrial and Mining Projects – MOFTI
IMIS	Integrated Migration Information System
M.C.	Management Committee of the Debt Swap program
MAE-DGCS	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – General Directorate for Cooperation
MALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
MCC	Medio Credito Centrale Italiano
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MISA	Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs
MME	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFTI	Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MOT	Ministry of Tourism
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
NCW	National Council for Women
NVD	NGO New Vision for Development
NWRC	National Water Research Centre - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
PMU	Project Management Unit
SCA	Supreme Council of Antiquities
SRU	Strategic Research Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNODCCP	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
WFP	World Food Programme
WNRDP	West Nubariya Rural Development Programme
WRI	Water Resources Research Institute
TSU	Technical Support Unit to the Debt Swap Management Committee

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1 Origins: the Debt Swap Agreement

“Debt Swap” is shorthand for a transaction in which a government or organization in a creditor country retires a fraction of a developing country’s external debt, in exchange for a commitment by the debtor government to invest local currency in designated programs. In essence, the debt swap concept can also be viewed as a form of foreign assistance to a debtor country by its creditors, whether these creditors are commercial institutions or simply credit-granting governments.

Italy and Egypt signed the “Debt-for-Development Swap” agreement in Rome on February 19, 2001 with the aim of converting eligible Official Development Assistance (ODA) bilateral debt owed by the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Italian Republic into financial resources to implement development projects in Egypt. The total amount of debt subject to swap operations under the Agreement is approximately **\$ 149 million** for a period of **five years** (July 2001 – July 2006).

ITALIAN EGYPTIAN DEBT SWAP

- ❖ The **Italian - Egyptian Debt Swap (IEDS)** was established by a bilateral Agreement between Italy and Egypt, signed in Rome on **February, 2001**.
- ❖ The aim is to convert eligible Official Development Assistance (ODA) debt owed by Egypt to Italy into financial resources to implement development projects in Egypt.
- ❖ The total amount of debt subject to swap operations under this Agreement is about **USD 149 millions** for a period of **5 years: 9/7/01 – 8/7/06**.
- ❖ Funds generated by the debt swap should finance development projects aimed mainly towards **human development, poverty alleviation and environment protection**.

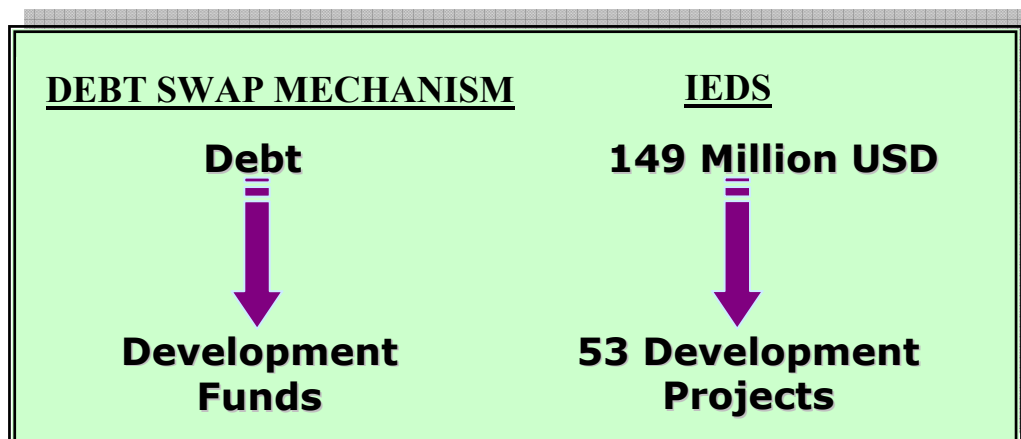
Egypt is one of a number of middle-income countries that have taken advantage of the growing international awareness for the debt relief of developing nations. Egypt has negotiated four bilateral Debt Swap agreements, with the governments of France (1994), Switzerland (1995), Germany and Italy (2001).

In Italy debt swap operations are regulated by law no. 449/ 1997 and law 209/2000. The regulation establishes, among other things, that swaps can be carried out only for the debts of those countries "for which a multilateral understanding has been reached" and, in that sense, among the creditor members of the Paris Club whose juridical/financial effectiveness is obviously bound to the related Applicative Bilateral Agreement of the multilateral Understanding on debt restructuring. The Paris Club in general foresees that, upon the request of the debtor country with which restructuring is being negotiated, pending examination on a voluntary and bilateral case by case basis, swaps can be done on an unlimited amount for assistance loans being restructured by the Club and for not more than 20%-30% of commercial loans (this percentage is lower for so-called "higher middle income countries").

- ❖ With the **laws 449/1997 and 209/2000** Italy adopted internal regulations in order to implement the agreements reached at international level on the issue of DEBT.
- ❖ The Italian law rules that debt swaps can be carried out only for the debts of those countries "for which a multilateral understanding has been reached" within the Paris Club.
- ❖ The **Paris Club** is an ad hoc group of official bilateral creditors that meets periodically to negotiate rescheduling agreements with debtor countries.

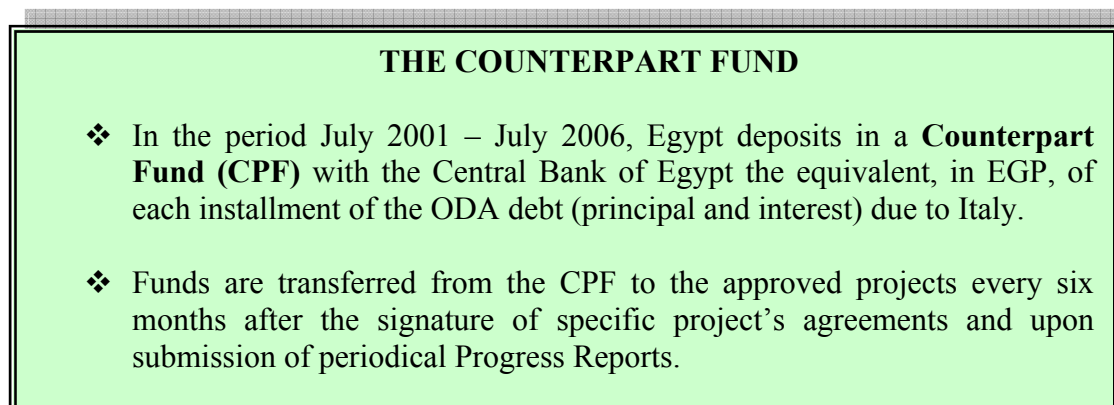
2 The Counterpart Fund

According to Art. 2 of the IEDS Agreement, a Counterpart Fund (CPF) in Egyptian pounds was opened within the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) and the Egyptian Government deposits into the CPF the equivalent, in Egyptian Pounds, of each installment of the ODA debt (principal and interest) due to the Italian Government at its maturity date, in the period between 9 July 2001 and 8 July 2006.



The Central Bank of Egypt communicates to the Italian institution the amount deposited into the CPF and after relevant verification the debt installment is cancelled. The exchange rate US\$/Egyptian pound is calculated at the due date of each installment.

The mechanism of the transfer of funds into the CPF is directly linked to the process of projects selection since the outstanding amount of the CPF (that is the total amount of the installments transferred into the CPF) should not exceed the total budget of selected projects.



Installments of funds are transferred from the CPF to the projects every six months according to the approved financial plans. They are dependant on the performance of the projects reflected in the progress reports and in the related updated work plan and financial plan.

3 Governing Bodies

3.1 *The Management Committee*

The Italian Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Program is managed by a bilateral Management Committee (MC) supported by a Technical Support Unit (TSU), acting as a MC secretariat, to monitor and evaluate the results achieved by each project.

The Management committee includes representatives of both parties: on behalf of the Government of the Italian Republic, the Ambassador of Italy to Egypt assisted by experts in the sector of development cooperation and other specific sectors as the case may be; on behalf of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Minister of International Cooperation, assisted by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Egypt as well as representatives of other relevant Ministries and/or organizations as the case may be.

The major tasks of the Management Committee are to monitor the correct implementation of the agreement, to select projects to be financed by the funds generated by the debt-for-development swap, to monitor their implementation and verify their achievements.

The MC meetings are held normally three times a year.

GOVERNING BODIES

- ❖ The **Management Committee (MC)** which is the highest policy and decision-making body of IEDS: H.E. the Ambassador of Italy and H.E. the Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation.
- ❖ The **Technical Support Unit (TSU)** is the body responsible for assisting the MC for monitoring, technically and financially, the implementation of the Agreement and of the projects financed.

3.2 The Technical Support Unit

According to art. 4.1 of the Agreement, the Management Committee is responsible for monitoring projects implementation and verifying their achievements. To this end, a Technical Support Unit (TSU) acting as Management Committee Secretariat is appointed under the direct responsibility of the Heads of the Committee. The TSU also provides technical support to the Management Committee for projects selection and for monitoring the implementation of the whole agreement.

The TSU is composed of Italian and Egyptian staff and maintains constant contacts with all the projects financed. The TSU established procedures for drafting the technical and financial progress reports to be submitted by the projects and constantly monitors the progress of each project, both from the technical and financial side, through reports, meeting and field visits.

The TSU also monitors the transfer of funds in and out of the CPF and their utilization in accordance with the plans of the approved projects, also evaluating requests for adjustments to the approved plans in order to adapt to the changing conditions during the life of the project.

Moreover the TSU implements strategies directed at the capacity building of the projects' staff where needed and, in order to strengthen sustainability and impact, the TSU facilitates also synergies among projects and links with other development initiatives in the country.

4 Selection of Projects

Funds from the CPF mainly finance projects in the fields of human development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection.

The following organizations are entitled to apply to the IEDS for financing

Eligible Applicants

- ❖ Egyptian Public Institutions
- ❖ Egyptian NGOs
- ❖ Italian NGOs
- ❖ UN Agencies

Funds collected in the CPF may also be used to finance local costs of relevant projects and programs undertaken by the Italian Development Cooperation in Egypt.

The Management Committee is responsible for project selection. Project selection is based upon the evaluation of the proposal presented by the applicant, the details of which are listed below. Each applicant must first submit their logical framework, and submit a work plan followed by a resource allocation sheet, and finally a budget.

PROJECT SELECTION

Projects are selected upon review and approval by the MC of a project proposal containing the following documents:

- ❖ Logical Framework: including Objective, Results, Activities, Indicators and Assumptions.
- ❖ Overall Working Plan and Annual Working Plan
- ❖ Financial Plans and Budget
- ❖ Project Document
- ❖ Institutional framework and implementation modalities

Upon completion of the project selection process, the budget of each selected project is allocated and disbursed according to the relevant annual financial plan. Within three months before the end of each financial year, the applicant submits to the MC a financial report for the current year and a proposed work plan for the following year and the relevant updated annual financial plan.

5 Monitoring of the projects

Financial and technical monitoring is very important for good management of the fund and the sustainability of the projects. Every six months all projects are required to submit a progress report to the MC. This specifies achievements, activities, results and expenditure according to the work plan targets. The progress report, which includes technical and financial data, is drafted according to a standard format.

The TSU assist the Projects to draft the progress reports correctly, while at the same time improving the performance of the staff of the projects on technical and financial management and thus adding to their skills base.

MONITORING

- ❖ All projects are subject to close **technical and financial monitoring** during their life cycle.
- ❖ Every six months each project has to present a **technical and financial progress report** to the TSU.
- ❖ Field visits and regular meetings with projects staff are carried out by the TSU.

For financial monitoring the TSU has adopted the techniques of “Performance Budget” and “Activity Based Financial Planning” where expenditures are related to activities implemented. Assisting the projects to adopt this vision required full involvement of the TSU in the area of capacity building, institutional empowerment and knowledge transfer to raise and upgrade the skills of the projects' staff. The philosophy behind this is not only to facilitate the monitoring activities but also to express a strong commitment towards improving national institutions performance through capacity building. Within this wide broader vision the monitoring technique becomes part of the project learning process which eventually results in enhancing the project performance in management and reporting.

When the necessary monitoring is done with an external auditor, this indicates the financial performance of the implementer, and avoids any mismanagement of funds.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The monitoring activity of the TSU is extremely helpful in identifying the specific needs of the different partners in relation to the management of development projects. As a consequence, interventions for **capacity building** are carried out by the TSU in order to improve projects performance, management and **sustainability**.

Actions for capacity building are developed through:

- ❖ meetings with projects staff;
- ❖ themed workshops;
- ❖ guidelines and tools for project management

SYNERGIES AND LINKS

In order to strengthen projects **IMPACT** and **SUSTAINABILITY**, the TSU is deeply involved in promoting synergies and links among projects.

This is achieved by facilitating meetings and specific activities involving:

- ❖ Projects funded by IEDS;
- ❖ Projects funded by the Italian Cooperation;
- ❖ Initiatives of international institutions and other donors.

6 Progress at May 2006

6.1 *Projects financed*

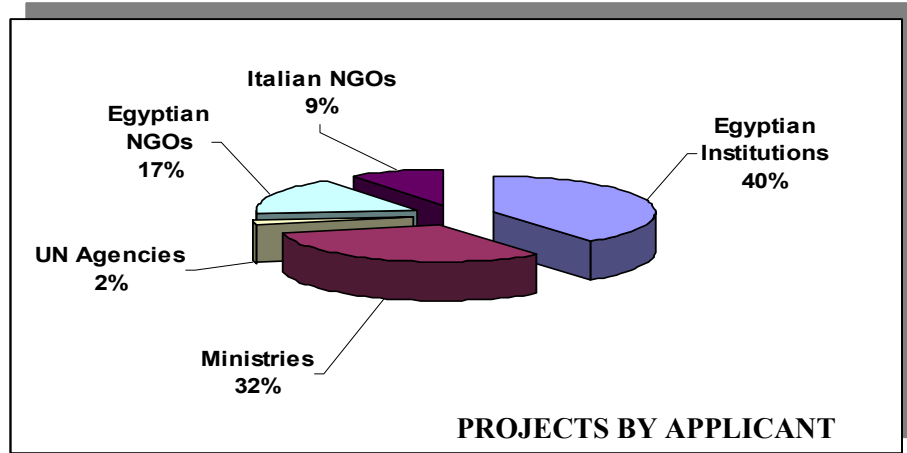
The Italian Egyptian Debt Swap program finances 54 development projects, including pr.54 concerning TSU running costs, with a total budget of EGP 835,284,174 as indicated in the following list.

Italian Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Program

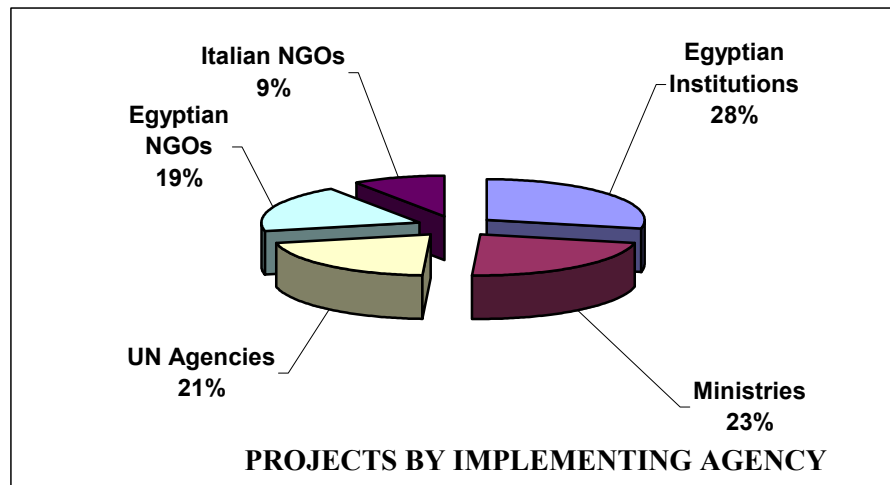
Pr. no.	Applicant	Implementing Agency	Project	Location	Duration years	Project Budget EGP
1	MALR	MARL	Rural Development Project	West Nubaria	4,5	150.620.000
2	MISA	MISA	Poverty Alleviation & Employment gener.	Assyut, Qena, Sohag	3	37.500.000
3	MOHP	MOHP	Family Health Rural Data Base	Behera, Kalubia	3 y 3 m	34.093.000
4	CAIRO GOV.	UNESCO	Traditional Arts and Crafts	Old Cairo - El Fustat	-	suspended
5	MALR	MALR / COSPE	Sustainable Rural Development	Wadi Rayan, Fayoum	4	12.613.000
6	MOHP	MOHP	Risk of chemical poisoning	Menia, Dakhalya, Cairo	3 y 2 m	1.983.150
7	COSPE	COSPE	Marketing Link Program	national	17 m	1.261.020
8	NCW	NCW	Multi-faceted Micro-credit for women	Mynia	3,5	6.807.400
9	MOT	MOT	Completion of Pottery village	Old Cairo - El Fustat	2,5	5.985.414
10	MCIT	UNDP	ICT for sustainable human development	National	4 y 8 m	48.434.754
11	MALR	MALR	Support to agricultural cooperatives	Upper Egypt	3	25.968.820
12	NCCM	NCCM	Protection of working children	Manshiet Nasser	3	4.190.709
13	WFP	MALR / WFP	School Feeding	Fayoum, BeniSuef, Minya	3 y 3 m	42.489.905
14	NWRC	NWRC / CLEQM	Instream wetland treatment of drain water	Gharbya, Dakhalya	3 y 2 m	1.375.000
15	NWRC	NWRC / CLEQM	Environmental Impact for hand pumps water	Gharbya, Kalyubya	3 y 2 m	1.425.000
16	CARITAS	CARITAS / SETI	Directory for special needs services	Greater Cairo	22 m	275.440
17	NCCM	UNDP	FGM Free Village mod.	Upper Egypt	3	2.079.000
18	NCCM	NCCM / UNODC	Campaign to reduce drug abuse	national	3	8.005.000
19	GAEB	GAEB	Schools construction	Minya, Sharkia, Sohag	3,5	42.768.683
20	NCCM	UNDP	Think Twice social campaigns for youth	National	3	14.584.416
21	MOHP	MOHP	School Health program	National	3	2.225.000
22	EEAA	UNDP	Environmental program phase 2	National	3	19.900.060
23	EEAA	UNDP	Inventory of national bio-diversity	National	3	6.841.410
24	NWRC	NWRC/WRI	Flash Floods Protection works	South Sinai	3	13.000.000
25	NWRC	NWRC	Agricultural Development in Southern Valley	Thoska	3,5	11.412.000
26	MOHP	MOHP	Leprosy elimination program	National	2,5	1.032.000
27	ISMAILIYA Gv	UNDP	Participatory Slum upgrading	Ismailya	3	18.744.300
28	MRI	MRI	Extension of Medical Research Institute	Alexandria	1 y 10 m	1.735.000
29	CARITAS	CARITAS	Food for work - leprosarium village	national	3	1.450.440
30	NWRC	NWRC	Assessment of Water Users Associat.	National	14 m	200.000
31	NWRC	NWRC	Water based Food security	National	14 m	200.000
32	ICED	ICED	Community Waste management	Cairo	3	1.916.000
33	MOHP	MOHP	HIV/AIDS Prevention	National	2 y 9 m	2.165.675
34	ALEX UNIV.	ALEX UNIV.	Water Desalination	Alexandria	3	5.483.840
35	MOHP	MOHP	Improving Health of working children	Menoufeia, Assiut, Cairo	2,5	1.900.000
36	FAO	FAO	Rural Developm. Communication Network	National	3	9.240.000
37	MOFTI	UNIDO/MOFTI	Traceability agro-indust. Prod. Europ.mark.	National	3	45.672.060
38	TOFULTY	TOFULTY	Street Children protection	Cairo	3	4.648.652
39	MOFTI	MOFTI	Relocation of Old Cairo Tanneries	Cairo, Robaiki	3	162.030.000
40	ADEW	ADEW	Empowerment of Female heads household	Cairo -Mansh Nassser	3	9.430.550
41	NCCM	NCCM	Environmental Development Awareness	North Cairo	2,5	4.250.000
42	BEHEIRA Gv.	BWADC	Rehabilitation of water supply system	Beheira	3,5	50.000.000
43	SCA	SCA	Yashback Palace restoration training	Cairo	2	1.600.000
44	APS/MAIS	APS/MAIS	Literacy and vocational training for children	Sohag	2 y 3 m	1.840.800
45	MOVIMONDO	MOVIMONDO	Women entrepreneurship	Giza	3	1.997.686
46	MAIS	MAIS	Improving quality of life of children and famil.	Old Cairo	2	1.999.900
47	CKSL	CKSL	Enhancement of NGOs kindergartens serv.	National	1 y 11 m	1.889.250
48	AAE	AAE-COSPE	Improvement of Education	Siwa	2,5	1.986.715
49	NVD	NVD-COSPE	Improvement of job opportunities	Minya	2	1.999.475
50	MOVIMONDO	MOVIMONDO	Children with special needs	Giza	2	1.998.050
51	MME	IOM	Support to External Employment Dpt	national	0,5	311.000
52	ABU SALAMA	ABU SALAMA	Protecting Dolphin habitat	Marsa Alam	1	1.327.350
53	MOFTI	ACC	Green Corridor Pilot Project	West Nubaria	1,5	1.902.250
54	IDS -TSU	IDS -TSU	Support to TSU running costs	national	1	495.000
					TOT	835.284.174

