



*Ambasciata d'Italia  
Il Cairo*



*Ministry of  
International Cooperation*

**ITALIAN - EGYPTIAN  
Debt for Development Swap Programme  
Phase 2**

**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
JANUARY – DECEMBER  
2013**



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## List of Acronyms

<b>AWSC</b>	Alex Workshop Center
<b>CISS</b>	Cooperazione Internazionale Sud-Sud
<b>COSPE</b>	Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti
<b>CPF</b>	Counterpart Fund
<b>EASTE</b>	Egyptian Association for Science and Technology Experts
<b>EDF</b>	Educational Development Fund
<b>EEAA</b>	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
<b>ESTSA</b>	Egyptian Science and Technology Services Association
<b>GAFRD</b>	General Authority for Fish Resource Development
<b>HEPCA</b>	Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association
<b>IAMB</b>	Agronomic Mediterranean Institute of Bari
<b>ICED</b>	International Centre for Environment and Development
<b>IDA</b>	Industrial Development Authority
<b>IDCS</b>	Information and Decision Support Center
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMC</b>	General Organization for Industrial and Mining Projects
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ISS</b>	Istituto Superiore di Sanità
<b>MAIS</b>	Movimento per l'Autosviluppo, l'Interscambio e la Solidarietà
<b>MC</b>	Management Committee
<b>MCIT</b>	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
<b>MRI</b>	Medical Research Institute
<b>MSAD</b>	Ministry of State for Administrative Development
<b>MIFT</b>	Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade

<b>NCCM</b>	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
<b>NWRC</b>	National Water Research Centre
<b>OCSE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
<b>PEMA</b>	Center for Project Evaluation and Microeconomics Analysis
<b>RC</b>	Ricerca e Cooperazione
<b>SCC</b>	Social Contract Center
<b>TSU</b>	Technical Support Unit
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Association
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program

In the frame of the Second Debt for Development Swap Agreement signed in Cairo on June 3, 2007 between the Italian Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt, this Report presents the progress of the Italian-Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Programme - Phase 2, for the year 2013, as per article 6.2 of the above mentioned Agreement.

## 1. The second Debt Swap Agreement and the Joint Declaration on the implementation of the Debt for Development Swap Programme

Following the first Debt Swap Agreement signed in Rome on February 19, 2001 for a total value of USD 149 million, and considering the positive results outlined in the assessments performed in October 2004 and April 2006, the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed on June 3, 2007 a second Debt Swap Agreement, for a total amount of 100 million USD. The validity of the Agreement, initially for a seven-year period, has been extended until June 2015.

The Agreement provides for the creation of a Counterpart Fund (CPF) where the instalments of debt the Egyptian Government would have reimbursed to the Italian Government in the period 2007 - 2012, for a total amount not exceeding USD 100 million, is credited in local currency (Egyptian Pounds - EGP) on regular basis.

The resources generated from swap operations are used to implement projects jointly agreed upon by the Italian and Egyptian Governments, to support the socio-economic development of Egypt.

Public Egyptian administrations, International Organizations, and Italian and Egyptian NGOs are eligible to receive funds from the program and act as projects implementing agencies. According to the provisions of the Agreement defining Programme implementation modalities, procedures are the following:

- The initiative is approved by the Programme Management Committee on the basis of a Project Document including: i) detailed description of the action, ii) Logical Framework, iii) overall budget, iii) overall and semester work plans iv) overall and semester financial plans;
- The approval is formalized by signature of an Implementing Agreement defining the obligations of all parties: signatories are the Applicant, the Implementing Agency, the Embassy of Italy in Cairo and the Ministry of International Cooperation, the last two being members of the Management Committee;
- In case the Applicant is a public institution, project budget and related amounts to be transferred each year have to be registered in the Line Ministry budget by the Ministry of Planning. The registration is done every year, with reference to the amounts to be transferred in the reference financial year;
- In the event that the Applicant is an NGO, whether Egyptian or Italian, it has to be regularly registered in Egypt and obtain a "license" issued by the Ministry of Social Affairs authorizing project implementation. If the NGO already possesses a valid licence, each project has to be explicitly mentioned in it;
- After signing the Implementing Agreement, the Applicant shall open an account in the name of the project: if the Applicant is an Egyptian public administration, the account will be opened at the Central Bank of Egypt, if the Applicant is an International Organization or an NGO, the account will be opened in any other bank;
- Following Applicant's communication announcing that the account has been opened, the Technical Support Unit disburses the first semi-annual instalment. Instalments are disbursed every six months based on technical and financial progress reports as well as work and financial plans related to the following semester;
- The Technical Support Unit verifies the state of the Counterpart Fund (deposits and disbursements) based on Central Bank statements, on the situation of each project account according to monthly bank statements submitted by project managers; and on the technical and financial progress of each project.

In the “Joint Declaration on the implementation of the Debt for Development Swap Programme” signed in Sharm El Sheikh on May 12, 2009, the parties agreed upon Programme’s guidelines in line with the priorities identified in the Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan 2007-2012:

- Development of human resources (in particular through technical and vocational education and training);
- Industry modernization in high social impact sectors (tanning industry, agribusiness) and clean technology innovation;
- Increase and improvement production, logistics and export of agricultural produce;
- Environmental protection;
- Social development in support of the most vulnerable groups of the Egyptian population (in particular, women and children).

## **2. The Italian - Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Programme: partners for development**

The Debt for Development Swap Programme represents one of the major and most innovative instruments of the Italian - Egyptian partnership. While strengthening the relations between Italy and Egypt and contributing to reduce Egypt foreign debt, the Programme promotes equitable and sustainable socio-economic progress through the implementation of development projects. The Programme performs nationwide in Egypt but deserves special attention to some areas, such as Upper Egypt Governorates and Fayoum.

Away from the traditional “donor-recipient” logic, the Programme is featured, in each phase, by high degree of ownership. Dialogue and cooperation represent the main operational and decision-making instruments. Negotiation emerges as the main feature of the debt swap mechanism, as rationale underlying the programme, as well as main instrument to ensure all partners’ expectations are met. Indeed, this is consistent with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations and ensuring alignment with Country priorities and concrete needs.