6.2 Applicants and Implementing Agencies

The share of the total budget among the projects according to type of applicant is the following:



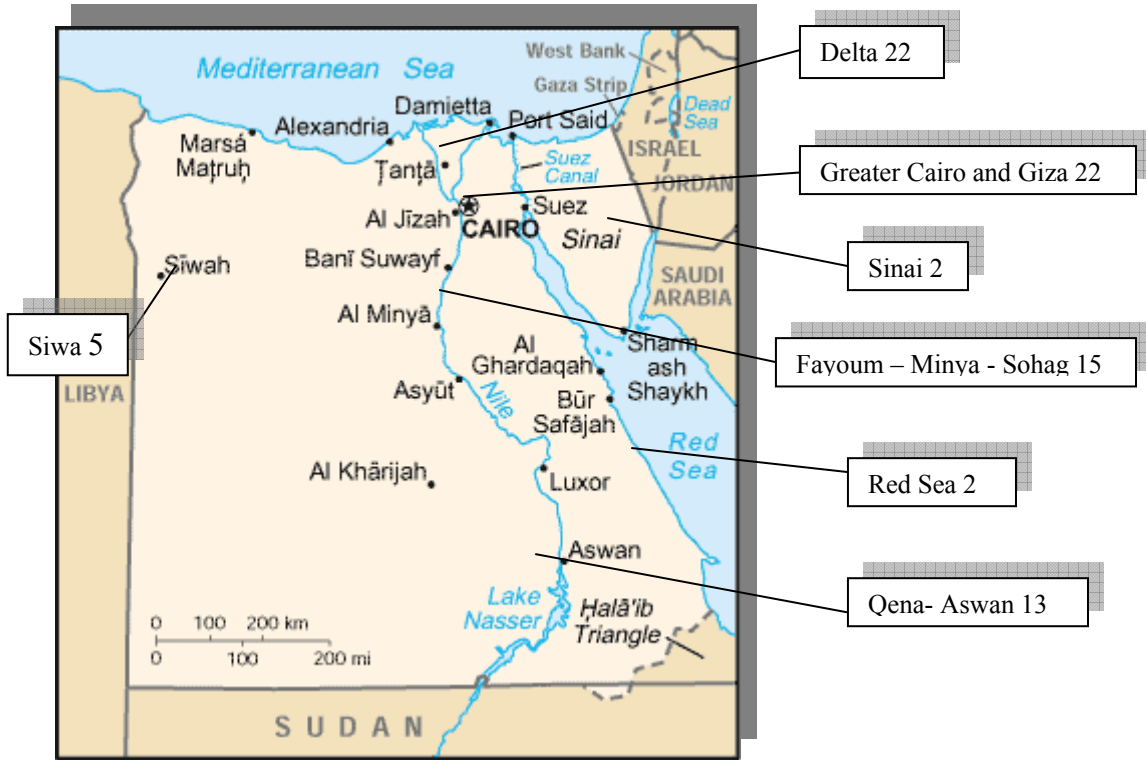
The share of the total budget according to the type of implementing agency is the following:



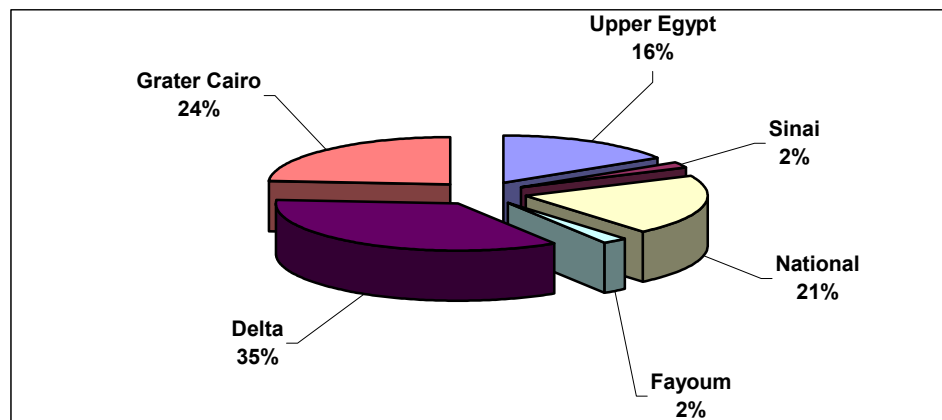
The difference between the two distributions is due to the fact that some projects approved to Egyptian institutions or ministries are implemented with the support of UN agencies or NGOs.

6.3 Geographic coverage

The projects financed cover almost the entire country: 22 projects are underway in the Delta, 22 in Greater Cairo and Giza, 2 in Sinai, 5 in Siwa, 15 in Fayoum, Minya and Sohag, 13 in Qena and Aswan, 2 in the Red Sea area.

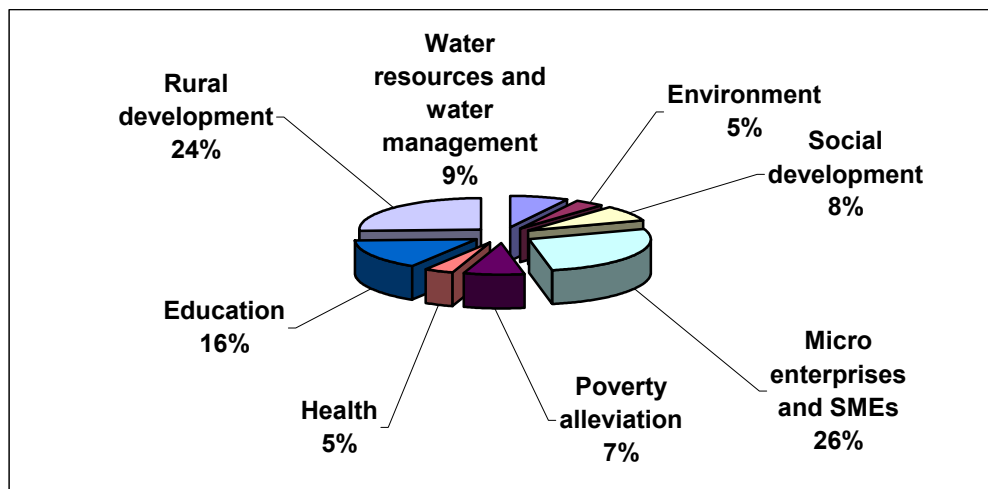


The total budget of the projects approved is shared among the main areas of the country as shown in the following chart.



6.4 Sectors of interventions

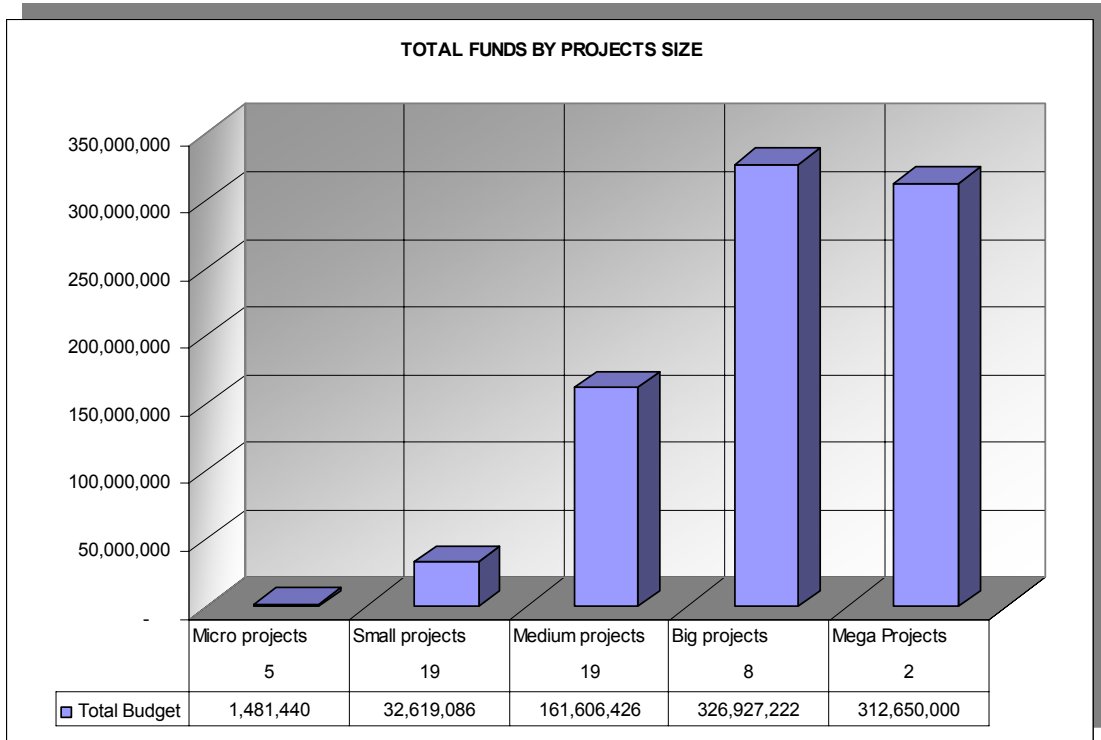
Obviously there is going to be some overlap between the various areas of development and the results of one project may be applicable in more than one sector. However, a simplistic break down of the total budget according to sector of intervention is shown in the following chart. The large shares for the sectors of Rural development and of Microenterprises and SMEs are due to the relative weight of the two biggest projects financed namely IDS/1 “West Nubaria Rural Development Project” and IDS/39 “Relocation of Old Cairo Tanneries”.



6.5 Projects size

The share of the total amount of funds, EGP 835.284.174, among the projects according to their budget size is the following:

- ❖ Micro projects (budget EGP 0-500.000): 5 projects with a total budget of EGP 1,481,440, representing 0.18% of the funds.
- ❖ Small projects (EGP 500,001-2,000,000): 19 projects with a total budget of EGP 32,619,086, representing 3.91% of the funds.
- ❖ Medium projects (EGP 2,000,001-20,000,000): 19 projects with a total budget of EGP 161,606,426, representing 19.35% of the funds.
- ❖ Big projects (EGP 20,000,001-50,000,000): 8 projects with a total budget of EGP 326,927,222, representing 39.14% of the funds.
- ❖ Mega projects (EGP over 50,000,000): 2 projects with a total budget of EGP 312,650,000, representing 37.43% of the funds.

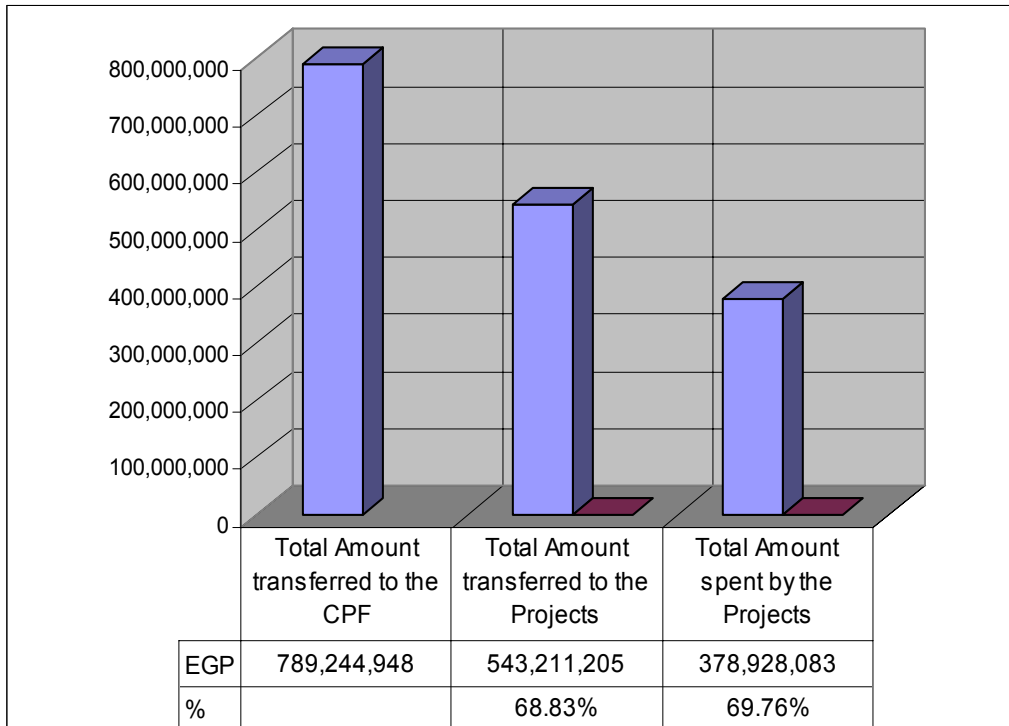


6.6 Financial figures

The total amount credited by the Government of Egypt in the Counterpart Fund account on 30/04/06 amounts to EGP 789,244,948 corresponding to the amount of US\$ 143,750,811 which represents about 96 % of the total debt which should be converted during the five years period of conversion of the Agreement (July 2001 – July 2006) amounting to US\$ 149,097,996.

At 30/04/06 the total funds transferred from the CPF to the accounts of the projects amount to EGP 543,211,205 representing about 68% of the amount credited until now to the CPF by the Egyptian Government, leaving a balance of EGP 249,822,557.

The total expenditures reported by the projects at 30/04/06 amount to EGP 378,928,083 representing about the 70% of the related funds transferred to those projects.



As per April 2006

- ❖ Total debt cancelled: USD 143,750,811 (96% of the total amount agreed)
- ❖ Total funds credited to the CPF: EGP 789,244,948.
- ❖ Total funds transferred from CPF to the projects: EGP 543,211,205 (68% of the amount credited).
- ❖ Total expenditures by projects: EGP 378,928,083

7 Projects Data report

WEST NOUBARIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Applicant: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
(IDS – 01)

Total Project Cost: LE 270,736,976

IDS Share: LE 150,620,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 102,549,857

Other Contributions: LE 120,116,975

Project Duration: 4,5 years

Location: Noubaria (Gov. Alexandria, Beheira)

Start Date: 16th September 2002

Completion Date: 15th March 2007



Potatoes production in demo plot



Veterinary services

Objective

The project is jointly financed by the Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Egyptian Government in an area of newly reclaimed desert lands in West Noubaria (West Delta) covering about 56,000 feddans (23,520 hectares). The area was recently settled by displaced farmers (67% of the population) and families of recent graduates (33% of the population). The total number of beneficiaries of the project is about 39,000 people living in 86 villages. The general objective of the project is to improve quality of life of beneficiaries, enhancing the livelihood of the target population and increasing sustainable economic activities.

Expected Results

The project is structured around four main components.

- The main expected result of the first component, “Community Organization and Development”, is the improvement of housing and general social services delivered to the population of the project area.
- The second component “Technical Operations” expects to improve water management, agricultural and livestock production, through training and awareness.
- The third component is “Marketing Operations” and the expected result is the enhancement of the local marketing system through training, financial support and technical assistance.
- The expected result of the fourth component, “Credit Facilitation and Enterprise Development”, is the availability of adequate financial resources and technical assistance to beneficiaries wishing to establish new economic activities in the area.

Progress at May 2006

The project has succeeded in completing housing improvement for 2,494 houses and has constructed and refurbished 26 community projects, comprising mosques, social event halls, schools, clinics, nurseries and vocational training units. Civil works for another 1,460 houses have also started. Training sessions are constantly implemented for beneficiaries on topics such as community development, vocational training, medical campaigns and literacy. In collaboration with the World Food Programme, 55,045 food rations have been distributed to enhance food security.

Within the Technical Operations component, interventions have been carried out on three main lines: crop production, livestock production and water management. Crop production has included the dissemination of new techniques and practices through 512 demonstrative plots and training courses, the increase in crop yields, the introduction of new varieties and the spreading of organic agricultural products to export. With regard to the production of livestock, farmers are having regular access to veterinary services including the use of artificial insemination techniques and to training sessions on breeding, fattening and feeding. Furthermore, 9 livestock production demonstrative units have been established and 9 livestock breeders' unions have been formed. As for water management, technology transfer and training are achieving a better performance of irrigations systems, sustainability and a more rational usage of irrigation water.

As far as the Marketing Operations component is concerned, the project has so far promoted the establishment of 7 producers associations in order to open new marketing channels and is carrying out specific training activities on the expansion of marketing, specifications of agricultural products for exportation and publicity. In addition, collecting outlets already existing in the project area are being used as marketing outlets for production and some small local markets are being established. At the moment, the project has succeeded in creating linkages between farmers and 2 private companies (Agrofood and Mafa) for the production of organic potatoes and summer oranges.

Finally, the credit line has been established and 19,500,000 LE has been disbursed in loans to 17,131 borrowers. The functioning of the revolving fund is supported by training programmes for applicants on the financial and economic basis for successful borrowing in livestock production and on the economic aspects of planning, managing and developing small enterprises. Loan delivery is followed up with visits to borrowers and bi-annual financial performance reports. 6,000,000 LE have already been recovered from the first tranche of the revolving fund.

An analysis, conducted through the use of indicators, of the impact produced by the project in the first two years has shown approximately that: 39,000 persons have received services from the project (34,000 men and 5,000 women); food security has been improved for 24,000 households; 1,200 persons have had access to improved sanitation; 1,300 farmers have been trained on livestock production, 9,000 on crop production, 2,000 on water management, 2,000 on marketing operations and 400 on the credit line. Next year, the project will include some activities integrated with the Green Corridor Pilot Project (IDS/53) into the Technical and Marketing Operations component.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAM

Applicant: Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs (MISA)

Implementing Agency: MISA

(IDS – 02)

Total Project Cost: LE 37,500,000

IDS Share: LE 37,500,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 23,899,063

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Gov. Assiut,

Qena and Sohag

Start Date: 3rd August, 2004

Completion Date: 2nd August 2007



Beneficiaries of micro credit scheme

Objective

This is an expansion project to the successful “*Poverty Alleviation Program*” implemented by the Italian Cooperation together with the Egyptian Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs in the Governorate of Giza and Minya.

The project’s purpose is to reduce unemployment by encouraging poor people of the targeted areas, with a family income of less than LE 900 a month, to participate in the Egyptian micro-economy. A revolving loan scheme is the main tool of this program. The loan can be used for starting new activities or expanding the existing ones as well as providing social services (sanitation, water toilet Maintenances, birth certificates, ecological ovens, a library, potable water, ID cards and a socio-cultural club) to the target group.

Expected Results

In three years the project plans to achieve the following results:

- A Revolving fund scheme for each Community Development Association (CDA) created, functioning and sustainable.
- Creation of new employment increased.
- Monthly income of beneficiaries increased.
- Women’s status in terms of income and community participation improved
- PAP, MISA and CDA’s staff trained to provide the required services and support to the beneficiaries.

Progress at May 2006

The project aims to improve the socio-economic living conditions of impoverished people from thirty six CDAs (Community Development Association) located in the governorates of Assiut, Qena and Sohag.

CDAs play a crucial role in distributing loans as they are the main channels to reach the target group. In each CDA a “credit loan unit” is established. The beneficiaries must satisfy the following criteria:

1. between 21-60 years old
2. Egyptian nationality
3. valid ID Card.
4. family monthly income up to LE 900
5. individual monthly income not less than LE 150
6. good reputation.
7. resident in one of the target areas

The program finances only activities that belong to the following four business categories: Agriculture, Service, Commerce and Industry.

To date, 3500 loans, with a total amount of 2,574,000 LE, were disbursed in 18 CDAs with a repayment rate of around 99%. The interest charged is 11% with an average duration of three months. Up to August 2005, 18 CDAs received LE 143,000 of which LE 133,000 for revolving loans and 10,000 LE for social projects consisting of the supply of clean water and sanitation facilities, construction of libraries and socio-cultural centres and issuing and delivering ID cards. Already more than 1500 ID cards have been issued to women beneficiaries.

The project’s capacity building component focuses on training the CDA’s board members, the staff working in the credit units and the MISA employees.

In addition the project provides vocational training to help the beneficiaries run their activities efficiently.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DATA BASE IN RURAL AREAS WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY HEALTH APPROACH

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 03)

Total Project Cost: LE 34,093,000

IDS Share: LE 34,093,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 30,412,042

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years and 3 months

Location: Gov. Beheira, Kalubya

Start Date: 1st April 2003

Completion Date: 30th April 2006



Upgraded training facilities in Kalubya



Medical examinations at FHUs

Objective

Within the framework of the Egyptian Health Sector Reform, the project aims to eliminate the lack of an integrated health information system which does not allow, especially in rural areas of Egypt, easy identification of health problems and elaboration of solution strategies. Therefore, its main objective is to improve the social and health conditions of the population in the governorates of Beheira and Kalubya, reorganizing the public health system through the Family Health Approach, which is based on decentralised decision-making.

Expected Results

The main expected results are:

- 295 health centres in Beheira and 162 in Kalubya are transformed into Family Health Units (FHUs);
- 200 FHUs are physically upgraded;
- improved knowledge and skills of medical and non-medical staff in relation to the Family Health Approach;
- each FHU has formulated its own health plan.

Progress at May 2006

Until now, the project has been carrying out interventions for the transformation of health centres into FHUs in 266 units in Beheira and 168 in Kalubya (increasing, in this case, the target

of the expected result), by arranging family filing rooms and executing demographic health surveys for the data base. More than 4,700,000 persons have been surveyed in the target area.

Tender procedures and provision of medical and training equipment are being implemented in target FHUs for the physical upgrading.

6,476 trainees from the staff of FHUs (3,176 in Beheira and 3,300 in Kalubya) have benefited from upgrading courses.

The project is also carrying out an accreditation program targeting 131 FHUs that received interventions (64 in Beheira and 67 in Kalubya) in order to obtain the official recognition from the Ministry of Health of the fulfilment of the quality standards established in the ministerial decree n. 147.

**REVITALIZATION OF TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS AND ENVIRONMENT
IN OLD CAIRO**

Applicant: Ministry of Tourism
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Tourism, UNESCO
(IDS – 04)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,562,800
IDS Share: LE 1,562,800
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 0
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years
Location: Gov. Cairo
Start Date: Not started
Completion Date:



A young pottery craftsman of El Fustat



Blown glasses produced in El Fustat

Objective

General objective of the project is the preservation and development of traditional arts and crafts of El Fustat district by providing training courses on the main traditional handicrafts production of the area such as pottery, textiles and glass blowing. The project is a complementary initiative to the project “Completion of Pottery Village”, financed by the same IEDS.

Expected Results

- Equipping and starting up of a Handicraft Centre in El Fustat district.
- Promotion of local arts and handicrafts within the Mediterranean Programme of UNESCO.

Progress at May 2006

Due to lack of agreement and coordination between the Ministry of Tourism and UNESCO, the Management Committee of the Debt Swap Program decided to suspend the project for the time being.

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WADI EL RAYAN AND FAYOUM NEW LAND SETTLEMENT

Applicant: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation/COSPE
(IDS – 05)

Total Project Cost: LE 12,613,000

IDS Share: LE 12,613,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 7,599,731

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 4 years

Location: Gov. Fayoum

Start Date: 1st July 2003

Completion Date: 30th June 2007



Housing improvement



Improving irrigation system

Objective

The target group of this pilot project is 2300 new settler families of landless farmers of which 30% are headed by women. The goal of the project is to foster settlers' economic development in the Wadi El Rayan and Fayoum through the development of local technical, business and financial services to support the conversion of the land and the growth of a sustainable export programme for organic agriculture.

Expected Results

- Quality and quantity of arable land and animal production in the area improved;
- A credit scheme for agricultural and non agricultural activities is established;
- At least 750 farms are certified to produce organic agricultural products.
- Local handicraft activities, specifically for women and young girls, are created.

Progress at May 2006

The main purpose of the project is to integrate the economic activities of the new land settler's communities and upgrade the environmental conditions of the protected area promoting a sustainable use of the soil and water resources. It is expected also to create new job opportunities for the inhabitants of the area and encourage the export of organic agricultural products improving the drip irrigation distribution system and market capabilities for export.

The Italian NGO Cospe is providing technical assistance in the training component focusing on four sectors: institutional development, credit facilities, animal production and plant production. Moreover Cospe is supporting the farmers in improving their marketing skills through specific marketing training and organizing tours to visit factories for packaging and exporting agricultural crops.

To date, a socio-economic survey for evaluating the needs of the target group and a study on soil composition and water quality were conducted, training courses on managing, operating and monitoring credit programs were organized to the staff of the micro credit unit and awareness campaigns were executed to disseminate the importance of organic agricultural production. In addition, they started infrastructural works in almost 1.000 houses of the displaced farmers.

Regarding the marketing component related to organic agriculture, 10 export contracts for chamomile and a Protocol of cooperation for Natural Agriculture inputs between the Office of Graduate Affairs and Al Ahram Company were signed.

Cospe has also facilitated the registration process of 50 farms as organic farms under ECOA (Egyptian Center for Organic Agriculture) and introduced the basic awareness principles of the Fair Trade approach.

Furthermore, the project started the disbursement of loans to 150 beneficiaries to modernize irrigation systems and loans to 300 beneficiaries for new drip lines to overcome soil salinity and alkalinity.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF THE RISK OF CHEMICAL POISONING AND UNSAFE HANDLING OF CHEMICALS

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 06)

Total Project Cost: LE 2,583,150

IDS Share: LE 1,983,150

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,983,150

Other Contributions: LE 600,000

Project Duration: 3 years and 2 months

Location: Gov. Cairo, Dakhalya, Minya

Start Date: 1st March 2003

Completion Date: 30th April 2006



Medical staff of PIC in Dakhalya



Training for staff of PICs

Objective

The project tackles the problem of the lack of appropriate knowledge in managing prevention and care of disease caused by exposure to toxic agents. This is a widespread phenomenon in Egypt due to very poor safety measures, especially in the work place. Therefore, it aims at developing toxicovigilance capabilities and at providing adequate medical treatment to poisoned people through the establishment of three pilot Poison Information Centres (PICs) in the governorates of Cairo, Minya and Dakhalya. The experience in the pilot centres is expected to contribute to the establishment of a national network of PICs.

The PIC is conceived as a specialized centre, depending on the Ministry of Health and Population, for providing rapid and effective technical assistance for the management of poisoning cases and of environmental contamination by chemical and toxic agents; to guarantee the availability of experts and an efficient surveillance system for toxicovigilance; to support the Ministry of Health in disseminating safety guidelines for the prevention and management of chemical poisoning.

Expected Results

- PICs established and plan of action drafted;
- PICs have fully trained staff ;
- increased availability of specific antidotes in the PICs;

- staff of the Ministry of Health and private physicians are trained on management of poisoning cases, toxicovigilance and chemical safety.

Achieved Results

The project completed its activities at the expected end date. The establishment of the PICs was successfully supported through physical refurbishment of the premises and provision of necessary equipment, 14 categories of specific antidotes and of a special software used for identifying sources of poisoning and collecting relevant data. The PICs have also started their activities on the basis of a plan of action.

In relation to the training programme, the project trained 15 physicians from the PICs and 832 employees from the MOHP (364 physicians, 364 nurses, 104 sanitarians). In addition in order to strengthen the capacity of toxicovigilance at a wider level and to increase awareness on prevention, the project implemented workshops for private physicians and representatives of the agricultural and educational sector.

According to some preliminary data concerning the centre established in the Governorate of Dakhalya, 1,500 cases of chemical poisoning have been successfully treated since 2004 and the centre has received 700 calls from health units requesting technical assistance for specific treatment. The main factors of chemical poisoning registered in Dakhalya concern contact with pesticides in the agricultural sector and inappropriate consumption of pharmaceutical drugs, especially for attempts of suicide.

MARKETING LINK PROGRAMME: LINKING CRAFTS PRODUCERS FROM MARGINAL COMMUNITIES TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Applicant: Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries (COSPE)
Implementing Agency: COSPE in partnership with Egypt Crafts Center (ECC)
(IDS – 07)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,261,020
IDS Share: LE 1,261,020
Funds Transferred at May 2006 : LE 1,261,020
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 17 months
Location: National (Gov. Aswan, Cairo, Matrouh, Sohag, South Sinai, Fayoum)
Start Date: 13th April 2003
Completion Date: 30th September 2004



The Egypt Crafts Centre shop



Exhibition of products from Siwa Oasis

Objective

This project was the second phase of a project, started in November 1998 and implemented by COSPE and North South Consultancy Exchange that aimed to help producers and producer groups to develop their production and management skills based on the Fair Trade principles. Within this framework, the overall goal of this project is to contribute to alleviate poverty among vulnerable groups (rural residents, youth, women and unemployed) by supporting the development of income generating activities in the craft and agro-processing sectors.

Expected Results

Building on successful growth in production and sales in the first phase, the second phase aimed to grapple with the challenges of quality, skill and volume in the producers' work. The project main expected results were:

- New producers groups created;
- Specific producers groups with technical and management skills integrated into the ECC network;
- Promotion of crafts and agro-processing activities among targeted groups in different regions implemented;

- Promotion through ECC network of Egyptian crafts and agro-processed products locally and on the international market.

Achieved Results

The project was successfully completed on 30/9/2004 and all planned activities have been implemented.

The following 5 new Producers Groups have been integrated into ECC network: Siwa Association of Community Development and Environment Protection, the group of silversmiths of Siwa, the Central Association of Productive Families of Sharkeya, the Central Association of Productive Families of Behera and the Groups of producers of Nazla pottery (Al Fayyoum).

In addition 4 new groups, and not 3 as originally planned, were selected: Women of Siwan embroidery, Women of olive soap production in El Fayoum, Bedouin women from Marsa Alam region and the group of paper production in El Fayoum.

The project provided the producers groups with equipment, consisting of tools and machinery, for production and management.

Training in basic marketing basic principles was given and during several sessions focusing on the modern concepts of marketing and the marketing surveys, a marketing plan was developed.

Finally, the project developed a website www.fairtradeegypt.com as a promotional and marketing tool for producers and also produced a number of information leaflets and commercial catalogues in order to promote the handicraft products and raise awareness on handicrafts as income generating tools.

MULTI FACETED WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MINYA **GOVERNORATE**

Applicant: The National Council for Women (NCW)
Implementing Agency: The National Council for Women (NCW)
(IDS – 08)

Total Project Cost: LE 6,807,400

IDS Share: LE 6,807,400

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 5,434,575

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3,5 years

Location: Gov. Minya

Start Date: 1st June 2003

Completion Date: 30th November 2006



Women beneficiaries

Objective

The National Council for Women is carrying out the project in four districts in Minya which is amongst the poorest governorates in Egypt. Lack of access to financial resources significantly affects the economic status of women.

The purpose of this project is the socio-economic women empowerment, together with their enhanced political participation, through improving their living conditions and creating job opportunities as well as increasing their participation in decisions that may affect their lives. The project intends also to contribute to reducing the rate of illiteracy in the targeted areas.

Expected Results

- Increased income of 1.200 poor women in the targeted areas through credit facilities and technical assistance;
- ID cards, birth certificates and voting cards issued to women in order to enhance their ability to deal with the civil society and the government and get important services and rights such as inheritances, pensions, social security and education.

Progress at May 2006

The project undertaken in partnership with local NGOs and Community Development Associations (CDAs), should have been completed by the end of May 2006, however, it has been extended at no additional costs for another six months.

Due to the high percentage of illiterate women in Minya and with the aim of increasing the number of literate women, the project, in coordination with the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education (GALAE), has also organized two literacy classes in each of the four districts, giving priority in joining the classes to the women credit beneficiaries.

To date the project has collected primary data for the establishment of a database on the status of women in Minya. In addition it organized several focus groups sessions which acted as a valuable tool to uncover specific cultural barriers and tailor awareness campaigns.

The project has developed a new micro-credit scheme and a guide-line booklet in Arabic that explains implementation procedures, division of roles, with emphasis on the expected role of NGOs and CDAs, disbursement and procedures. The project provided training on general managerial and administrative skills for selected local NGOs and CDAs.

The micro-credit activities started on November 2005 and 163 women have so far received loans ranging between L.E. 500 and L.E. 3.000.

COMPLETION OF POTTERY VILLAGE

Applicant: Ministry of Tourism
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Tourism
(IDS – 09)

Total Project Cost: LE 5,985,414

IDS Share: LE 5,985,414

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 5,985,402

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 2,5 years

Location: El Fustat (Gov. Cairo)

Start Date: 20th March 2003

Completion Date: 31st December 2005



The craftsmen of El Fustat



The El Fustat Pottery Village

Objective

The purpose of the project is to preserve the manufacture of Egyptian pottery profession which is a traditional craft passed down from father to son, by establishing a Pottery School and a Center for the Revitalization of Traditional Arts and Crafts in the district of El Fustat (Cairo).