In line with the Italian Cooperation Programme in Egypt and the priorities identified in the National Development Plan, the initiatives focus on poverty alleviation, promoting targeted actions in agriculture and rural development; food and nutrition; local communities development and support to the most vulnerable groups of the population such as women and children; improving technical and vocational education and training with a view to employment creation; environmental protection and enhancement of Egyptian historic, archaeological and cultural heritage, including the promotion of responsible tourism. In all sectors, Italy ensures value added in terms of skills, know-how and technology transfer.

### 3. Progress of the Programme

Programme total amount - 100 million U.S. dollars - has been credited on the Counterpart Fund opened at the Central Bank of Egypt in the name of the Programme, for a total value amounting to EGP 559,115,926.00.

The average exchange rate is therefore: USD 1 = EGP 5.59.

At the date of 31.12.2013, 29 projects have been approved for a total amount of approximately 90 million U.S. dollars: funds disbursed amounts to some 58 million U.S. dollars, corresponding to approximately 63% of the committed amount.

The tables below show that, despite the instable situation in the Country, the Programme recorded a positive trend. In the period January - December 2013, 16.1 million U.S. dollars have been disbursed, rewarding the efforts exerted by both Italian and Egyptian parties.

**Table 1. Programme financial status up to 31/12/2013**

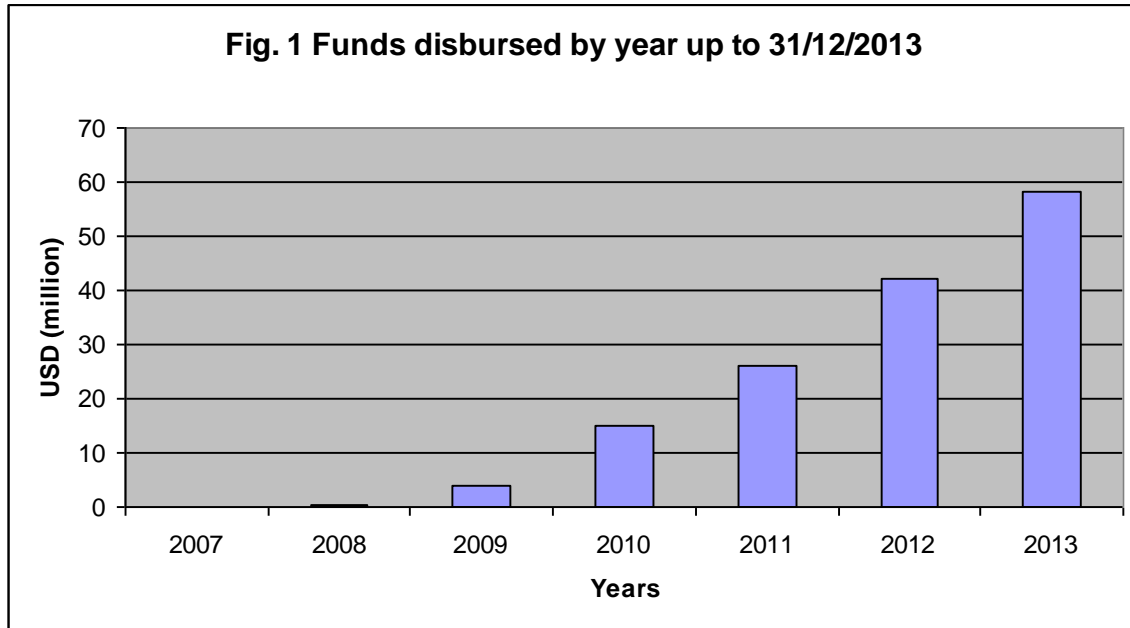
Programme financial status up to 31/12/2013			
	EGP	USD	%
Programme total amount	559,115,926	100,000,000	100.00%
Disbursed amount	320,947,276	58,040,798	58.04%
Committed amount	209,654,223	36,864,117	36.86%
Allocated amount	28,487,427	5,095,084	5.10%

*Exchange rate: 1 USD = 5,59 EGP*

**Table 2. Total amount disbursed by year up to 31/12/2013**

Total amount disbursed up to 31/12/2013 in USD (million)						
2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
0	0.5	4.0	15.1	26.0	42.3	58.04





#### 4. Progress of the projects

The Management Committee, represented by the Egyptian Minister of the International Cooperation (designated member, the Adviser to the Minister for European Affairs) and the Ambassador of Italy to Egypt (designated member, the Director of the Cooperation Office of the Embassy of Italy) has selected 30 projects to be funded under the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 2.

Of the selected projects:

- 29 have been approved;
- 1 is under formulation.

Of the approved projects:

- 15 are completed or close to conclusion;
- 14 are ongoing or in the inception phase.

The table below lists the projects selected, indicating their budget in EGP and USD.

<b>Table 3. Projects selected</b>		
<b>1. Approved projects</b>	<b>EGP</b>	<b>US Dollars</b>
1. Poverty alleviation through creating low-cost jobs in the solid waste system in the Greater Cairo region (Egyptian NGO ICED)	2,198,200.00	393,156.00
2. Sustaining Lives for Human security (WFP)	46,461,977.00	8,309,900.00
3. Using remote sensing to improve water quality management and modeling in the Nile Delta of Egypt (National Water Research Center- NWRC of the Ministry of Water Resources)	1,462,650.00	261,600.00

4. Egypt Fit for Children (National Council for Childhood and Motherhood-NCCM)	12,320,401.32 <sup>1</sup>	2,203,550.00
5. Social Contract Advisory, Monitoring and Coordination Center (UNDP/Information Decision Support Centre - IDSC)	26,673,874.00	4,770,723.00
6. Ecotourism for sustainable development in the New Valley ( Italian NGO CISS)	3,705,030.00	662,659.00
7. Promotion of women's rights by strengthening the capacities of Civil Society Organizations in the Governorate of Sohag (Italian ONG MAIS)	3,731,896.00	667,464.00
8. Sustainable development in the Southern Egyptian Red Sea (Egyptian NGO HEPCA)	12,521,045.00	2,239,436.00
9. Modernizing industrial schools using Information and Communication Technologies (Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies (UNDP-ICT Trust Fund/Don Bosco Institute)	8,263,690.00	1,477,992.00
10. Small-scale producers network for socio-economic rights recognition (Italian NGO COSPE)	4,188,765.00	749,176.00
11. Peer review of e-government in Egypt (Ministry of Administrative Development/National Management Institute/OCSE)	2,060,241.00	368,482.00
12. Integrated Technical Education Cluster - ITEC (Educational Development Fund-EDF)	84,528,057.17	15,118,163.00
13. Sustainable systems development for date palm and olive production in North Sinai (Egyptian NGO EASTE)	6,638,800.00	1,187,375.00
14. Action for vulnerable children. Improving Capacities for enhancing interventions (Italian NGO Ricerca e Cooperazione)	4,090,905.00	731,674.00
15. Marine aquaculture development in Egypt (Ministry of Agriculture / General Authority for Fish Resources Development-GAFRD)	38,472,417.00	6,880,937.00
16. Solid waste management in Minya Governorate (Ministry of Environment/UNDP)	32,226,130.00	5,763,765.00
17. Robbiki Industrial Leather and Tanneries City (RLC) - Stage 1: General Effluent Treatment Plant (GETP - Step 1a) (Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade/Investment Development Authority)	64,000,000.00	11,446,642.00
18. Health Governance Unit (University of Alexandria/ Medical Research Institute/Istituto Superiore di Sanità Roma)	24,869,785.00	4,448,055.00
19. Poverty alleviation through creating low-cost jobs in the municipal solid waste sector in Qalioubiya Governorate (Egyptian NGO ICED)	2,480,008.00	443,559.00
20. Safer environment for children (Italian NGO Save the Children Italia)	4,199,429.00	751,084.00
21. Transition to employment: career guidance for	5,903,976.00	1,055,948.00

<sup>1</sup> The budget approved for the project was EGP 16,794,474.00. At the closure date (October 31, 2013), the amount transferred to the project was EGP 12,320,401.32. The available balance amounting to EGP 4,474,072.68 has been allocated as contribution to the rehabilitation of the Mallawi Museum in Minya Governorate.

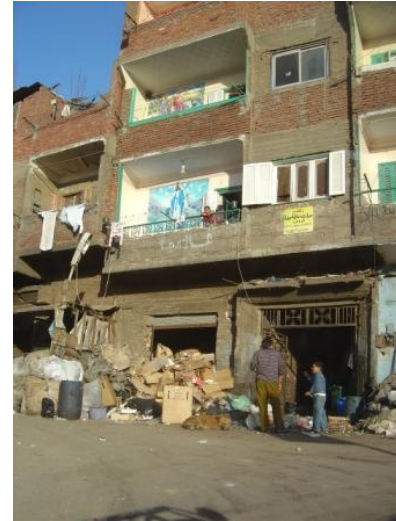
youth and job creation (ILO)		
22. Integration Migration Information System - IMIS III (Ministry of Manpower and Migration/IOM)	7,442,833.00	1,331,179.00
23. Psychosocial rehabilitation for mental disability - Remedy (Egyptian NGO AWSC)	2,550,854.00	456,230.00
24. Support to Egyptian Protected Areas - SEPA (Ministry of Environment/UNDP)	11,000,000.00	1,967,392.00
25. Green Trade Initiative (Ministry of Industry and Foreign trade/UNIDO)	54,962,854.00	9,830,315.00
26. Building rural assets with valuable opportunities - BRAVO (Italian NGOs MAIS and COSPE)	4,148,036.00	741,892.00
27. Management, maintenance and permanent opening the Medinet Madi Archaeological Park (Supreme Council of Antiquities/UNDP)	3,120,645.50	558,139.00
28. Poverty alleviation through creating low-cost jobs in the solid waste system in the Greater Cairo region (Egyptian NGO ICED)	3,041,000.00	543,896.00
29. Developing the handicrafts skills and enhancing the economic status of women in Upper Egypt (Ministry of Agriculture/IAMB)	23,000,000.00	4,113,637.00
<b>1. Sub Total (Approved projects)</b>	<b>500,263,498.99</b>	<b>89,474,021.00</b>
<b>2. Projects under formulation</b>		
30. Sustainable rural development in Bahariya Oasis - SRDBO (Egyptian NGO EASTE)	8,000,000.00	1,430,830.00
21. Transition to employment: career guidance for youth and job creation (ILO) new component (replacing Progetto Sud project)	4,174,800.00	746,679.00
<b>2. Sub Total (Project under formulation)</b>	<b>12,174,800.00</b>	<b>2,177,509.00</b>
<b>3. Remaining funds</b>		
Allocated on the new ITEC	19,838,554.56	3,548,201.00
Allocated on Mallawi Museum	4,174,800.00	800,205.00
<b>3. Sub Total (remaining funds)</b>	<b>24,013,354.56</b>	<b>4,348,406.00</b>
<b>4. Management and Technical Assistance</b>	<b>22,365,000.00</b>	<b>4,000,065.00</b>
<b>Total (1+2+3+4)</b>	<b>559,115,926.23</b>	<b>100,000,000.00</b>

Technical Progress

Approved Initiatives

**“POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH CREATING LOW-COST JOBS IN THE SOLID WASTE SYSTEM IN THE GREATER CAIRO REGION“**

Project Code	DS_01_ICED
Applicant	ICED
Implementing Agency	ICED
Location	Cairo (Manchiet Nasser and Ezbet El Nakhal)
Total Project Budget	EGP 2,198,200.00
Funds Transferred at December 2013	EGP 2,198,200.00
Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency	18.12.2008
Project Agreement	04.12.2008
Start Date	01.01.2009
Completion Date	31.12.2010



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Garbage collectors (*Zabaleen* in Arabic) play a significant role in Egyptian national economy. Recycling is an integral component of the solid waste informal system managed by the *Zabaleen*. It allows to potentially recycling some 80% of municipal solid waste, which is one of the highest recycling percentage worldwide. Informal settlements where the garbage is sorted have become activity hubs, generating employment and income for thousands of individuals.