Expected Results

The expected results of the project are:

- A Pottery Centre with 32 workshops constructed in El Fustat.
- Working conditions of craftsmen of the area improved.

Progress achieved

The El Fustat district has been known for its excellent pottery for centuries. Unfortunately, the villagers have been forced to move many times because of the city expansion, which has had a devastating effect on both the pottery production and the life of the villagers. The project was conceived to contribute to the preservation of this manufacturing and to help the craftsmen of the area face their productive problems. All the construction were completed by December 2005 and to date 32 workshops are ready and some of them already operative.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO FOSTER EGYPT'S SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Applicant: Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies
Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
(IDS – 10)

Total Project Cost: LE 48,434,754

IDS Share: LE 48,434,754

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 48,434,754

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 4 years and 8 months

Location: National (Gov. Cairo, Giza, Alexandria, Damietta, Gharbya, Assiut, Beheira, Matrouh, Minya, Fayoum, Kalioubeya, Qena)

Start Date: 1st November 2002

Completion Date: 30th June 2007



The Mobile ICT Unit



Women using CD-ROMs for literacy

Objective

The project aims at promoting the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to foster sustainable human development in Egypt. The project is divided into five main components. The first component involves the creation of a *community knowledge e-library*, aimed at promoting local knowledge and research capabilities among young people using ICTs. At the same time, a *smart schools network* seeks to enhance the capacity of teachers to use ICTs as a learning tool. It is hoped that the creation of a *community development portal* will foster socio-economic development by providing information to communities through a web-based portal. The enhancement of *adult literacy programmes* is to be achieved by the use of CD ROMs, and finally a *mobile ICT unit* aims at providing access to computer-based training and learning resources through a mobile computer laboratory.

Expected Results

- Appropriate infrastructure and equipment installed and functioning in selected schools that will constitute a Smart Schools network; teachers of those schools qualified to obtain the International Computer Driving License (ICDL).
- Two caravans and two buses equipped and functioning around the country as mobile ICT units.
- Three books in CD-ROMs developed and diffused to contribute towards illiteracy eradication.

- Availability of a community e-library providing an operational community knowledge generation mechanism; availability of software allowing access to information for illiterate and blind people and software of translation from English to Arabic enabling the use of English language material in research.
- A community development portal enhanced through research on necessary information.

Progress at May 2006

In the framework of the “community knowledge generation e-library”, an operational mechanism was established through the creation of a web site (www.fekrzad.com) that hosts the electronic libraries. Knowledge generation has been stimulated by the organization of several research competitions among school students and teachers. Since the beginning of the project, around 1400 articles have been published on the web site after the launch of competitions in schools of Damietta, Alexandria, Gharbya, Minya and Assiut. Potential software solutions for translation, literacy and for blind people have been identified and are being tested.

In relation to the “smart schools network”, the project is in the process of completing the installation and operation of all necessary infrastructure linked to ICTs in 38 schools around the country (governorates of Alexandria, Cairo, Giza, Beheira and Matrouh, regions of Delta, Middle and Upper Egypt and Siwa). Around 2,688 computers have been installed in the various schools and a ratio of 1 computer to every 10 students has been reached. In addition, 495 teachers have been trained for the ICDL of whom 130 succeeded in obtaining it.

Within the “community development portal”, a temporary web site (www.kenanaonline.com) has been established to host information for the beneficiaries. A partnership has been implemented with the National Council for Population and Development in order to build a national network of NGOs that can mobilize communities in using the portal. To date the network has involved 23 NGOs.

For the component of “illiteracy eradication”, the first CD-ROM was prepared and tested by 90 students (of which 74% were women) in literacy classes in the governorates of Fayoum and Kalioubeya. Over 70% of the students using the CD-ROM succeeded in the examination of the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education.

Finally, the two caravans have been completely equipped as mobile ICT units. They are equipped with computers and connected to the Internet through satellite. Their services have been used in Upper Egypt, Greater Cairo and Lower Egypt. The two buses are almost completed and will be launched next year.

All the components of the project are supported by awareness and promotion activities among beneficiaries and stakeholders. To this regard, a web site of the project has been established (www.ictfund.org.eg). Moreover, as it approaches its final stage, the project is focusing its attention on identifying ways to assure sustainability. In this context, the project has recently launched a programme to finance project proposals, coming from the private sector (Egyptian and Italian NGOs and Small and Medium Enterprises), that use ICTs in the field of community development. This programme will strengthen the role of the project as an important vehicle for the diffusion of literacy on ICTs and for supporting the socio-economic development of Egypt. In particular, it will encourage actions that include, among their priorities, participation, innovation and creativity, capacity building and community needs. The call of proposals is also advertised on the web site of the Italian Cooperation at the link www.utlcairo.org/english/progetti/progetti/29.html.

SUPPORT TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES ESTABLISHED IN NEWLY SETTLED AREAS IN UPPER EGYPT

Applicant: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
(IDS – 11)

Total Project Cost: LE 47,300,860
IDS Share: LE 25,968,820
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 19,029,316
Other Contributions: LE 21,332,040

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Gov. Fayoum,
Beni Suef, Assiut, Sohag, Assuan
Start Date: 1st August 2003
Completion Date: 31st July 2006



Interviews for needs assessment



Training sessions for capacity building

Objective

The goal of the project is to enhance the role of local agricultural cooperatives as a framework for participatory integrated community development in newly established settlements in selected governorates of Upper Egypt (Fayoum, Beni Suef, Assiut, Sohag and Assuan) and to improve the living standards of the target population. The project is intended to provide a model of development to be replicated in other rural communities.

Expected Results

The main expected results of the project are:

- quality of current services provided by cooperatives improved and new services introduced;
- a more efficient use of land and water obtained in order to increase production per unit of land and decrease use of water per unit of land;
- access to financial services facilitated, especially for women;
- illiteracy rate decreased among members of cooperatives;
- access to health services improved;
- stronger awareness of the beneficiaries on food security and environmental protection issues.

Progress at May 2006

The project identified 13 cooperatives to conduct its activities (2 in Beni Suef, 1 in Assiut, 7 in Assuan, 1 in Sohag and 2 in Fayoum).

To upgrade current services, the project carried out institutional and needs assessments of cooperatives and started to implement training sessions and capacity building activities linked to equipment and vehicle use, credit schemes and managerial tools. Proposals from cooperatives are being evaluated to identify potential new services, namely in the field of health, agricultural practices, education and gender. Special attention is paid to schemes generating income and promoting sustainability. Some proposals have already been implemented and they were concerned with crops sacs, plant nurseries, livestock and chicken incubators. In addition, a database is being developed to collect statistics about the members of the cooperatives.

Research studies were implemented to assess current practices in relation to the use of land and water. In addition, cooperatives were provided with extension fields, machinery and fertilizers; training sessions were also implemented.

To enhance provision of financial services a community needs assessment was carried out, procedures and operational manuals were set up and technical assistance activities were implemented. Some committees were also established to raise women's awareness and assist them in proposing small projects. In addition, the project is evaluating appropriate mechanisms for the implementation of a revolving fund.

The first class of the literacy programme has been put into progress in Assiut and next year other three classes will start in Sohag.

Studies for assessing current health and environmental situation have been completed. The cooperatives have started to provide health services to beneficiaries using medical caravans that allowed doctors to visit patients in the governorates of Assuan, Sohag and Assiut.

PROTECTION OF WORKING CHILDREN IN MANSHIET NASSER

Applicant: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
Implementing Agency: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
(IDS – 12)

Total Project Cost: LE 4,190,709

IDS Share: LE 4,190,709

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 2,862,484

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Gov. Cairo

Start Date: 1st September 2003

Completion Date: 31st August 2006



Vocational training on safe work measures



Literacy class

Objective

The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) was established in 1988 as the highest national authority with policy making, planning, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation activities in the areas of child protection and development. Child labour is one of the most pressing problems in Egypt, especially given its long-term effects on children. Although the Egyptian child labour law forbids any child under the age of twelve to work and also guards working children with multiple rights, the letter of the law is rarely followed by employers who take advantage of poor socio-economic conditions of working children.

In this framework, the purpose of this project is to facilitate the withdrawal of the *working children* of Manshiet Nasser (Cairo) from hazardous occupations and improve and use the occupational safety and health measures.

Expected Results

The main expected results are:

- Improved awareness about children's rights and specific children's needs;
- A motherhood community club set up;
- A micro credit scheme implemented at the Community Development Association of Dwekka;
- A national database on child labour including statistics, information and relevant data as a tool for supporting policy decisions created at website of NCCM;
- New job opportunities created for families of working children.

Progress at May 2006

Ultimately, in line with the national strategy for protecting working children, the project is expected to face the following key problems: lack of education, economic marginalization, lack of legal documents, lack of appropriate and adequate health services as well as the lack of opportunity to develop as children.

To date the project, which adopts a triangulated approach targeting working children, their families and their employers, has held awareness sessions and lectures on child labour, early marriage, female genital mutilation and drugs addiction that were attended by working children, their families and employers.

The program has implemented a literacy program for 200 beneficiaries, issued 152 Identity cards, and employed 57 working children in different factories where they could find safe environment and health care measures.

In addition, the community was mobilized to cover the school fees of 86 working children that were re-enrolled to school and 3496 beneficiaries benefited from the medical cares.

With reference to the micro credit component, that it is based on step lending method and to date 498 loans with a total amount of LE 708,500 have been distributed. The flat interest rate is 18 % and the loans, with a size ranges from LE 1,000 up to LE 3,000, are repaid in monthly instalments without grace period.

SCHOOL FEEDING IN UPPER EGYPT

Applicant: The United Nations World Food Program
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
(IDS – 13)

Total Project Cost: LE 59,326,153
IDS Share: LE 42,489,905
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 37,247,164
Other Contributions: LE 16,836,248

Project Duration: 3 years and 3 months
Location: Gov. Fayoum, Beni Suef, Minya
Start Date: 1st April 2003
Completion Date: 30th June 2006



School children eating snacks



Preparation of snacks at production centre

Objective

The project aims at reducing poverty and enhancing human resources in three areas of Upper Egypt (Fayoum, Beni Suef and Minya) by addressing nutritional deficiency and hunger. In particular, its objective is to improve the nutritional and health status of school children in vulnerable areas between 6 and 12 years old and to enhance their capacity to concentrate and learn at school. This objective will be achieved by supplying snacks to 300,000 school children on a daily basis, all through the school year, as an incentive to encourage poor families to send their children to primary school.

Expected Results

The main expected results of the project are:

- increase of enrolment in the target schools;
- reduction of drop-out rates;
- minimization of short-term hunger for the target student population;
- snacks are produced in compliance with required food quality standards;
- establishment of adequately equipped and well maintained food production centres;
- job opportunities created in the field of food processing and distribution for approximately 1,000 persons.

Progress at May 2006

Since the start of the project, production facilities have been established in Fayoum and Beni Suef. Therefore, primary schools belonging to these governorates have been receiving snacks

for two school years. An average of approximately 255,000 students (from 450 primary schools) has benefited so far from the distribution of snacks. Preliminary data show an increase in attendance rates (the average now is around 98%, while at the beginning of the project it was 21%) and a general satisfaction of school children involved in the feeding programme (70% of students stated in interviews that their short-term hunger has been alleviated thanks to the provision of snacks). The production centre in Minya has not been established yet.

The two production centres in Fayoum and Beni Suef are well equipped with essential machinery and utensils and constant upgrading is assured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. What is more, a quality control system, managed by qualified food technologists, was established at the beginning of the project to check that the food production is operated under rigorous safety standards.

More than 1,000 workers have been employed in the production centres since the beginning of the project and approximately 70% of them are women. Their experience is a valuable opportunity since they will be able in the future to gain employment in similar establishments or to set up their own income-generation activities. In addition, approximately 530 bakery workers have received continuous on-the-job training concerning food production and processing and they have revealed, during interviews, a sense of satisfaction for having learnt new skills.

The United Nations World Food Program has continued to provide technical assistance to the implementing agency and it is committed to strengthening relations with the Ministry of Education for improving implementation and monitoring of the project. In addition, special attention is being given to an exchange of information with other countries (Chile and Tajikistan), in relation to best practices for school feeding programmes, and the promotion of the project as a model to follow in the region of the Middle East.

PASSIVE IN-STREAM WETLAND TREATMENT OF DRAIN WATER

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring
(IDS – 14)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,875,000
IDS Share: LE 1,375,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,375,000
Other Contributions: LE 500,000

Project Duration: 3 years and 2 months
Location: Gov. Gharbya,
Dakhalya
Start Date: 6th April 2003
Completion Date: 5th June 2006



Site selected for treatment in El Bahwo



Awareness meetings with local communities

Objective

The project addresses the problem of pollution of drainage water which prevents its reuse for irrigation. Its main aim is to demonstrate the technical feasibility and the effectiveness of passive wetland treatment systems that could improve the quality of drainage water. The implementation of such systems would contribute to saving more water and to meeting the food supply requirements of a rapidly growing population.

Expected Results

The expected results of the project are:

- pilot passive wetland treatment systems established;
- plant species that are suitable for phytoremediation identified;
- awareness of local communities on water pollution and on the treatment systems increased;
- guidelines on proper irrigation practices established.

Progress at May 2006

The project selected two pilot drains for the implementation of the treatment systems: the first site is in the village of El Bahwo (governorate of Dakhalya) and the second in the village of El Aysha (governorate of Gharbya). Documents were also prepared to launch the tendering process. Several samples of aquatic plants are in the process of being collected and analysed. Meetings and workshops with beneficiaries from local communities and stakeholders have been conducted to promote awareness of the benefits of the project, its importance for the environment and the low cost of technology.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DRINKING WATER USING HAND-PUMP SYSTEMS

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring
(IDS – 15)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,975,000
IDS Share: LE 1,425,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,425,000
Other Contributions: LE 550,000

Project Duration: 3 years and 2 months
Location: Gov. Gharbya, Kalubya
Start Date: 6th April 2003
Completion Date: 5th June 2006



New hand-pump wells in Arab El Aiaida



Awareness meetings in Arab El Aiaida

Objective

In several rural areas of Egypt, the main source of drinking water is represented by shallow groundwater obtained through the use of hand-pumped wells. This water source is often polluted due to poor protection measures and to the lack of appropriate sewage systems. Hence, the project aims at developing means of protection for shallow groundwater from the various sources of pollution. The project is implemented as a pilot intervention in the governorates of Gharbya and Kalubya.

Expected Results

- Demonstration sites where groundwater is affected by pollution identified.
- New system of hand-pump wells designed and functioning.
- Assessment of environmental and social effects produced by the new system of hand-pump wells completed.
- Public awareness concerning the relation between water and human health increased.

Progress at May 2006

After preliminary investigations, the villages of Arab El Aiaida, in Kalubya, and of Meshreif, in Gharbya, were selected as demonstration sites for the implementation of the project.

A groundwater quality assessment and a geophysical survey were carried out in the two demonstration sites. Through the information collected, the hand-pump wells were redesigned.

Some new wells have also been constructed in the village of Arab El Aiaida and a strong commitment is being made to involving the local community in their operation and maintenance.

Meetings with local communities have been held in the village of Arab El Aiaida for the awareness programme and for the purpose of involving beneficiaries in the operation and management of the new wells.

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN GREATER CAIRO AREA

Applicant: SETI-CARITAS
Implementing Agency: SETI CARITAS
(IDS – 16)

Total Project Cost: LE 275,440

IDS Share: LE 275,440

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 275,440

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 22 months

Location: Gov. Cairo, Giza, Qalubya

Start Date: 11th May 2003

Completion Date: 31st March 2005



Beneficiaries of the project



The Directory

Objective

The general objective of the project is to protect and safeguard the rights of the disabled people towards equality and equal opportunities.

The project intends to help face the problem of the lack of information about the rehabilitation services for persons with special needs by preparing a comprehensive directory for Greater Cairo. This should help to enhance their access and integration into society through social, vocational and medical rehabilitation.

Expected Results

A Directory of services for persons with special needs for greater Cairo area published and distributed.

Achieved Results

The Directory was successfully launched on 31st of March, 2005 at a launch party hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute. Several stages had been defined before the final publication of the Directory. During the first six months the project's activities were focused on the collection of previously published information about services for persons with special needs. Afterwards the project, through specific questionnaires, collected and updated the information on available services creating a specific database. Finally, the last stage of the project was focused on the draft, publication and distribution of the Directory.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION - FREE VILLAGE MODEL

Applicant: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
Implementing Agency: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood/UNDP
 (IDS – 17)

Total Project Cost: USD 2,669,228
IDS Share: LE 2,079,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,679,000
Other Contributions: USD 2,319,228

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Gov. Beni Suef, Minya, Assiout, Sohag, Qena, Aswan, Kaliubya, Dakhaliya, Gharbia, Port Said.
Start Date: 6th April 2003
Completion Date: 5th April 2006
 (under extension)



Signature of Benban Anti FGM declaration



Anti FGM posters for villages

Objective

The project aims to encourage the rapid and mass abandonment of the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

The project takes an integrated approach to the problem: not only it addresses the medical and religious aspects, but it goes further to the legal, and the socio-cultural dimensions. The project has adopted a strategy that uses a human rights approach and accommodates FGM within a comprehensive developmental package addressing the Rights of the Girl Child from a socio cultural perspective. In addition, the strategy addresses FGM to the communities as a whole instead of individual families or persons in order to create an environment conducive to dialogue where influential groups (community leaders, teachers, mothers, midwives, men) can support families to eventually abandon FGM.

Expected Results

- Communities of the target villages sign a public declaration including their collective commitment to abandon the practice of FGM;
- Awareness and public dialogue on FGM promoted through the involvement of media, opinion leaders, including traditional leaders, political figures, religious chiefs and intellectuals;
- Government committed at all levels to introduce appropriate social measures and legislation against FGM practice.