Despite the importance of the whole system, *Zabaleen*'s working conditions are still poor, unhealthy and unsafe. Against this background, the project aimed at contributing to improve working and living conditions of *Zabaleen* community in Manchiet Nasser and Ezbet El Nakhal areas in Cairo, creating new permanent jobs, upgrading workshops and raising awareness on safety measures to be adopted at workplace.

**STATUS: CONCLUDED**

The project successfully completed in 2010: 396 new permanent jobs were created; 99 existing recycling workshops, both in Manchiet Nasser and Ezbet El Nakhal, were upgraded through provision of newly designed machinery; 10 maintenance workshops were adequately equipped. Upgraded recycling and maintenance workshops record now regular incomes that ensure their economic and financial sustainability.

Moreover, thanks to efforts exerted within the project, *Zabaleen* work environment has become healthier: pollution levels have decreased in the workshops area, sewage system has improved and safer working procedures were set up and implemented. The encouraging results of the project led to extend the action to Qalioubiya Governorate, providing a further contribution from the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 2.

“SUSTAINING LIVES FOR HUMAN SECURITY “

<b>Project Code</b>	DS_02_WFP
<b>Applicant</b>	World Food Program
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	World Food Program
<b>Location</b>	Beni Suef, Minya and Fayoum
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	EGP 46,461,977.00 (+ 7,838,825.57 IEDS1)
<b>Funds Transferred at December 2013</b>	
<b>Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency</b>	31.03.2009
<b>Project Agreement</b>	11.03.2009
<b>Start Date</b>	01.04.2009
<b>Expected completion Date</b>	31.01.2014



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

"Sustaining lives for human security" contributes to promote education and reduce poverty and hidden-hunger prevailing among school-age children in Egypt's poorest areas. In continuation with the "School Feeding in Upper Egypt" project, funded under the first phase of the Debt Swap Programme, it promotes a pilot system for distributing high nutritional content food to children and their families in the food safety high risk Governorates of Minya and Beni Suef, in Upper Egypt, and Fayoum.

In collaboration with the "Girls Education Initiative", promoted by the Egyptian Government, the project targets young girls attending female communitarian primary schools and, in general, school-age children and their families in the target areas. The project envisages 1) distribution of fortified take-home rations to children and their families, 2) de-worming procedures among children to better benefit from meals, 3) distribution of fortified snacks to children at schools and 4) enhancement of food supply chain within the project. In addition, 5) activities envisage awareness campaigns and specific trainings on health related issues addressed to the teachers.

**STATUS: NEAR COMPLETION**

During 2013, activities continued on a regular basis in the three target Governorates of Minya, Fayoum and Beni Swef. 363.6 tons of date bars have been distributed to 87 323 children so far. Each bar weighs 80 grams and is fortified with 2.4 mg iron and 1280 IU vitamin A, providing a supplement of energy, proteins, fats and micronutrients to children, which is specifically important in vulnerable areas where Vitamin A deficiency and anemia prevail. Date bar are culturally well accepted by Egyptians, and belong to the category of ready-to-eat food.

	Fayoum	Beni Suef	Menia	Grand Total
Number of children in GEI schools receiving in-school snacks	7,008	8,807	3,702	19,517
Number of children in preschools receiving in-school snacks	16,671	28,902	22,233	67,806
<b>Total number of children receiving in-school snacks with IEDS support</b>	<b>23,679</b>	<b>37,709</b>	<b>25,935</b>	<b>87,323</b>
Quantity of date bars distributed to children in GEI schools	41.9 mtn	48.7 mtn	28 mtn	120.6 mtn
Quantity of date bars distributed to children in formal preschools	57 mtn	100 mtn	86 mtn	243 mtn
<b>Total quantity of date bars distributed to children with IEDS support</b>	<b>98.9 mtn</b>	<b>148.7 mtn</b>	<b>114 mtn</b>	<b>363.6 mtn</b>
Number of feeding days for children in GEI schools	102 days	102 days	102 days	
Number of feeding days for children in preschools	60 days	60 days	60 days	

**“USING REMOTE SENSING TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND MODELING IN THE NILE DELTA OF EGYPT “**

<b>Project Code</b>	DS_03_NWRC
<b>Applicant</b>	NWRC
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	NWRC
<b>Location</b>	Nile West Delta (Rosetta branch)
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	EGP 1,462,650.00
<b>Funds Transferred at December 2013</b>	
<b>Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency</b>	22.04.2009
<b>Project Agreement Start Date</b>	11.03.2009
<b>Completion Date</b>	01.05.2009
	30.10.2012



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

In a mainly arid country, where most of national water needs for irrigation and drinking water is met from a single source, the Nile, constantly monitoring water quality is crucial to ensure adequate levels of food safety, as well as to protect the environment. Special attention is to be addressed also to the economic activities developed in Rosetta area, in particular in the fishery and aquaculture sectors.

In this context, the project aims at enhancing water resources management policies through the implementation of a pilot system of remote monitoring (remote sensing) of spatial and temporal water quality parameters in the Delta of the Nile, in particular in the Rosetta Branch. The project promotes the use of innovative and technologically advanced systems for collecting and analyzing relevant data and information on water quality. Accordingly, the project explored the use of remote sensing images (multi-spectral images) for estimating water quality parameters, seeking to explain causes of water quality deterioration in different locations along the Rosetta Branch.

**STATUS: CONCLUDED**

Within the project, a water quality model that involves the prediction of water pollution using mathematical simulation and prediction techniques was developed. The used model consists of a collection of formulations representing physical mechanisms that determine composition, position and momentum for pollutants in Rosetta Branch. Data validation and correlation between sources of information has been thoroughly investigated and project’s findings were disseminated as part of the sustainability plan.

The project envisaged a capacity building component on using the remote sensing in the water quality field that was successfully implemented. The team selected from the Water Quality Sector of NWRC was trained on Remote Sensing techniques and acquired all necessary skills to carry out remote sensing multi-spectral analysis, collect all data required on the field and apply water quality modeling. Equipment and material were purchased to provide NWRC with the necessary instruments to carry out the activities



A complementary study, aiming at investigating the impact of water hyacinth on water quality status in Rosetta Branch, was conducted. Accordingly, detailed RS images have been processed and analyzed for the selected study area to capture the exact water hyacinth characteristics; water quality has been measured, up stream and down stream during selective drains outfall locations; statistical correlation analysis have been performed to depicting water quality status as results of water hyacinth from RS images; the impact of nearby drains outfall on the water quality of Rosetta Branch has been investigated; several types of analysis have been conducted to identify the water hyacinth positive and negative impacts on water quality; and a GIS system was developed to collect images to present the water quality status as a result of water hyacinth existence.

A final workshop was, therefore, organized and held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2012 to share the results of the project with all stakeholders, focusing on the current status of Rosetta Branch, on sources of pollution, as well as on location, size and distribution of fisheries and hyacinth. Final recommendations for protecting the Branch from sources of pollution were presented.

“EGYPT FIT FOR CHILDREN “

Project Code	DS_04_NCCM
Applicant	NCCM
Implementing Agency	NCCM
Location	Nationwide
Total Project Budget	EGP 16,794,474.00
Funds Transferred at December 2013	
Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency	24.05.2009
Project Agreement	11.03.2009
Start Date	01.06.2009
Completion Date	31.10.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project is intended to strengthen the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and its ability to coordinate, develop, monitor and advocate for more accountable, transparent and participatory public policies for children. The project envisages the establishment of the first National Observatory for Child Rights, to produce and manage evidence and data on children conditions for policy making towards the promotion and protection of children rights.

The National Observatory has three main Units and functions. First of all, the Research Unit is in charge of producing thorough analysis and statistics on the well-being of Egyptian children, the most pertinent issues that affects their lives and the effective application of the national regulations. The Policy and Planning Unit then utilizes this evidence for results-based and child-rights centered policies to enhance the application of the current national law (n.196/2008) and the United Nations Convention on Children rights. Once created and shared these data with different institutions, the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, through an interdepartmental mechanism of coordination, monitors the implementation of relative national policies, evaluate their impact and recommend possible integration or improvement.

**STATUS: CONCLUDED**

NCCM requested and obtained a five-month no cost extension until October 31, 2013. The extension was needed to wrap up project activities, as well as organize the Closing Conference that was held on October 10, 2013. Main purpose of the Conference was to outline and discuss the main project achievements, lessons learnt and prospects for cooperation and partnerships.

“SOCIAL CONTRACT ADVISORY, MONITORING AND COORDINATION CENTER“

Project Code	DS_05_UNDP
Applicant	UNDP
Implementing Agency	IDSC
Location	Nationwide
Total Project Budget	EGP 26,673,874.00
Funds Transferred at December 2013	
Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency	29.06.2009
Project Agreement	11.03.2009
Start Date	01.07.2009
Completion Date	30.06.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at supporting human development efforts in Egypt and social participation in the decision-making process, through building a national consensus around the meaning and implications of the Social Contract, re-building trust between the Government and the citizens, as well as supporting efforts to empower civil society and reduce poverty. Moreover, the project intends to monitor the progress of Egypt towards achieving the MDGs.

**STATUS: CONCLUDED**

“ECOTOURISM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW VALLEY GOVERNORATE “

Project Code	DS_06_CISS
Applicant	CISS
Implementing Agency	CISS
Location	
Total Project Budget	EGP 3,705,030.00
Funds Transferred at December 2013	3,705,030.00
Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency	16.12.2009
Project Agreement	29.10.2009
Start Date	01.01.2010
Completion Date	31.12.2012



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at enhancing the capacities of local communities to benefit from the development of tourism sector and improving the attractiveness of the New Valley oasis. By promoting the inclusion of target areas among main ecotourism travel itineraries at national and international levels, the action intends to contribute to generate sustainable and diversified benefits to farmers, craftsmen and small entrepreneurs involved in the tourism sector. Indeed, the intervention aims at contributing to promote sustainable use of natural, cultural, economic and human resources among local communities. With the objective to valorize, better organize and manage New Valley historic, cultural, natural and archaeological heritage, the approach applied by the project envisages the full involvement of local communities. To this purpose, raise awareness at the grass-root level, and implement training and exchange activities aimed at enhancing people management capacities and skills, become crucial.

**STATUS: CONCLUDED**

The "Ecotourism for Sustainable Development" project in the New Valley was a pilot project, initiated to develop ecotourism in the New Valley Governorate through the sustainable development of its natural, historical, cultural, and human resources. The aim of the project was to contribute to the income generation for the local population.

One essential aspect of the ecotourism approach is its very conscious effort to maximize local benefits. The project therefore, operated in the field of ecotourism with a multi-disciplinary approach. This was done by promoting different forms of interventions namely safeguarding the environment, training, education, and awareness-raising. The project had also aimed to complement the efforts and activities done by other national and international donors in partnership with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).

The project achieved its objectives through three areas of interventions: 1) informing, raising awareness, and engaging the local communities with regard to the themes of responsible tourism and ecosystem preservation; 2) analysing existing natural and cultural resources and rehabilitating it for ecotourism purposes; and 3) promoting and networking the target areas at national and international levels. Therefore, the activities that the project implemented, aimed at mobilising New Valley's human resources and raising

awareness of the tangible and intangible heritage, as well as building shared ways of promoting and rehabilitating sustainable tourism in the area.

People from the oases of Kharga, Dakhla and Farafra actively participated in awareness-raising programs aimed at starting a shared process in identifying the natural and cultural resources that have high potentials for ecotourism. Awareness programmes addressing three groups of stakeholders who were considered as “experience spreaders”, were implemented to maximise the impact on the local population. These groups were comprised of: 1) teachers, 2) local craftsmen and small entrepreneurs, and 3) tour operators, civil servants and farmers. This was in addition to the staff responsible for the Ecotourism Centre in Kharga.