Progress at May 2006

"The FGM free Village Model" campaign started in 2003, spearheaded by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), UNDP and donors. The aim of the project is to reverse existing community peer-pressure and to eliminate the practice of FGM in 120 villages of Upper Egypt (Beni Suef, Minya, Assiout, Sohag, Qena and Aswan) and Lower Egypt (Kaliubya, Dakhaliya, Gharbia, Port Said).

The project trained 12 NGOs in the different governorates to implement local activities, including literacy classes, competitions on children's rights targeting school children and youth caravans to sensitize families to the effects of FGM. In addition, hundreds of Egyptian volunteers are working in this project to make a difference in their communities under the guidance of 24 UN Volunteers

After two years of the project's use of various education and training approaches to reach out to families, community leaders, health workers and religious leaders, two communities, Benban village of Aswan and Abu Korkas el Balad village of Minya, were able to overcome peer pressure and convince families not to circumcise their girls. So, after extensive communications and an advocacy campaign, the community leaders of these villages signed a public declaration calling for an end to the practice of FGM

Another major achievement of this project is the establishment of a mechanism to coordinate a national movement against FGM under the umbrella of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. This national movement brings together different donors, UN agencies including UNICEF, UNFPA and other national partners like the doctors and judges working together.

In order to increase the advocacy the project produced a toolkit (booklets, posters, training manual, calendars, etc.) for supporting the awareness campaigns against the FGM practices and produced several TV programs on the National TV incorporating FGM as a key issue of child's as well as a radio programme entitled "The girl is Egyptian" which is aired three times a week on the Public Radio Network.

THE NATIONAL PROJECT FOR DRUG ABUSE DEMAND REDUCTION AMONG YOUTH

Applicant: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
Implementing Agency: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
(IDS – 18)

Total Project Cost: LE 8,005,000

IDS Share: LE 8,005,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 6,119,188

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Gov. Ismailia Beni Suef, Aswan, Minya, Assiout, Sohag, Qena, Kaliubya, Dakhaliya, Gharbia, Port Said, Giza, Menoufeyya.

Start Date: 1st January 2004

Completion Date: 31st December 2006



Awareness event



Beneficiaries in the Youth Center

Objective

The National Project for Drug Abuse Demand Reduction among Youth is one of the major milestones for the National Campaign for protecting Youth. It aims at contributing to reduction of drug abuse in Egypt. The project adopts a pioneering philosophy in facing the problem of addiction, based on a participatory approach that allows it to address the drug problems at the community level.

Expected Results

- A national strategy for protecting young people from drugs defined;
- Awareness program in 100 preparatory and secondary schools implemented;
- Awareness program in 30 youth centres and clubs implemented;
- NGOs working in the field of protection from drugs throughout the country empowered and coordinated;
- A national media campaign implemented including publishing posters and brochures to increase awareness, five documentary films, and eight short TV messages to reflect the problem from its different dimensions;

- A workshop organized to train mass media operators on different methods to tackle the issue of drugs in an effective, and attractive way;
- Monitoring and evaluation tools implemented to assess the effectiveness of national policies for decreasing demand on drugs among youth in Egypt;
- A training centre for operators in the field of drug prevention in Egypt established;
- A comprehensive working package for operators in the field of drug prevention created.

Progress at May 2006

The project has involved 40 preparatory and secondary schools and held sessions to discuss the problem of drug abuse, with the participation of parents and teachers. NCCM has trained 120 people to use the training manual for the NGOs working in this field. The project organized a camp for 200 youth leaders in Ismailia governorate with the aim of creating a students' network for exchanging experiences. 80 youth supervisors from 18 youth centres were trained on raising awareness within their centres. A meeting in each of the targeted youth centres was held, targeting both the parents and youth in order to raise their awareness concerning the issue. 24 NGOs working in 13 governorates have been given the needed funds by the project to mobilize their local communities against drug abuse. In addition, for the first time in Egypt a Union was established for NGOs working in the field of prevention. The Union now is actively executing the duties assigned to it by the project as follows:

- coordination between all the efforts exerted by members of the union;
- create a database containing all civil organizations that work in the field of drug prevention;
- evaluate the services which are offered by the relevant NGOs and organizations;
- study and solve the funding problems which face the concerned NGOs.

Fifty employees from the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Education were trained on how to use the appropriate tools for the anti-drug campaign.

During the third six month period, the project produced and distributed a documentary film on the national campaign protecting youth from drug abuse.

In accordance with the 1998 Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly, which advocates the application of these national plans by 2008, the “High level Arab Conference for protecting youth from drug abuse” was organized in Cairo on June 2005. The goals of the Conference were:

- presenting the successful national efforts in areas pertaining to protecting the young people from substance abuse and benefiting the success stories,
- coordinating between the Arab countries in aim to protect the Arab youth,
- declaring the Egyptian Strategy on Protecting the Youth from Substance Abuse.

A website www.acpyda.com has been constructed and uploaded for this conference.

SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION

Applicant: General Authority for Educational Buildings
Implementing Agency: General Authority for Educational Buildings
(IDS – 19)

Total Project Cost: LE 42,768,683

IDS Share: LE 42,768,683

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 37,692,301

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3,5 years

Location: Gov. Sharkya, Minya,
Sohag

Start Date: 6th January 2004

Completion Date: 30th June 2007



Inauguration of a school in Minya



Children in the new school

Objective

The project is linked to the national program for educational development and to the literacy policy recently launched by the Egyptian Government. Its main aim is to provide a suitable educational environment to school children in the governorates of Minya, Sharkia and Sohag, which are particularly deprived areas where obsolete buildings need to be replaced to cope with the growing population of school age children. The project will build, maintain and equip 23 schools: 8 in Minya, 8 in Sharkya and 7 in Sohag. The works will consist of complete refurbishment, new constructions, partial refurbishment and extensions. They will include the establishment of all relevant infrastructures (water, electricity and sanitary networks, as well as the construction of paved roads to guarantee access to the schools for children). In addition, schools will be provided with the necessary educational equipment, furniture and recreational areas.

Expected Results

- 23 schools, 8 in Minya, 8 in Sharkya and 7 in Sohag, built, furnished, equipped and provided with relevant services.

Progress at May 2006

All the 8 schools in Minya have been completed and are now operational (6 of them are new constructions, while 2 schools were completely renovated). Infrastructural works (water and electricity networks and access roads) were implemented for 4 schools.

Also in Sohag the 7 schools were completed and 6 are operational (1 school was completely renovated and all the others are new constructions). Access roads were established for 1 school.

6 schools were completed in Sharkia and 4 are operational (all of them are completely renovated schools). Water and electricity networks were established for all the schools; works for access roads are planned for next year.

THINK TWICE

Applicant: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM)
Implementing Agency: NCCM, UNDP
(IDS – 20)

Total Project Cost: LE 14,584,416

IDS Share: LE 14,584,416

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 4,993,707

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Gov.Cairo, Minya,

Alexandria , Aswan

Start Date: 1st July 2004

Completion Date: 30th June 2007



One of the “Think Twice” banners



The making of TV spot on working children

Objective

The project aims to increase awareness, shift and change cultural settings with regard to different social issues affecting young people in Egypt. It provides the correct information that will allow family and individuals to make sound and well informed choices.

Expected Results

The main expected results of the project are:

- Launch of the National Day for Girls with the themes: Girls Education Year, Girl ID cards Year, Female Genital Mutilation;
- Documentaries on youth rights produced and broadcasted on national TV and local media channels;
- Advocacy initiatives on rights of the girl child and youth issues implemented in 5 governorates during year 1 of the project and in additional 7 governorates per year for the remaining 3 years;
- Communities capacity to organize advocacy initiatives developed and tested;
- NCCM's staff trained and their capacity strengthened in the field of social communication to sustain project activities;

- NCCM pivotal role in communicating project experience to policy level reinforced in order to mainstream youth rights;
- A strategic paper on the use of social advertising based on the experiences, best practices and lessons learnt from the project drafted.

Progress at May 2006

The Think Twice project has three components: NCCM capacity building, the national campaign and the community initiatives. The project targets the rights of the girl child, promotes youth participation and highlights the need to protect children at risk (street children, working children, children exposed to violence and children potentially at risk from the dangers of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS). Within this context, the project target a variety of groups including children/young people, parents, schools, policy makers and communities through an integrated campaign that relies on a number of social communication interventions including public service announcements, public events, the use of radio and television and direct communication approaches that can be implemented at the local level.

To date, the project produced 3 TV campaigns, 100 advertisements for buses and 3 billboards on the following issues: child labour, Youth participation with a special focus on girls political participation and children at risk.

The project launched the National Day for the rights of the Girl Child, on the 6th January 2004. It is hoped to be an annual event which promotes the welfare and rights of the girl child. Seventy youths from Cairo, Minya, Alexandria and Aswan governorates were selected to be trained as facilitators of community initiatives.

A radio program on child labour and on FGM “El Bent Masrya” was aired on “El Bernameg Elam” containing interviews with experts as well as field interviews with working children, their parents and employers.

The project published newsletter, brochures and organized the two seminars: “*Children and exploitation on TV*” and “*The girl child in the drama: an overview in Egypt*”.

EXPANSION OF THE BEHEIRA SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 21)

Total Project Cost: LE 2,225,000

IDS Share: LE 2,225,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,530,000

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

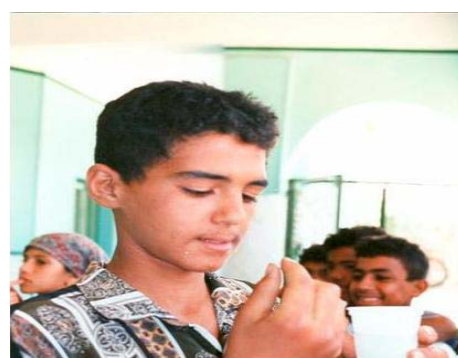
Location: National (Gov. Beheira, Kafr El Sheikh, Gharbya, Menoufya, Alexandria, Damietta, Ismailia, Dakhalya, Kalyubeya, Sharkeya, Beni Suef, Fayoum)

Start Date: 1st December 2003

Completion Date: 30th November 2006



Health education seminars in Gharbya



Medical treatment for school age children

Objective

The project is based on the successful experience of a pilot school health programme promoted by the Italian Cooperation in 1998 in the governorate of Beheira. Its main aim is to extend to other governorates of the Nile Delta (Kafr El Sheikh, Gharbya, Menoufya and Alexandria) the school health programme implemented in Beheira to fight infections caused by intestinal helminths in children aged from 6 to 12 years old (both enrolled and not enrolled in schools). Thanks to a more efficient reallocation of financial resources, the project has extended the target area including the remaining Governorates of the Delta (Damietta, Ismailiya, Dakhalya, Kalyubeya and Sharkeya) and 2 Governorates of Upper Egypt (Beni Suef and Fayoum).

Expected Results

- Infections from schistosoma mansoni, ascaris lumbricoides and trichuris trichiura among school age children eliminated.
- Prevalence of human fascioliasis reduced to under 3% and new strategies for the control of this illness defined.
- Monitoring capacity of the Ministry of Health and Population (MHP) in relation to the most common school age diseases strengthened.

Progress at May 2006

The project has developed partnerships with the World Health Organization, for technical assistance and purchase of medicines, and with the University of Valencia for operational research.

During the first two years of the project, in relation to the elimination of infections caused by intestinal helminths, purchasing and distribution procedures have been implemented for a target amount of 6,400,000 tablets of medicines. More than 288,000 beneficiaries have already received medical treatment. Promotion materials have also been distributed to improve health education for health staff, teachers, community and religious leaders, reaching more than 770 trained beneficiaries. Preliminary data show a reduction of prevalence of infections from ascaris lumbricoides in Kafr El Sheikh from 24% to 5%.

In relation to human fascioliasis, pre-screening activities were completed in endemic districts and research activities are being carried out in collaboration with the University of Valencia (Spain). Screening and treatment have also started.

An important achievement in strengthening the monitoring capacity of the MHP was the completion of the baseline survey for parasitological monitoring in the target areas of the project.

EGYPTIAN-ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME – PHASE II

Applicant: Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
(IDS – 22)

Total Project Cost: LE 62,306,065

IDS Share: LE 19,900,060

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 10,179,128

Other Contributions: LE 42,406,005

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: National (Gov. Cairo, Fayoum, Minya, Matrouh, Red Sea)

Start Date: 16th October 2004

Completion Date: 15th October 2007



Ranger in Wadi El Rayan protected area



The site of Shali in Siwa

Objective

The project represents the continuation of the 1st phase of cooperation between Italy and Egypt in the environmental field which ended in 2003. Its main aim is to contribute to the protection of Egypt's natural and cultural resources by providing institutional support to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).

Expected Results

The project is divided into 7 main components with separate results:

- Legal and Institutional Framework Project: institutional and legal framework of the EEAA strengthened by updating legislation and regulatory framework for solid waste, protected areas and marine environment;
- Institution and Capacity Building for the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS): NCS in the EEAA empowered in order to assure proper management of the national network of protected areas;
- Wadi El Rayan Protected Area: protected area managed in a sustainable manner with the participation of local stakeholders and support to the economic development of Fayoum;

- Gabal Elba Protected Area: protected area managed in a sustainable manner with the participation of local stakeholders while contributing to the economic development of the region;
- Siwa Environmental Amelioration Project: economic development and environmental amelioration of the oasis of Siwa enhanced;
- Solid Waste Management in Minya: a pilot scheme in the governorate of Minya established in order to consolidate the institutional capacity in the sector of solid waste management;
- Decision Support System Project: a computer-based tool developed in order to reinforce the Decision Makers' capacity of analysis and evaluation in relation to the water resources planning process.

Progress at May 2006

The project is currently in its initial phase. In relation to the Institution and Capacity Building for the NCS, 3 technical units have been established at the NCS that will be in charge of planning, environmental impact assessment and licensing and marketing. Their terms of reference have also been developed. What is more, the project has started to assess the existing legislation on protected areas through a series of reviews.

For the components related to the management of the protected areas of Wadi El Rayan and Gabal Elba, procedures for evaluation of technical facilities and purchasing of equipment have started. In particular, the main part of the Visitor Centre has been completed. The first contacts with local stakeholders have also been established. In addition, the project supported the nomination by UNESCO of Wadi Hitan as World Heritage Natural Site. In Wadi El Rayan, cooperation activities are being carried out with the Italian Gran Sasso National Park and the project IDS-05

In Minya, an initial study evaluating the current situation for solid waste management has been implemented and one workshop held to introduce the project to local stakeholders.

For the Decision Support System Project, the architecture of the system has been analysed and developed and Java was selected as a programming language. The preparation of a digital GIS map of Egypt is under construction.

The components linked to Siwa Environmental Amelioration and to the Legal and Institutional Framework are involved in a process of redefinition of the work plan.

A web site of the project has also been created: www.eiecop.org .

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

Applicant: Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
(IDS – 23)

Total Project Cost: LE 6,841,410

IDS Share: LE 6,841,410

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 2,853,617

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: National (Gov. Cairo, Red Sea, South Sinai, Assuan)

Start Date: 16th October 2004

Completion Date: 15th October 2007



Examples of species recorded in biodiversity data base

Objective

In the light of the efforts undertaken by the Government of Egypt to fulfil its obligations in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, this project seeks to develop and strengthen biodiversity research, monitoring and assessment across Egypt by enhancing ability of the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS) of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, through its Biodiversity Department, to protect, manage and develop Egypt's wild resources.

Expected Results

- Biodiversity Department at the NCS upgraded and strengthened.
- System of recording, evaluating and monitoring biodiversity improved.
- A Biodiversity Technical Unity established with the aim of providing advice and proposals on biodiversity policy and strategy.
- A communication, education and public awareness programme developed.
- A strategic plan for the institution of a natural history museum developed.

Progress at May 2006

After a SWOT analysis of the Biodiversity Department, new staff was hired and a reorientation plan of tasks was elaborated to be followed up in the following years.

A new data base was created to record biodiversity, which already holds 57,340 entries. Monitoring schemes have been prepared and implemented involving undergraduates, university

staff and rangers. For evaluation, relevant GIS layers were identified and a mapping method is under development.

The project launched its official web site (www.biomapegypt.org) and 80 web pages have been prepared for the content of a clearing house mechanism, to be hosted on the web site. The clearing house mechanism is still under preparation and, hence, not accessible to users. In addition, a book was prepared and will be published next year (“Gardens of Sinai: Bedouin Heritage and Natural History”).

EVALUATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EXECUTION OF SOME FLASH FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS AT WADI WATIER – SOUTH SINAI

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: Water Resources Research Institute
(IDS – 24)

Total Project Cost: LE 18,884,000
IDS Share: LE 13,000,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 10,361,400
Other Contributions: LE 5,884,000

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Wadi Watier (Gov. South Sinai)
Start Date: 21st August 2003
Completion Date: 20th August 2006



Road in Nuweiba hit by floods



Preparation of protection works

Objective

The project is based on the conclusions of a study completed in 1996 and financed by the Italian Cooperation, which addressed the problem of frequent destructive floods that occur in the area of Wadi Watier, in South Sinai. Its main objective is to protect the infrastructures of Nuweiba and the road connecting Nuweiba with Ras El Naqab from damage caused by flash floods.

Expected Results

- Previous studies related to the area of Wadi Watier revised and updated through geological, geophysical, hydrological and geotechnical investigations.
- Construction of three retention dams and execution of other additional works, according to the conclusions of investigations.
- Increased availability of data for hydrological investigations and monitoring activities of the Water Resources Research Institute.

Progress at May 2006

During the first two years of the project, revision and updating of studies concerning the area of Wadi Watier have been completed. Technical assistance was provided to the project through collaborations with the University of Palermo and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari. Basing on the findings of studies, designing and tendering procedures were put into place for the construction of three retention dams and one artificial lake. A tender to the value of LE 9,500,000 was awarded to one company. Civil works for two dams (Qudira and El Hegny) have started and are in progress.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN VALLEY

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: National Water Research Centre
(IDS – 25)

Total Project Cost: LE 19,938,000

IDS Share: LE 11,412,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 9,968,380

Other Contributions: LE 8,526,000

Project Duration: 3,5 years

Location: Toshka (Gov. Assuan)

Start Date: 6th September 2003

Completion Date: 5th March 2007



Tomatoes production of farmers in Toshka



Equipment for research activities

Objective

The project tries to promote comprehensive agricultural development for the area of Toshka, which is characterized by availability of water through the new channel from the lake Nasser, abundant land resources and good weather conditions. These natural factors can potentially guarantee diversity in crop growth, opportunities within international markets and a contribution to national food security.