Best practices exchange activities were also carried out with groups from El Best Fayoum Governorate, namely craftsmen and small entrepreneurs, civil servants, and tour guides.

Two interesting archaeological sites of the New Valley have been rehabilitated, mapped, and promoted. This was to be done through several activities, mainly: producing and distributing a detailed map, as well as a database. Both would contain in detail New Valley’s natural, historic, and cultural resources. Ten ecotourism itineraries would also be developed, as well as securing and rehabilitating Qasr El-Labakha, and Qasr Umm El-Dabadib archaeological sites.

An integrated, elaborated plan, shared with the local population, to promote New Valley as an ecotourism destination has been implemented. This was to be achieved through several activities including: the construction and equipping of an inclusive ecotourism centre in Al-Kharga; arrangement of exhibitions and events locally; production and distribution of a CD on New Valley’s most attracting resources; and elaboration of a New Valley tourism marketing plan. The project had worked with several consultants and experts to carry out the above activities. It contracted the Environmental Design Group (EDG), a consulting company, to conduct the awareness campaign and produce the necessary products (map, database, itineraries CD...). It hired several consultants to design and oversee the knowledge-exchange sessions; and worked with an archaeologist, to help during the process of defining interventions and choosing the archaeological sites to rehabilitate within the domain of ecotourism and without upsetting the natural harmony of the areas. In addition to that, the New Valley’s tourism administration was involved in almost every aspect of the project.

**“PROMOTION OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS BY STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION IN THE GOVERNORATE OF SOHAG “**



**Project Code:** DS\_07\_MAIS  
**Applicant:** MAIS  
**Implementing Agency:** MAIS  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 3,731,896.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 3,451,016.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 09.12.2009  
**Location:** Governorate of Sohag  
**Project Agreement:** 29.10.2009  
**Start Date:** 01.01.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.03.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at promoting and safeguarding women and children's rights by strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations in the Governorate of Sohag. The project envisages two main components: a capacity building programme on gender, human rights and violence to be implemented with community key actors, in order to deliver an awareness programme to all layers of the community; and an awareness and media campaign to be carried out in the area of intervention to increase general knowledge on the subject, with special focus on violence as violation of human rights.

Within the intervention, violence concept and aspects are approached by analyzing the problem in its legal, religious, social and medical implications. Support services to women - such as legal, psychological and medical counseling - are ensured and a micro-credit programme is set benefiting most disadvantaged women.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Project activities were successfully implemented in 2012, although minor delays due to current situation in the Country led MAIS to ask for a three - month no-cost extension, ending in March 2013.

Within the project, issues related to gender-based violence - domestic violence, early and forced marriages, discrimination and persecution of widowed or divorced women, female genital mutilation, discrimination against girls and young women at home and in school - have been addressed through a careful analysis of their legal, religious, social and medical implications. In this regard, a study on physical and psychological manifestations of gender-based violence in the Governorate of Sohag was published in collaboration with the Foundation for Social Development "Dr. El-Omda Fawazy". The study was used to guide project activities in a more targeted and effective way.

A program of seminars held by carefully selected and trained facilitators, coming from the same community, was set to raise awareness among beneficiaries - women and men - on women's rights. During the seminars, gender-based violence aspects have been addressed through a variety of ideas and practical examples. For women who did not have the opportunity to participate in group seminars, individual meetings were organized at home.

Capacity building addressed to civil society organizations was pursued by creating a group of local associations' representatives, in the field of internal management, relations with the institutions and lobbying, in order to create the conditions to enable sustainability and replicability of project activities.

A specific action envisaging visual and artistic activities and games, was addressed to school-age children, to prevent violent and discriminatory attitudes.

In support of women victims of crime, different services were ensured: 900 monthly meeting gathering 9000 women were organized, psychological support was given to 7630 health cases, 1275 law suit and legal counseling were provided, 2000 identity cards were issued, 259 women received micro-credit loans, 200 girls were trained in handicrafts and designed, 10 women attended session on how to create a cooperative and are now in the registration process.

“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN EGYPTIAN RED SEA “

**Project Code:** DS\_08\_HEPCA  
**Applicant:** HEPCA  
**Implementing Agency:** HEPCA  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 12,521,045.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 12,521,045.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 15.12.2009  
**Location:**  
Governorate of Red Sea  
**Project Agreement:** 24.11.2009  
**Start Date:** 01.01.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 30.06.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Red Sea uncontaminated environment represents an invaluable resource for Egypt and for the entire world: its preservation and enhancement represent then a priority. Building on this vision, the initiative intends to promote socio-economic development of marine and coastal area of southern Egyptian Red Sea, addressing special attention to environment safeguarding.

The project, on one hand, aims at deepening the environmental and scientific knowledge of the area by establishing a research center that will serve as a benchmark in the field of marine science. The center will provide information and data to the Nature Conservation Sector of the Egyptian Environmental Agency and to the Red Sea Protectorate for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. On the other hand, the project intends to create local expertise to establish income-generating activities related to eco-tourism, conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal environment.

At the same time, in collaboration with both international agencies - such as the Italian CoNISMa -, and Egyptian institutions and organizations - such as Red Sea Protectorate, the Nature Conservation Sector/NCS of EEAA, and Egyptian NGOs - the initiative provides capacity building programmes also to local community in the fields of conservation and sustainable use of the marine and coastal environment.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

In order to finalize all planned activities, the project team asked for a six-month no-cost extension starting from January 2013, whereby initiative is expected to close in June 2013. In developing the marine research center, which will serve as a key resource to assist Government, tourism industry and public in taking informed decisions on the Country's



marine resources, advanced steps were accomplished, including contract, design and architect work. Port Ghalib research center will be ready in few months.

The Database reached its final phase, and little time is required to make sure that it includes all gathered information and data on biodiversity. This database will be used as a hub for all scientific data collected in the region.

Several surveys on marine fauna (in particular mammals) and flora have been conducted by the project team, in collaboration with international experts. Accordingly, the distribution of inshore coral reefs, seaweeds and mangrove has been mapped and Samadi dolphins' population has been monitored and analyzed.

Besides regularly providing technical support to the Nature Conservation Sector of EEAA and to Red Sea Protectorate, the project addressed special attention to local communities, promoting education and eco-tourism opportunities. MSc and PhD scholarships were granted to Egyptian graduate students, and on the job trainings were offered to Egyptian students. In terms of economic development, the intervention provided local community members with specific trainings in handicraft and coral farm sectors, to boost a sustainable economic growth.

In addition, the project succeeded in upgrading and developing the village of Ababda through constructing houses, providing adequate utilities for its inhabitants and renovating and equipping the three main wells of water located in the village.

“MODERNIZING INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS USING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES “



**Project Code:** DS\_09\_ICT  
**Applicant:** MCIT  
**Implementing Agency:** UNDP  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 8,263,690.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 8,263,690.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 11.01.2010  
**Location:**  
10 Governorates  
**Project Agreement:** 24.12.2009  
**Start Date:** 01.02.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.01.2013

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Strengthening the benefits and potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) applications and building capacities in education are key priorities in today's society. Technological advancements made in recent decades have induced dramatic improvements in the quality of education and in the way it is delivered and managed. Computers and Internet-based technologies have become the pivotal drivers for enhancing education in the 21st century. The role of these technologies in the improvement of the national economy is now fully recognized.

Against this background, the project aims at enhancing and strengthening the technical education and vocational training system using ICT solutions. The targeted beneficiaries are teachers and students at industrial schools, as well as the wider community surrounding these schools. Within the project, 10 vocational schools of 5-year program will be modernized in ICT infrastructure, e-curricula and Human Resources capacity building. This pilot project is intended to become a model of technical and vocational education and training to be replicated nationwide.

The project benefits from Don Bosco Institute sound experience in training activities.

#### PROGRESS AT DEC 2012

Within the project, that is coming to end, ten industrial schools were selected. ICT infrastructure model was developed based on the project objectives and applied in the selected schools. Currently, each school has two modern classrooms equipped with laptops, visual presentation units, digital cameras, smart boards, local network and internet connections. Moreover, two e-curricula were developed, tested and approved: one in the field of cooling and air-conditioning, and the second for mechanics.

Human resources development matrix was developed, including many tracks. The first track regards enhancement of ICT skills for teachers, administrators and superintends and includes digital literacy, to enhance managerial skills through ICT (school management system), as well as international computer driving license. The second track concerns integrating ICT in education for teachers and superintends, including specialized industrial application (auto desk package), web 2.0 and e-content generation. The third track concerns enhancing teachers, administrators, and superintends' soft skills, through organizing training programmes on how communicate and exchange with the other. The methodology applied is the Training of Trainers (TOT). Indeed, the capacity building programme is under implementation, several workshops were conducted and teachers (100) received the required training, at the Don Bosco Institute, for developing e-contents for the vocational schools. E-curricula were defined and innovative tools for teachers, such as the development of interactive movies, were developed to raise greater interest in students.

A specific channel in Arabic was created on the website "YouTube" on vocational training courses, where recorded lectures are uploaded. A web portal, including information on job demand and supply, was created (in this regard, communication with major companies such as Oracle, Microsoft and Cisco has been established).

An e-learning Centre was established within the Ministry of Education to collect and disseminate data on curricula and ICT technologies.

“SMALL-SCALE PRODUCERS NETWORK FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS RECOGNITION “

**Project Code:** DS\_10\_COSPE  
**Applicant:** COSPE  
**Implementing Agency:** COSPE  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 4,188,765.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 3,830,591.60  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 13.01.2010  
**Location:**  
National  
**Project Agreement:** 24.12.2009  
**Start Date:** 01.02.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.07.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project, implemented by Italian NGO COSPE in partnership with Ayadi Masreya Foundation - AMF (formerly, the Fair Trade Egypt Foundation) aims at formalizing the national Fair Trade network of small-scale agro and handicraft producers, composed of 3500 individuals from the Governorates of Aswan, Qena, Sohag, Assiut, Minya, Fayoum, Cairo, Helwan, Giza, Sharqiya, Behera, North Sinai, South Sinai, Matrouh and Red Sea.

The project intends to contribute supporting the promotion, recognition and protection of marginalized producers' socio economic rights, by enhancing their representation, participation and negotiation skills regarding institutional building, social security and safety standards. For this purpose, AMF's capacity to administer the network and develop its own Foundation membership scheme is strengthened.

The initiative envisages the establishment, within AMF structure, of a Producer Membership and Representation Unit (MRU), of a Business-Development Services Unit (BDS), and of a Social Welfare Service Unit (SWS)

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

The project requested a six-month no cost extension. As the request was approved, the initiative is expected to end in January 2013.

Thanks to project interventions aimed at increasing the number of AMF members and according to better services provided by the foundation, members became 241. Following

members' satisfaction assessment, 95% of them expressed positive feed-back on services provided by AMF.

Indeed, thanks to the intervention, a Social Welfare Service (SWS) System was established and it is now fully operational, serving 64 producers - on a monthly basis - in health covering and social solidarity. About 40% of enrolled producers benefited from the health covering (x-rays, medicine, doctors' fees, etc.) and about 43% benefited from social solidarity remuneration.

The project also contributed to support producers in improving production capacity and products by providing them with required equipment and tools, based on their real needs identified in collaboration with group leaders. As an example, the project provided wooden dolls in Sharqiya; weaving looms in Matrouh; workshop tents in Shalateen (in this case, the project / AMF provided also technical and financial support to the beneficiary group to set the tents, seeking the group active participation. The group contributed covering 35% of tents expenses); and sewing machines in Sohag,

To extend market opportunities, according to the plan developed, AMF participated in many exhibition, such as the Dearnah Exhibition with the Social Fund for Development, the Opera House exhibition, the American University Exhibition, the Farmers day exhibition at Noon gallery in Zamalek, the Tourism and Shopping Festival (Cairo); the Nubian women exhibition in August 2012 (October City), in Farh El Baher exhibition in October 2012 (Alexandria), in Wadi Degla Club exhibition in October 2012 (Masei), just to mention some of them. Furthermore, to support marketing process, especially regarding export strategies, the project hired a specialized firm that carried out a study on export readiness.