Expected Results

- Field researches implemented to test and monitor the performance of agricultural practices and irrigation systems in the area of the project.
- Agricultural practices in the target area improved through the provision of services and consultations to farmers and investors concerning, in particular, irrigation systems and cropping patterns.
- Skills and knowledge of farmers improved through training programmes.
- Two pilot sites equipped with appropriate irrigation systems for the area.
- Publication of the results of the project including the evaluation of the socio-economic impact and recommendations for the farmers of the area.

Progress at May 2006

In order to provide services and consultations, a database was created collecting relevant information about the beneficiaries of the project, a Consultation and Information Unit (CIU) was established and a GIS map of the area of the project was elaborated. The CIU has provided its services to three groups of beneficiaries through regular field visits. The first group is composed of 20 permanent farmers who will receive consultations until the end of the project. The cost of solutions for their problems is borne by the project. The second group includes more than 272 variable farmers (along with farmers that ask for consultations spontaneously) who receive consultations for free but have to bear the cost of solutions. The third group is composed by three investors in the area: the Ministry of Defence, the Kingdom Agricultural Development Company and the South Valley Development Company. They receive consultations and, at the same time, identify forms of cooperation with the project itself.

391 beneficiaries have participated in the training courses relating to management of agricultural lands, on-farm irrigation management, crop management and integrated management for soil and water resources.

Two experimental farms were selected for implementing appropriate irrigation systems for the area. Four kinds of irrigation systems were designed and installed in the pilot sites. Operation and maintenance of the irrigation systems is in progress. At the same time, the project identified three demonstration farms from the lands of farmers to provide technical assistance on irrigation systems and transfer knowledge acquired through the experimental farms.

The necessary research equipment was installed in the two experimental farms. Collection of data is in progress to find out technical recommendations for each crop.

Finally, an interview was conducted on a sample of 120 farmers to start assessing the socio-economic impact of the project, which revealed that farmers are willing to settle down in the area of Toshka but still need a stronger support for improving their production and income. A second interview was carried out on a sample of 150 farmers and its results are under evaluation.

LEPROSY ELIMINATION IN EGYPT

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 26)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,032,000
IDS Share: LE 1,032,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 584,560
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 2,5 years
Location: National (Gov. Kaf El Sheikh, Qena, Beni Suef, Fayoum, Sohag)
Start Date: 1st March 2004
Completion Date: 31st August 2006



Medical examinations during contact surveys

Objective

Although the prevalence of leprosy has significantly reduced, the number of new cases detected is still relatively high which means that there is still active transmission of the disease in the community. Therefore, this project aims at strengthening the leprosy control programme, detecting and treating hidden cases, in order to reach the elimination target at a national level.

Expected Results

- Passive case finding improved through training of health staff.
- Active case finding improved through surveys in areas with a high prevalence rate.
- Medical treatment for detected cases provided.
- Community awareness on prevention increased.
- Leprosy clinics upgraded.
- A new clinic constructed in Dakhalya.

Progress at May 2006

79 training courses have been implemented for more than 660 doctors, 720 nurses and 650 sanitarians in Kafr El Sheikh, Qena, Beni Suef and Fayoum.

The numbers of detected active cases are as follows: 2,368 persons have been examined in Qena, 2,099 in Kafr El Sheikh and 2,099 in Sohag; 41 new cases have been detected in Qena, 45 in Kafr El Sheikh and 45 in Sohag. 7 awareness meetings for local communities have been implemented (2 in Kafr El Sheikh, 3 in Qena and 2 in Fayoum). Finally, 2 microscopes were purchased for the leprosy clinics.

PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING IN EL HALLOUWS AND EL BAHTINI

Applicant: Ismailiyya Governorate
Implementing Agency: UNDP
(IDS – 27)

Total Project Cost: LE 18,744,300
IDS Share: LE 18,744,300
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 5,687,350
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Gov. Ismailiya
Start Date: 1st May 2004
Completion Date: 30th April 2007



Fishermen of El Hallous area



Community works

Objective

The project is executed by the Governorate of Ismailiyya and implemented by UNDP. The purpose of this pilot project is to enhance the living conditions of slum dwellers in the areas of El Hallous and El Bahtini in Ismailiyya governorate. Through the adoption of a comprehensive and participatory approach, the project aims to create new job opportunities, avoid the expansion of physical informal cities and improve land use and public services by encouraging the participation of the local communities in the project. Hence, it adopts a holistic participatory approach focusing on the working groups to identify priorities and fast track activities required by the people in such areas, as health awareness, informal and formal education, poverty and unemployment. The capacity building component of the project draws upon the expertise of UN-HABITAT. The project consists of four components: institutional set up, physical upgrading, social upgrading and capacity building.

Expected Results

- Increased mobilization of local authorities and local communities towards the identification and solution of the main problems affecting the project area;
- Empowerment of local authorities and local communities for participation in decision making, planning, implementation and monitoring of the upgrading activities;
- All inhabitants of the project area have access to paved lighted roads and safe footpaths, piped potable water, electricity, latrines and connection with sanitation network,
- Health and school services available in the project areas;
- A national broad based multi-disciplinary forum established in order to address systematically policy, legal and implementation issues, concerning slum upgrading and urban planning and management.

Progress at May 2006

The direct beneficiaries of the project are approximately 15.000 settlers of the slum areas of El Hallous and El Bahtini. In order to facilitate community participation, three main working groups, composed of stakeholders such as NGOs, women, youth, community leaders, etc., have been established. The working groups conducted meetings with stakeholders and the community to identify the priorities and coordinate the different project activities.

To date the project has completed the main drainage line as well as the pumping station. It also implemented feasibility studies for the paved roads in both areas.

Two clean-up campaigns were implemented in cooperation with members of the communities and the city council in order to improve the environmental and health conditions in the two areas.

In addition, the project conducted physical, socio-economic and environmental surveys to identify the problems and the priorities from the communities' point of view.

With reference to the social upgrading activities, the project has renovated three schools in El Bahtini and two schools in El Hallous.

EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Applicant: Medical Research Institute – University of Alexandria
Implementing Agency: Medical Research Institute – University of Alexandria
(IDS – 28)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,735,000

IDS Share: LE 1,735,000

Total Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,735,000

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 1 year and 10 months

Location: Alexandria

Start Date: 1st May 2005

Completion Date: 28th February 2007



The MRI in Alexandria

Objective

The project is linked to the project financed by the Italian Cooperation to upgrade the Medical Research Institute (MRI) of the University of Alexandria, which is specialized in the control of tropical and infectious diseases. Its aim is to contribute to the control of such diseases in Egypt and to strengthen the capacity of the MRI to provide specialist services, diagnosis, training and research.

Expected Results

- A new outpatients department, new laboratories and a new biotechnology unit constructed within the MRI.

Progress at May 2006

Due to bureaucratic constrains the project is still in its initial phase. Tender procedures were completed and building works have just started.

FOOD FOR WORK - LEPROSARY VILLAGE

Applicant: CARITAS

**Implementing Agency: CARITAS
(IDS – 29)**

Total Project Cost: LE 1,450,440
IDS Share: LE 1,450,440
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 957,720
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: National (Gov. Cairo, Qaloubeya, Sohag, Luxor, Minya, Alexandria, Assiut, Giza)
Start Date: 14th April 2003
Completion Date: 13th August 2006



Children of Abu Zaabal village having their lunch



The distribution of food allow the children to go to school

Objective

According to the national policy against leprosy adopted by the Ministry of Health and Population, the project, implemented by CARITAS in cooperation with 5 NGOs located in Alexandria and in Upper Egypt, addresses the health and social conditions of 3.000 people living in the leprosary villages.

The aim of this project is to improve the living conditions of more than 400 poor families of leprosary villages encouraging them, through the distribution of food grants, to send their children to school, and to receive health care, as well as an incentive for women and young people to follow vocational trainings and literacy classes.

Expected Results

- Drop-out rate of the children of people affected by leprosy reduced;
- Health awareness about leprosy raised;
- Job opportunities for women and young people of families affected by leprosy increased through literacy classes and vocational training activities.

Progress at May 2006

The project, implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Population, is one of the most important component of the Program entitled “Food for Work Program” co-funded by other donors and started on 1979.

During the first year all the project’s staff was hired and all equipment purchased. The two health care centres in Abou Zaabal and Amereya were completely furnished. In addition, the project provided medical care to 1.920 children at the Amriya and Abou Zabal centres, and distributed rice, macaroni, beans, lentils, milk and sugar to 4063 children beneficiaries. In addition, every year the project helps to organize the National Day for patients affected by Hansen disease that contributes to raising awareness about the health and social aspects on this issue.

It also carried out several awareness-raising seminars and organized the three-week International Summer Camp for 22 Egyptian children of poor families.

ASSESSMENT OF WATER USERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN EGYPT

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: National Water Research Centre
(IDS – 30)

Total Project Cost: LE 528,000
IDS Share: LE 200,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 200,000
Other Contributions: LE 328,000

Project Duration: 14 months
Location: National (Gov. Sharkya, Minya, Beheira)
Start Date: 1st October 2003
Completion Date: 30th November 2004



Farmers during irrigation

Objective

One of the main strategies of the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation to improve performance of irrigations systems is the promotion of Water Users' Associations (WUAs), which are groups of farmers, all served by a common source of water, who join together to allocate, distribute and manage water. The aim of this project was to identify recommendations on proper water management by conducting a study that measured the performance of WUAs through the development of some assessment indicators.

Expected Results

- A participatory rural appraisal and a field survey of WUAs developed.

Achieved Results

The study was developed by analysing a sample of 369 farmers belonging to WUAs located in the governorates of Sharkya, Beheira and Minya).

From the participatory rural appraisal it was discovered that farmers are not always convinced of the usefulness of WUAs, funds are often not sufficient to tackle problems and that there is a strong need for proper maintenance systems.

From the field survey it was noted that WUAs have increased environmental awareness among farmers.

Assessment indicators were elaborated and they focused on sufficiency of irrigation water, water distribution, environmental awareness, socio-economic impact and gender; most of the problems were identified in relation to water distribution.

A STRATEGIC LONG-TERM WATER-BASED FOOD SECURITY MODEL FOR EGYPT

Applicant: National Water Research Centre
Implementing Agency: National Water Research Centre
(IDS – 31)

Total Project Cost: LE 573,000
IDS Share: LE 200,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: Le 200,000
Other Contributions: LE 373,000

Project Duration: 14 months
Location: National (Gov. Kalyoubya)
Start Date: 9th November 2003
Completion Date: 8th January 2005



Improving irrigation practices is essential to achieve food security

Objective

This project tackles the future food security issue for Egypt for the year 2017. Its main aim was to conduct a study producing and providing decision makers with various alternatives to reduce the predicted food gap for the year 2017.

Expected Results

- A study developed on two different approaches to reduce the food gap in Egypt: the first approach is based on linear programming as a modelling technique and the second is based on supply response analysis.

Achieved Results

The project focused on some strategic crops, such as wheat, maize, rice, beans and lentils. Using the planned approaches, three alternatives were proposed to reduce the food gap. The first one aims at maximizing net profit of crops, the second at maximizing net return of water requirements and the third at minimizing irrigation water requirements.

INTEGRATING COMMUNITY-BASED WASTE MANAGEMENT INTO INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING

Applicant: International Centre for Environment and Development
Implementing Agency: International Centre for Environment and Development
(IDS – 32)

Total Project Cost: LE 2,116,000

IDS Share: LE 1,916,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,797,000

Other Contributions: LE 200,000

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Cairo

Start Date: 10th September 2003

Completion Date: 9th September 2006



New equipment in recycling workshop



Segregated waste collection

Objective

The project tackles the problem of the risk of progressive loss of work for the informal traditional garbage collectors (*zabaleen*) due to the new municipal solid waste management introduced in Cairo, which is based on collection by multinational companies. The introduction of the new system may also affect the possibility of recycling waste, a task that is not carried out by multinational companies while *zabaleen*, on the contrary, are deeply involved in trading or using as animal feeding some components of waste. The main objective of the project is to support *zabaleen* in integrating into the new process of international contracting by improving their technical capabilities and providing them with modern technologies. The project is implemented in 3 settlements of *zabaleen*: Mokattam, Ezbet El Nakhl and Moetamadeya.

Expected Results

- Zabaleen collect waste separated at source in a pilot area of Cairo.
- Technological upgrading of waste recycling workshops.
- Collection and trade of recycled industrial waste, enhanced through the support to the legal formalization of business.
- Awareness on legal matters linked to the new system of waste contracting enhanced.

Progress at May 2006

An agreement was concluded with one of the multinational companies that is now responsible for garbage collection in Cairo, AMA Arab Environment Company (Egyptian subsidiary of the Italian company AMA), to implement a pilot experiment of waste collection based on segregation at source. 15 *zabaleen* from Ezbet El Nakhl are working under the supervision of this company in the district of El Zawia El Hamra to carry out the segregated waste collection

for approximately 4,500 households. 30 young people were also trained in cooperation with the Egyptian NGO Spirit of Youth to promote awareness among households on the new system of collection and they distributed some 3,600 baskets for different types of waste.

Data bases and digital maps are also being developed to identify potential *zabaleen* and partners for trading recyclable industrial and commercial waste and the creation of a cooperative of 50 *zabaleen* was promoted for this purpose. Some trading partners have been already identified, in particular in the sector of aluminium cans.

In relation to the technological upgrading, 25 new machines were provided to recycling workshops in Mokattam and Ezbet El Nakhl and 9 existing machines were improved; in addition, 5 workshops received financial support for maintenance and a model recycling workshop in Mokattam was equipped and is now operational. 13 *zabaleen* were also trained on safety procedures.

Thirty-two *zabaleen* have benefited from legal assistance through training sessions.

HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN EGYPT

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 33)

Total Project Cost: LE 2,165,675
IDS Share: LE 2,165,675
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,025,515
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years and 9 months
Location: National (Gov. Kafr El Sheikh, Sharkya Beni Suef, Fayoum, Assiut)
Start Date: 1st February 2004
Completion Date: 31st October 2006



The VCT centre in Kafr El Sheikh



Indication inviting to go to the VCT centre

Objective

Egypt remains a country with a low prevalence of HIV infections. Yet there is growing evidence of the increase of infections among social groups with risky behaviour which might entail the spreading of an epidemic if preventive measures are not taken. The task is even more difficult when it is considered that risky behaviour is highly socially stigmatized and, hence, driven underground.

Within this framework, the project aims at maintaining the transmission of HIV in Egypt at a low level, supporting the National AIDS Control Programme which is based on the establishment of a network of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres. Since these centres provide their services on an anonymous basis, they can attract the confidence of people with risky behaviour and distribute information about preventative measures more easily.

Expected Results

- Five new Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres established in Sharkya, Beni Suef, Kafr El Sheikh, Fayoum and Assiut.
- Awareness about HIV among youth population increased.
- Change from risky to safer patterns of behaviour facilitated in target social groups.
- Capacity of community leaders for addressing HIV issues strengthened.
- Quality of life among people infected by HIV improved.

Progress at May 2006

The project has completed the establishment of 3 VCT centres: in Beni Suef, Sharkya and Kafr El Sheikh. 30 persons from the staff of the centres have been trained in counselling and laboratory investigations (rapid tests). Already, 936 people have visited the VCT centres for counselling, of whom 863 have gone on to be tested. Services provided are free but the project is studying the possibility of introducing an affordable price, between LE 5 and 10, in order to assure sustainability.

Posters and booklets have been prepared and distributed among young people and 100 meetings have been held in youth centres, schools, universities and NGOs. At the same time other awareness meetings were held for tourism (60 meetings) and industry workers (120 meetings). Three workshops were also held for community leaders.

Ten meetings have been held for people infected by HIV. Procedures for registering Anti Retro Viral medications at the Central Directorate for Pharmaceutical Affairs of the Ministry of Health were completed. Their purchase and delivery is now in progress.

In order to enhance the ways to reach the target group of beneficiaries, the project is also preparing a strategy of intervention involving local NGOs.

BRACKISH WATER DESALINATION FOR URBANIZATION OF REMOTE ARID AREAS IN EGYPT

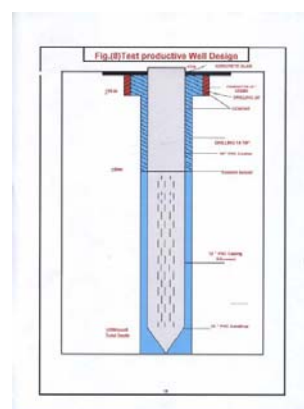
Applicant: Alexandria University Desalination Studies and Technology Centre
Implementing Agency: Alexandria University Desalination Studies and Technology Centre
(IDS – 34)

Total Project Cost: LE 5,483,840
IDS Share: LE 5,483,840
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 3,973,846
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Gov. Alexandria
Start Date: 27th July 2004
Completion Date: 1st July 2007



Visited site in Dabaa



Well design

Objective

The lack of potable water as a major obstacle in urbanization of remote arid areas in Egypt is the problem that this project seeks to solve. It aims at creating new fresh water resources through the development of adapted and viable brackish water desalination packages. The project is implemented as a pilot intervention on the north-west coast of Egypt (west of Alexandria).

Expected Results

- A data base and information centre on desalination created.
- Technical capacities on desalination improved.
- Pilot test locations for future extension identified.
- National desalination know-how developed.

Progress at May 2006

In relation to the creation of the data base, the project, after concluding field visits, selected an area 25 km south of Dabaa for collecting relevant information. This site will be the location for the pilot intervention. The analysis of water samples is in progress.

For the development of technical capability and manpower, thermal and membrane desalination studies have started, as well as training courses for recently graduated engineers. The identification of other pilot test locations is in progress.

SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT HEALTH PROGRAMMES FOR WORKING CHILDREN IN 3 GOVERNORATES THROUGH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE LEVEL

Applicant: Ministry of Health and Population
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Health and Population
(IDS – 35)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,900,000

IDS Share: LE 1,900,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,397,200

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 2,5 years

Location: Gov. Cairo, Menoufia,
Assiut

Start Date: 26th January 2004

Completion Date: 25th July 2006



Medical examinations for working children in Cairo

Objective

The project aims at promoting measures for improving the health of working children following the approach of Primary Health Care (PHC) recommended by the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization. Its interventions are implemented in the governorates of Cairo, Menoufia and Assiut.

Expected Results

- Health units in the target area dealing with working children renovated.
- Human resources of target health units upgraded on medical care for working children.
- Medical treatment for working children provided.
- Protective equipment for working children supplied after evaluation of main risks in work places.
- A data base established on working children and working conditions.
- Awareness of employers, children, families and community leaders on health of working children increased.

Progress at May 2006

The project has succeeded in rehabilitating 10 clinics (2 in Cairo, 2 in Menoufia and 6 in Assiut) and has implemented training courses to upgrade professional skills for 420 physicians, 495 nurses and 165 sanitarians.

1,200 children could benefit of medical examinations and treatment.

1,960 work places were visited to evaluate risk factors for the health of working children and all relative information was introduced in a data base.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION NETWORK (RADCON)

Applicant: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Implementing Agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 (IDS – 36)

Total Project Cost: LE 10,266,000
IDS Share: LE 9,240,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 6,891,951
Other Contributions: LE 1,026,000

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: National (Gov. Giza, Alexandria, Fayoum, New Valley, Ismailia, Sharkya, Gharbya, Beheira, Beni Suef, Dakhalya, Menoufya, Matrouh, Sohag, North Sinai)
Start Date: 1st April 2004
Completion Date: 31st March 2007



Poster advertising RADCON services

Objective

The project is an extension of the successful pilot project undertaken by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2000, which tried to provide agricultural advisory services to the rural population through the creation of a web site and by promoting linkages among institutions, universities, research centres, NGOs and rural communities. Its main objective is to make farm families benefit from an information system that will allow them to improve their quality of life and their performance in the agricultural production.

Expected Results

- A sustainable information and communication system on agriculture developed.
- Fifty communities participate in the activities related to the information system;
- An innovative media communication programme developed to promote the services of the system.

Progress at May 2006

The development of the information system is in progress. Its management structure was established in the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and a network for research and extension is under development. This network includes, at the moment, 5 Research Institutes, 6 Regional Research Stations, 25 Specific Research Stations, 2 Central Administrations, 12 Agricultural Directorates, 59 Extension Centres, 2 Universities and 3 NGOs. An information needs assessment study was also implemented. Installation procedures of equipment have started. 182 trainees, selected from the operators of the extension centres, have participated in courses on the use of the system and on modern information technologies.

A study to select the fifty resource-poor communities and assess their information needs was completed and the target beneficiaries have been identified.

TRACEABILITY OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET

Applicant: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
Implementing Agency: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (IDS – 37)

Total Project Cost: LE 45,672,060
IDS Share: LE 45,672,060
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 20,543,370
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: National (Gov. Cairo, Minya, Beni Suef, Luxor)
Start Date: 1st July 2004
Completion Date: 30th June 2007



Harvest stage of traceability exercise



Egyptian product in European supermarket

Objective

The project aims at supporting Egyptian exporters of agro-industrial products to Europe to comply with the European Community Regulation on food safety and circulation (n.178/2002), which rules traceability requirements of imported food. Basically, it is structured around two main components: technical and financial assistance.

Expected Results

- A pilot traceability scheme adopted by a group of companies.
- A training programme on traceability developed.
- A traceability manual available for beneficiaries.
- A data base on traceability issues available in the country.
- Companies have access to financial assistance to implement traceability systems.
- An accredited Egyptian authority for food certification established.
- Activities of the project promoted among beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Progress at May 2006

In order to identify the group of companies that will use the pilot traceability scheme, the project has selected, through statistical analysis, 11 categories of commodities which are important for Egyptian exports. In addition, a study for 8 commodities has been implemented, with information on growers, packing houses and marketing, in order to build a national

mapping and coding system for the establishment of a national traceability scheme. Through this study, it was possible to identify, for the first time in Egypt, more than 80% of the Egyptian packing houses.

After the formulation of the training programme and the definition of selection criteria for the beneficiaries, the first courses have been completed by 300 trainees. The courses took place in Luxor and Minya and, for 25 trainees, 3 study tours were organized in Italy and the United Kingdom to learn about other countries' traceability experience. The training programme is addressed to representatives of companies, business associations, governmental institutions, and NGOs.

Several brochures were printed and distributed to promote the project both in Egypt and abroad. The project is also establishing links with NGOs, farm associations, universities and technology centres and has created a web site (www.etrace.org.eg).

A first traceability manual has been prepared and will be tested by selected companies, as well as by institutional stakeholders.

The financial scheme was elaborated and officially launched to receive applications by companies. The financial assistance has a budget of LE 27,600,000 and each borrowing exporting company will be able to benefit of a maximum amount of LE 300,000.

STREET CHILDREN PROTECTION

Applicant: TOFULTY FOUNDATION
Implementing Agency: TOFULTY FOUNDATION
(IDS – 38)

Total Project Cost: LE 4,648,652

IDS Share: LE 4,648,652

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 2,061,459

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Helwan (Gov. Cairo)

Start Date: 1st January 04

Completion Date: 31st December 2006



Recreational activities



Vocational training on carpentry

Objective

Tofulty Foundation started to work with the street children issue in January 1998, in the Helwan district in the south of Cairo. These children may live or work on the streets for many reasons such as poverty, family problems or they may be abandoned or orphans. The beneficiaries of this project are around 500 children with their families.

The project, based on a rights-based approach, aims to help young people to come off the streets and, where possible, to be reunited with their families once again.

Expected Results

- A safe feeding and sleeping place available for street children of the Helwan area;
- Psychological support provided to street children in need;
- Basic education services provided to street children of Helwan;
- Opportunities of safe and sustainable micro business activities available for street children of Helwan;
- A database on street children in Helwan created;
- Institutions, families and local community awareness on street children problems increased;
- Increased advocacy towards the rights of street children through magazines, reports and workshops.

Progress at May 2006

To date, all project staff has been employed and the furniture for the centre has been purchased.

Also, the project has succeeded in returning 38 boys and girls to their families.

On the top of this, a total of 458 children received medical and psychological care and around 40 children received legal assistance for the issue of identity cards and birth certificates.

A colourful mobile unit for the day care centre was established to provide creative recreational and educational opportunities to boys and girls living on the streets. The idea is to take these children out of their oppressive daily environment and to encourage positive and constructive attitudes.

Regarding the vocational training component the project also organized vocational training workshops on carpet weaving, sewing, electrics and carpentry for 20 boys.

RELOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF OLD CAIRO TANNERIES TO ROBAIKI
AREA – FIRST PHASE

Applicant: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
(IDS – 39)

Total Project Cost: LE 312,150,000

IDS Share: LE 162,030,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 63,469,250

Other Contributions: LE 150,120,000

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Robaiki (Gov. Cairo)

Start Date: 1st November 2004

Completion Date: 31st October 2007



Civil works at Robaiki area

Objective

The project aims to the creation of a new industrial leather district in the Robaiki area (at some 51 km from Cairo, on the road to Suez), in accordance with the plan launched by the Egyptian Government, which plans to relocate roundabout 320 small, medium and large private tanneries from Old Cairo to this new district. All the external and internal infrastructure for Stage 1 of the relocation process will be financed by this project. So will the assessment, based on a participative approach involving tanners wishing to transfer their production during Stage 1, of the social and economical needs and effects of this transfer. In addition, the project will contribute to eliminating one of the main sources of pollution in Old Cairo and, at the same time, to improving Egyptian leather production by making it more competitive.

Expected Results

- An updated Master Plan for the new industrial leather district formulated.
- A Participative Plan for the gradual transfer of Old Cairo tanneries developed and agreed upon by tanners.
- Tanners willing to transfer their activity in the new district identified.
- Civil works of Stage 1 for infrastructure, buildings, sewage and industrial treatment plants executed and operation is assured.
- A Technological Service Centre established in the new industrial district.

Progress at May 2006

The project is carried out in collaboration with Assomac, the association of the Italian manufacturers of equipment and technologies for the shoe, leather and tannery industries. Assomac, in particular, provides the project with technical assistance and consulting services.

The tender for the execution of infrastructural civil works (networks, electrics, natural gas and fresh water supplies) was awarded to four companies (Arab Contractors, Rural Electrification Authority, Egyptian Natural Gases Company and New Urban Communities Authority). Works are currently underway. Progress so far has been mainly achieved in potable and fire fighting supply networks, electricity supply network, ground tank and pump station and industrial and sanitary sewage networks. For electric supply, building of distributor has been completed. For natural gas, surveying and engineering works have been completed.

In addition, the project is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate all the technical, economical and social consequences of the relocation of the involved tanneries and related population from Old Cairo to Robaiki area. The study is conducted with the active participation of all targeted tanners, analyzing the financial and social sustainability of the whole operation.

THE EXPANSION OF ADEW'S PROGRAM FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

Applicant: ADEW
Implementing Agency: ADEW
(IDS – 40)

Total Project Cost: LE 9,430,551

IDS Share: LE 9,430,551

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 5,453,803

Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years

Location: Manshiet Nasser (Gov. Cairo), Gharbya, Qalubya

Start Date: 8th December 2003

Completion Date: 7th December 2006



Literacy class in Qalubya Governorate



Girls' Dream component

Objective

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women is an Egyptian NGO committed to empowering female heads of households economically, legally and socially. The beneficiaries of this project are women in low income urban areas in Egypt facing social, cultural and economic constraints that have kept them in a marginalized position within their community.

The program aims to improve the social, economic and legal conditions of these women in the low-income communities of Manshiet Nasser (Cairo), Gharbia and Qalubya, by promoting widespread sensitization to their plight and by providing opportunities for these women to increase their income, enhance their knowledge and skills and gain control over their lives.

Expected Results

- Women's knowledge and awareness of their legal rights increased;
- About 7,000 women benefit from the micro credit program and are trained in microfinance and business practices;
- About 14,000 legal documents obtained for women;
- About 5,700 women received legal awareness sessions;
- About 500 women learnt to read and write participating in literacy courses;

- About 900 teenagers' girls participate in the Girls' Dreams project (this component of the project aims to improve the skills of girls with limited or no education);
- A documentary film and three short informational video produced.

Progress at May 2006

The program's four main components tackle the problems of lack of access to appropriate credit, lack of awareness with regards to legal and social rights, lack of health awareness and especially with regards to reproductive health problems as well as the problem of high illiteracy rates among poor women heads of household and girls.

During the first two years of the project's implementation, the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW) established three new offices in two new areas (Qalubya and Gharbya).

To date the project has disbursed loans for 2,545 beneficiaries with an average loan sizes between 300-1,000 L.E. with a repayment rate of 100%.

A total of 522 beneficiaries were trained on trading, purchasing and selling skills, how to run and manage projects and how to invest the profits, 480 women beneficiaries attended literacy classes and around 150 women received the formal certificates.

ADEW hold 76 legal awareness sessions and has established strong relationships with the officials in the civil registration office in order to facilitate all legal processes. However, ADEW not only helps women to obtain birth certificates, ID cards and other documents, but also helps them to file court cases.

Regarding the Girls' Dreams component, project helped 380 girls to recognize and develop their talents, read and write, understand their rights and imagine a better future.

NORTHERN CAIRO PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Applicant: The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
Implementing Agency: NCCM, AMA Arab Company for Environment, The Association for the Protection of Environment
(IDS – 41)

Total Project Cost: LE 4,250,001

IDS Share: LE 4,250,001

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 4,250,001

Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2,5 years

Location: Gov. Cairo

Start Date: 15th May 2004

Completion Date: 31st December 2006



Poster produced by the project



Youth Center: Environmental students' camp

Objective

The project addresses the environmental problems that affect the Northern Cairo communities. It aims at solving these problems by raising awareness on the importance of cleanliness for the environment and the public health in general. It tackles also other social issues such as illiteracy, unemployment and women's and children's rights.

Expected Results

- A social survey about the inhabitants of 7 northern Cairo districts available;
- Students and teachers from 97 schools and local leaders are trained on environmental awareness;
- Community environmental guard groups established;
- Educational material on environmental awareness prepared and distributed;
- Special community events on environmental problems implemented;
- 6000 women and girls, before illiterate, know how to read and write and are aware of local environmental problems and related health issues.

Progress at May 2006

The project adopts a participatory approach by involving the entire community including community leaders, youth centres, local NGO's and women's group.

To date the project has conducted a social research survey to identify the needs of the community living in Northern Cairo, as well as the social, health and environmental problems they are facing. In particular, the study examined the population distribution and the educational and employment status of the community.

Furthermore, 241 awareness campaigns have been executed reaching a number of 18,250 beneficiaries. The project team and the neighbourhood committee, established by the project, organized 250 seminars on environmental awareness and planting activities for 19,938 beneficiaries and distributed story books on environment.

Teachers and heads of the environmental department of the Ministry of Education have been trained on how to organize environmental camps, and 1344 students were trained as environmental guards.

The project organized a green corner competition among the 68 schools involved in the activities.

Regarding the media campaign material, a TV program for environmental protection, posters, flyers and incentives, like baskets and bags for garbage, were produced by the project.

The project also organized workshops on the following issues: girls education, street children, female genital mutilation, children's rights, negative impact of smoking and drugs, violence and sexual harassment and child labour.

REHABILITATION OF BEHEIRA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

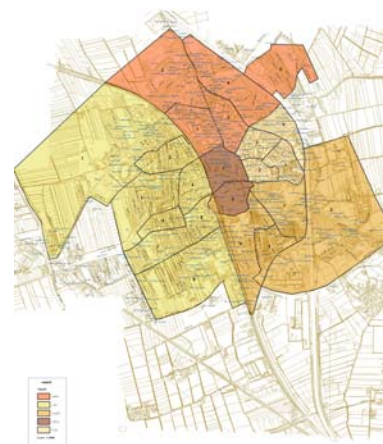
Applicant: Beheira Governorate
Implementing Agency: Beheira Water and Drainage Company
(IDS – 42)

Total Project Cost: LE 50,000,000
IDS Share: LE 50,000,000
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 36,692,024
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 3,5 years
Location: Damanhour (Gov. Beheira)
Start Date: 1st October 2003
Completion Date: 31st March 2007



Installation of water pipes in Damanhour



Rehabilitation Master Plan for Damanhour

Objective

The project aims at improving the supply of potable water for the population of the district of Damanhour (Beheira Governorate), both in the urban and rural areas. Damanhour includes roundabout 620,000 inhabitants (229,000 in the city and 392,000 in rural areas) and the project will seek to increase the average per capita water supply from the current 120-130 l/inhabitant per day to 200 l, in the urban areas, and from 40-50 l to 100-120 l in the rural areas.

Following a new technological approach, the project will provide a model for water supply systems to be replicated in other areas of the country.

Expected Results

- A Master Plan for the rehabilitation of the whole water supply system in the district of Damanhour (urban and rural areas) formulated and available.
- High priority works in the district identified.
- Priority areas of the urban water supply system in Damanhour rehabilitated.
- A new management methodology for water supply systems based on quality assurance and traceability developed.
- Capacity and knowledge of the staff of the Beheira Water and Drainage Company (BWADC) increased.

Progress at May 2006

The project has completed the evaluation of the water supply network in Damanhour and the elaboration of the Master Plan with the identification of the rehabilitation needs. The Master Plan is intended for carrying out a project of rehabilitation of the water supply system to be developed in three stages until 2022.

In relation to the new management methodology, leak detection studies were implemented (30% of leaks were detected), as well as studies on GIS system, metering systems and methods of cost recovery.

Tender procedures and civil works for the rehabilitation of the urban water supply system in Damanhour have started. These works are implemented in three areas of the eastern part of the city (a network of 40 km); they consist, basically, in complete replacement of old pipes, partial replacement and modification of zone feeding points and they target to execute 1,500 house connections. Until May 2006, 400 house connections have been completed.

Thirteen engineers from BWADC participated in training programs for knowledge transfer implemented in Italy (Ancona and Milan) by the company Società Generale di Ingegneria SGI SpA.

All project activities, including technical assistance for tenders and supervision of works, are implemented through the consultancy services of the private company Chemonics Egypt.

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR RESTORATION AND ARCHAEOLOGY-
RECOVERING OF THE URBAN AREA OF THE YASHBAK PALACE**

Applicant: Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA)
**Implementing Agency: SCA, Italian Egyptian Center for Antiquities and Restoration
(C.I.E.R.A.)
(IDS – 43)**

Total Project Cost: Euro 382,824.68

IDS Share: LE 1,600,000

Funds transferred at May 2006: LE 173,000

Other contributions: Euro 360,824.68

Project Duration: 2 years

Location: Gov. Cairo

Start Date: 26 January 2005

Completion Date: 25 January 2007



Mevlevi Derwishes architectural complex

Objective

This project is a complementary intervention to the program “*Professional Training for restoration and Archeology*”, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the S.C.A. and C.I.E.R.A, that aims to preserve the Islamic heritage in Cairo by providing appropriate professional training courses in the different fields of restoration of antiquities. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the promotion and reconstruction of the urban area of the Yashbak Palace, a historical building of the Islamic Cairo where the training courses are implemented. The recovery of the Yashbak Palace surrounding area will allow the Antiquities Inspectorate to exercise effective control on monuments and at the same time will raise awareness on environmental issues and monumental protection among the local community. The specific object of the project is to clean the northern area of the Mevlevi Derwishes architectural complex from debris and rubbish.

Expected Result

- The northern area of the Yashbak Palace, Mevlevi Derwishes architectural complex, cleaned from rubbish and debris and available for future development.

Progress at May 2006

The project has selected the company for the execution of the works. The works started but were suspended due to administrative problems into the management of funds by the Applicant. At the moment solutions are under discussions to restart and complete the activities.

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN THREE DISTRICTS OF THE GOVERNORATE OF SOHAG

Applicant: NGO MAIS
Implementing Agency: NGO MAIS
(IDS – 44)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,840,800
IDS Share: LE 1,840,800
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,840,800
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years and 3 months
Location: Gov. Sohag
Start Date: 9th March, 2004
Completion Date: 31st May 2006



Vocational training on sewing



Literacy class

Objective

This project was proposed as an extension of the project financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs “*Support of Female Heads of Household*” in the Governorate of Sohag that aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of ten CDAs (Community Development Association) through the support of the kindergartens and delivering small loans to the female heads of household. The project aims at creating new job opportunities for the children of female heads of households and other low-income families through professional and vocational trainings.

Expected Results

- 10 CDAs enabled to deliver sustainable services in literacy;
- 500 children have access to a two-year literacy course;
- 250 children have access to computer classes;
- 1,000 children have access to vocational training courses.

Progress at May 2006

The main objective of the project is to improve the educational skills of the children of the poor female heads of household in order to contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the Governorate of Sohag.

To date the project achieved the following results:

587 children, from 8 to 18 years, have attended the literacy course.

382 children, from 14 to 18 years, have attended income generating courses on computer skills.

747 children, from 14 to 18 years, have attended vocational trainings in sewing, electrics, plumbing, palm tree waving, carpentry, loom, mobile repairing, and painting.

Concerning the capacity building component, different training sessions were conducted to enhance the skills of the members of 10 CDAs.

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION

Applicant: NGO Movimondo
Implementing Agency: NGO Movimondo
(IDS – 45)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,997,686
IDS Share: LE 1,997,686
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,381,186
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 3 years
Location: Gov. Giza
Start Date: 15th April 2004
Completion Date: 30th April 2007



Seminar on reproductive health care



Legal assistance

Objective

The project is a complementary pilot intervention to the project “Community Development through the Growth of Small and Micro Enterprises”, aiming at integrating gender perspective in non-financial services provided already by local grassroots organizations, and in particular by the Business Development Centres housed in CDAs (Community Development Associations). It aims at providing support to disadvantaged women enabling them to have greater access to economic opportunities. In the district of Giza, rates of illiteracy amongst women are significantly higher both in relation to men and to other areas. In some cases it is as high as 50% of the population, due to the high drop out rate from schools which in turn is due to poor quality education and its lack of relevance. Moreover official statistics report that in Giza the female unemployment rate is twice that of men.

Expected Results

- Capacity of local CDAs in designing and managing non-financial services for female entrepreneurship strengthened;
- New job opportunities for women of the area identified;
- Women of the area empowered and aware of their rights and of local available economic opportunities.

Progress at May 2006

To date, the project achieved the following results: 36 members of the project staff have been trained on gender equality and women entrepreneurship-related issues, a manual on Gender Policy and Guidelines have been published, they provided training for the women of the four CDAs, they organised awareness events on reproductive health, legal and social insurance as well as workshops focusing on vocational trainings on sewing, embroidery, flower. Also, the website www.bdcegypt.org has been constructed and uploaded for the business development centres of the targeted CDAs.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OLD CAIRO

Applicant: NGO MAIS
Implementing Agency: NGO MAIS
(IDS – 46)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,999,900

IDS Share: LE 1,999,900

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,663,025

Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years

Location: Gov. Cairo

Start Date: 17th November 2004

Completion Date: 30th November 2006



Vocational training for budding electricians



Literacy class

Objective

In view of the relocation of the old Cairo tanneries (see project IDS/39), which are currently the main sources of income for the area, this project aims to provide basic education and appropriate vocational training for working children and to improve the living conditions of the working children's families by offering health services, and organizing awareness seminars on health and nutrition.

The project is implemented by the Italian NGO MAIS in cooperation with the Egyptian NGO Abu El Soud (ASSDA).

ASSDA was the implementing agency of the ILO project "*Rehabilitation of working children in the leather tanneries*", financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed to provide health and recreational services, literacy and vocational training as well as nutritional meals.

Expected Results

- 300 children and 80 adults benefit of literacy courses and educational activities;
- 660 children and 140 adults benefit of vocational training courses in plumbing, electrical housing installation, refrigerators and A/C, sewing, computer maintenance;
- 960 working children and their families receive free health care services and nutritional supplements;
- 200 women acquire knowledge of family health issues.

Progress at May 2006

During the first semester, the project refurbished and equipped the clinic that was opened in the second semester. In the second semester most of the activities were focused on the full implementation of the literacy and vocational training.

To date the project achieved the main following results:

- 62 children and 18 adults have had access to literacy courses and educational activities.
- 51 children and 14 adults have had access to vocational trainings.
- 113 children have received nutritional supplements.
- regular seminars on family health for poor families were implemented.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENHANCEMENT OF NGOS KINDERGARTEN SERVICES

Applicant: NGO Central Kindergarten Supervisors League
Implementing Agency: NGO Central Kindergarten Supervisors League
(IDS – 47)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,889,250
IDS Share: LE 1,889,250
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,734,355
Other Contributions:

Project Duration: 1 year and 11 months
Location: National (New Valley, Fayoum, Assiut, Siwa)
Start Date: 21st September 2004
Completion Date: 20th August 2006



Children in kindergarten in Assiut



Upgraded playground

Objective

The project is based on the social strategy of Early Childhood Development to break the cycle of poverty and it represents a strong support for all the Egyptian NGOs committed to offering kindergarten services, especially in the most vulnerable communities. Its main aim is to offer a healthy environment for Egyptian children by strengthening the capacity of Egyptian NGOs to design and deliver high quality kindergarten services in the New Valley, Fayoum, Assiut and Siwa.

Expected Results

- The design of a training programme for staff of kindergartens (through standard modules) implemented, monitored and evaluated by a network of specialized trainers coordinated by 20 supervisors.
- Staff from about 1200 kindergartens in the project area trained.
- Staff from the provincial Motherhood and Childhood departments of the Ministry of Social Affairs acquires early childhood development knowledge.
- 20 kindergartens refurbished.
- Official recognition from the Ministry of Social Affairs obtained for newly designed training programme on Early Childhood Development.

Progress at May 2006

The training modules were designed and tested by a group of experts from Cairo University. In addition, the number of supervisors for the network of trainers was extended to 29. 243 selected kindergartens have started to benefit from the training programme (123 in Assiut, 67 in Fayoum, 49 in the New Valley and 4 in Siwa). 2 training courses have been implemented for the staff of the provincial Motherhood and Childhood departments (21 participants). The 20 kindergartens for refurbishment were selected after evaluating their actual needs and works were completed.

IMPROVING EDUCATION QUALITY IN SIWA

Applicant: NGO Association for the Advancement of Education (AAE)
Implementing Agency: NGO Association for the Advancement of Education (AAE) in cooperation with Italian NGO COSPE
(IDS – 48)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,986,715

IDS Share: LE 1,986,715

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 1,048,295

Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2,5 years

Location: Siwa (Gov. Matrouh)

Start Date: 17th February 2005

Completion Date: 16th August 2005



Training for teachers on computer skills



Training on Environmental awareness

Objective

The project is an extension of the previous project implemented in Minya by the same NGO that is the Association for the Advancement of Education (AAE) and financed by the Egyptian Swiss Development fund.

The overall goal of the project, implemented in cooperation with the Italian NGO COSPE, is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of education in the oasis of Siwa as well as to increase the access rate of children, with particular focus on girls.

In particular, the project intends to improve the technical and educational skills of the teachers, the students' awareness on environmental, cultural heritage and relevant job opportunities as well as enhance the role of the Parents' Councils of the schools involved. Special emphasis is being placed on enhancing understanding of the linkages between environmental protection, health awareness, cultural heritage and social development.

Expected Results

- Teachers of the schools have improved their knowledge and skills on curricular subjects, teaching methodology and environmental awareness;
- Students of the schools have improved their awareness of environment and cultural heritage;
- Decrease in student drop out rate;
- Enhancement of the role of parents' council within the schools.

Progress at May 2006

The project, working in 23 schools of the oasis, adopts a participatory approach in order to maximize the benefits and use local resources and experiences, as well as to assure and maintain sustainability of the project.

The main achievements of the project to date include the selection of twelve schools in the area and training in modern teaching methodology, computer skills and environmental awareness given to the teachers.

The educational skills of 1.800 students so far have benefited from this, improving their own skills in Arabic, English and Maths. This was done in cooperation with the Siwa Education Department, the Tourism Promotion Authority, the Protected Area Department and the Siwa Association for Community Development and Environment Protection.

Sixteen “green corners” promoting environmental awareness have been set up in schools. More than 547 parents of students have been involved in regular meetings with the teachers and workshops aimed at increasing their participation in the life of the school. 283 workshops addressed to 4245 Siwan women and girls have been held with the aim of raising health and environmental awareness.

CREATION OF SUSTAINABLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN MINYA

Applicant: NGO New Vision Association for Development (NVD)
Implementing Agency: NGO New Vision Association for Development (NVD)
in cooperation with NGO COSPE
(IDS – 49)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,999,475
IDS Share: LE 1,999,475
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 638,892
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years
Location: Gov. Minya
Start Date: 15th August 2005
Completion Date: 14th August 2007



Flyer produced by the project



Presentation of the project's objectives to Governor of Minya

Objective

The project is implemented in partnership with the Italian NGO COSPE (Cooperation for Development of Emerging Countries) and two local associations in Minya.

The overall goal of this project is to contribute to the sustainable socio-economic development of Minya Governorate through the creation of job opportunities for marginalized groups, and to alleviate poverty and unemployment by providing them with access to effective financial and non financial services. The project is expected to improve the level of understanding of Egyptian new economic trends and labour market demands in Minya Governorate and specifically, in Samlout and Minya districts.

Expected Results

- An employment and information centre established;
- A professional and basic vocational training centre established;
- At least 200 beneficiaries of the target groups have completed their technical and professional training courses, 75 of the trained persons have a sustainable job and 135 of the target group run and manage an effective small business.

Progress at May 2006

The NVD, following a comprehensive development approach, works to provide equal opportunities for vulnerable groups in order to improve their conditions.

To date the project has hired all the staff and purchased equipment for the training centre. In cooperation with COSPE, NVD completed the set-up of the training centre policies and procedures.

In addition, the project has started to collect data for the Labour Market Study and set up loans policies and procedures for the following implementation period.

In order to build the capacity of NVD staff, training courses in project management were implemented by COSPE and external consultants.

**IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN
THE DISTRICTS OF OMRANYA AND EL SAFF (GIZA)**

Applicant: NGO MOVIMONDO
Implementing Agency: NGO MOVIMONDO/SETI CARITAS
(IDS – 50)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,998,050
IDS Share: LE 1,998,050
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 569,235
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 2 years
Location: Gov. Giza
Start Date: 1st August 2005
Completion Date: 31st July 2007



Center for children with special needs (El Saff)



Vocational training class

Objective

The project's strategy follows a capacity building approach by replicating the Community-Based Rehabilitation Program successfully tested by SETI-CARITAS in other communities. The project tackles the problems of disabled children, such as discrimination, negative attitude towards handicap and lack of local services. Thus, the main objective of the project is to improve the living conditions of disabled children through health, social and education support in the local CDAs and to promote their integration.

Expected Results

- Centres in El Saff and Omraneyya districts rehabilitated;
- CDAs capabilities to support programs for disabled children enhanced;
- Psycho-physical and social development of disabled children in the CDAs enhanced;
- CDAs, project staff and teachers have an increased knowledge in dealing with children with special needs.

Progress at May 2006

During the first semester, the project rehabilitated the centre in El Saff district and started to reconstruct the centre in Omraneyya.

In addition, within the component named "Community Based Rehabilitation Program", 4 training sessions for raising awareness and modifying society's attitude towards the disabled people have been implemented.

**INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT TO EXTERNAL EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT OF
THE MINISTRY OF MANPOWER AND EMIGRATION**

Applicant: Ministry of Manpower and Emigration
Implementing Agency: IOM
(IDS – 51)

Total Project Cost: LE 311,000

IDS Share: LE 311,000

Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 311,000

Other contributions:

Project Duration: 6 months

Location: Gov. Cairo

Start Date: 19th June 2005

Completion Date: 20th December 2005



The new offices in the internal area



Computers delivery

Objective

This initiative was part of the overall implementation of the Integrated Migration Information System (IMIS) project financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and executed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration (MME). The purpose of the project is to support the External Employment Department (EED) of the MME to effectively implement the job matchmaking modules set up in the framework of the IMIS Project. The project financed by IEDS provided the EED, formally entrusted to process the requests for Egyptian manpower presented by foreign employers, with the appropriate infrastructures and technical support to accomplish a proper management of the matchmaking component linked to IMIS. Target group of this IMIS project is composed by potential migrants and foreign employers interested in recruiting Egyptian manpower.

Achieved Results

- The offices of the External Employment Department (EED) restructured;
- Computers, network connections and leased line installed in EED.

DOLPHINS HABITAT CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE

Applicant: NGO Abu Salama Society
Implementing Agency: NGO Abu Salama Society
(IDS – 52)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,327,350
IDS Share: LE 1,327,350
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 945,800
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 1 year
Location: Gov. Red Sea
Start Date: 1st September, 2005
Completion Date: 31st August 2006



Spinner Dolphins in Samadai reef

Objective

The project, implemented by the Egyptian NGO Abu Salama Society with the assistance of a team of Italian experts, intends to achieve and promote sustainable development of tourism in the southern Egyptian Red Sea coast while maintaining marine biodiversity and environmental protection. In particular, it aims to build scientific, technical and managerial local capacities for the sustainable management of the area of Samadai reef located south of the city of Marsa Alam where a specific community of dolphins lives. In the last few years Samadai reef witnessed an increase of tourism and human interaction around the Spinner Dolphins, particular specie of dolphins, characterized by their habit of breaching in graceful curves and spinning vertically before re- entry. In this context, the project aims to protect the local marine mammals, with particular focus on the Spinner Dolphins, through an adaptive research programme on dolphin ecology and conservation and promoting and coordinating scientific studies, providing training courses as well as awareness campaigns. Italian experts will provide technical assistance in charge of the research module and the management module. In the first period of implementation, the project intends to establish local research and training facilities, as well as select and train rangers and field guides. A spinner dolphins' research databank will be established.

Expected Results

- Increased knowledge of the dolphin habitat and on the appropriate use of the reef for the development of sustainable eco tourism in the area;
- Monitoring programs developed and improved and a model for the development of eco-tourist activities established;
- A protected marine area established and functioning;

- Rangers and field guides are trained in research, management procedures and techniques of specially protected areas;
- Awareness of dolphins and marine biodiversity enhanced among stakeholders and tourists;
- New job-opportunities created in the area.

Progress at May 2006

To date the project has developed a spinner dolphins' research databank and it is monitoring dolphins' behaviour and the human impact in their environment even through photo-identification techniques.

The project revised and improved available information about the Samadai reef that should be provided to local operators and tourists to increase awareness about all the environmental risks of the project area.

Recommendations on the management of the area, based on the acquired scientific knowledge of the dolphins' environment and on previous experience gained by the project's technical consultants from similar situations in other parts of the world were issued to all the stakeholders in specific workshops.

Egyptian trainees were selected and involved in the management training program.

Field-guides were trained in techniques and procedures to guide snorkelling visitors inside Samadai reef with the aim of respecting the dolphins' habitat and the environment.

PILOT PROJECT FOR GREEN CORRIDOR

Applicant: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry
(IDS – 53)

Total Project Cost: LE 1,902,250
IDS Share: LE 1,902,250
Funds Transferred at May 2006: LE 339,850
Other contributions:

Project Duration: 1,5 years
Location: Gov. Alexandria, Gov. Beheira
Start Date: 30th June 2005
Completion Date: 31st December 2006



Egyptian cultivations and agricultural products for exports

Objective

The Green Corridor agreement was signed by the Egyptian Vice-Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation and the Italian Minister of Agricultural Policies, on February 2002 with the aim of setting a framework to enhance bilateral cooperation between Italy and Egypt facilitating the production and export to Italy and Europe of Egyptian agricultural products.

In this context the pilot project for Green Corridor aims to test and create the suitable conditions for the start up of the Green Corridor Initiative. The pilot project intends to contribute to achieve socio-economic development at West Nubariyya area through the production and export of 3000 Tons of agriculture products for a total value of 38 million LE, providing assistance in community settlement and generating new job opportunities especially for women. The first phase of the project plans to select the crops targeted for export as well as select specialized Egyptian exporters and Italian importers to establish a coordination mechanism with the producers. In compliance with the European law, the project intends also to sign a cooperation agreement with UNIDO for the traceability of the products.

Expected Results

- 3000 Tons of the selected crops will be produced in West Nubaria according to European specifications.
- 3000 Tons will be transported for West Nubaria to Italian ports and accepted by the Italian market.

- Private sector companies sign contracts for inputs and services amounting to about EGP 22 Million to export above mentioned quantities.
- Certification and Traceability drawn for at least 50 feddans in the project area.
- An Operational Plan for the green corridor program is drawn according to the experience gained from the results of real field work.

Progress at May 2006

On January 2006 the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation agreed to amend the Implementing Agreement signed on the 15/3/2005, by appointing as a new implementing agency of the project the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation - West Nubariya Rural Development project (IDS-1).

To date the project has prepared a calendar of the cultivation of vegetables and fruits that could be exported to Italy and European markets.

The West Nubariya Rural Development project has signed an agreement with the Department of Protected Cultivations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation for using its Cooling and Packing Unit for a period of 10 years.

An Italian delegation from Puglia Region has visited the project and held meetings with Egyptian producers to evaluate and organize the import of horticultural products of West Nubariya for the season 2006-2007.

*This Report was produced by the Technical Support Unit (TSU)
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