Through and within AMF, the project established the Producers Membership and Representation Unit (MRU). Accordingly, a database system was developed, including members and updated information on exhibitions, market transactions, capacity building training and business development training. Four regional offices were established covering South Upper Egypt Region, North Upper Egypt Region, West Delta Region and Delta Region, and necessary staff hired. Two Showrooms were permanently opened in Siwa and Cairo and necessary staff hired.

The Business - Development Services (BDS) Unit established by the project offers training courses on new products, promote products presentation in fairs and permanent showroom all over Egypt, and facilitates products export. As an example, a workshop was organized in Cairo, in September 2012, to motivate producers to develop their creativity in designing new items: groups from Cairo, Assiut, Sohag, Aswan, Matrouh, Siwa, Giza, Behera, and Sharqiya participated in the workshop. In order to support handmade embroidery small producers in Siwa, the BDS Unit designed training on embroidered home accessories, realized in December 2012: 6 trainees received a comprehensive training on cutting and designing 7 new items. In December 2012, a further training was held in South Sinai, in collaboration with Bent Sinai Association, to train a group of women in designing and finishing handmade products.

In addition, a micro-credit system (in particular for agribusiness and handcraft loans) has been established to further support the producers and reinforce AMF strategy for revamping loan system. In Minya Governorate, the loan system entrusted to New Vision Association for Development (NVD) follows a three-step path: Phase I started in August 2011 with 100,000.00 EGP, Phase II started in July 2012 with 150,000.00 EGP and Phase III

will start in January 2013 with 160,000.00. Interest rate applied to loans amounts to 8% and the three phases are subject to the same loan conditions. Until December 2012, about 115 farmers benefited from the loan programme in different fields of agriculture. In several cases, before entrusting a loan system to an association or cooperative, the project organized specific training courses on loan system management: among others, Shadwell women cooperative benefited from a two-phase training programme, which included courses on book keeping, assistance to loan applicants, interest counting, cash flow calculation, financial reconciliation.

“PEER REVIEW OF E-GOVERNMENT IN EGYPT “



**Project Code:** DS\_11\_MSAD  
**Applicant:** Ministry of State for Administrative Development (MSAD)  
**Implementing Agency:** National Management Institute  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 2,060,241.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 2,060,241.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 03.05.2010  
**Location:** National  
**Project Agreement:** 01.03.2010  
**Start Date:** 01.06.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.03.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Integrated in the Governance Initiative for Development and Investment, promoted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - OECD in the Middle East and North Africa, the project aims at providing an overall evaluation of e-government policies and services in the country.

The assessment, first of its kind in Egypt, will represent a concrete basis to identify guidelines and proposals in support to governance national policies.

The review, conducted by OECD, using the Peer Review methodology, will benefit from the institutional support of the Egyptian Ministry of Administrative Development and the National Management Institute. The Institute will cooperate with OECD in the review process providing consulting services to the evaluation teams, realizing and publishing the evaluation report both in English and in Arabic, and hosting the launch event of the report and its distribution on a large-scale basis.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

The review focuses on e-government policies, goals, strategies and initiatives at all levels of government, as well as on how e-government projects are initiated and implemented by different agencies. OECD country reviews are based on an agreement with the reviewed country concerning the analytical framework and timeline of the study.

The Egyptian study has been developed as primarily qualitative in nature, presenting a combination of observations, analysis and evaluations extracted from reports and official documents, survey responses, and interviews. For this purpose,

- background material, reports and official documents were collected;
- OECD e-government survey, built on existing surveys reflecting the development of the OECD analytical framework on e-government was consulted;
- peer review feedback from selected OECD member countries was sought;
- interviews with government officials and representatives from relevant private businesses, academics, press, international organizations and NGOs were carried out.

Despite the institutional changes within the Ministry of Administrative Development caused a delay in the implementation of the Peer Review by the OECD, investigation work and data collection has been successfully completed in collaboration with the three countries auditors, Italy-Mexico-United Kingdom. The interim report, including recommendations for the formulation of the National Action Plan on e-government 2012-2017, has been finalized. On the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2012 the second working group on "open and innovative government" was held in Paris. During the event, review of e-government in Egypt was discussed with OECD and MENA countries representatives, as formal step required for all OECD review.

The official date for the presentation of the Report on the Peer-Review in Egypt, to be held in Cairo, has to be defined. Following, the report will be sent to the OECD Network for e-government, and the final version including the assessment and the proposals for action in the medium term, will be published both in Arabic and in English.



“TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLUSTER FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE SECTOR OF MECHANICS “

**Project Code:** DS\_12\_EDF  
**Applicant:** EDF  
**Implementing Agency:** EDF  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP  
84,528,057.17  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
36,134,852.80  
**Date of transfer of first  
installment to Implementing  
Agency:** 05.10.2010  
**Location:**  
Governorate of Fayoum  
**Project Agreement:** 15.07.2010  
**Start Date:** 01.11.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:**  
31.10.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The initiative intends to support the Egyptian Government in reforming the system of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Egypt, by establishing a TVET cluster in the sector of mechanics in Fayoum Governorate.

The project aims at connecting TVET system to business environment, providing curricula in line with concrete needs of labor market, thus able to fill the gap between the demand of labor market in terms of capacities and skills acquired by graduates from secondary and post-secondary schools.

The Cluster is composed of two sections: the English section (BTEC-EDEXCEL), having English as second language and Italian as third language; and the Italian section (IeFP, IP, ITS), having Italian as second language and English as third language.

The Italian section will be composed of:

1. Professional School (3+2), divided in two cycles: the three - year first cycle enables students to obtain a "Junior Technician National (Egyptian) Diploma" and an "Attestato di qualifica di operatore (IeFP)"; the two - year second cycle will enable students to obtain a "Senior Technician National (Egyptian) Diploma" and a "Diploma di tecnico (IP)";
2. Higher Technical Institute, that represents the third two-year cycle that will enable students to obtain a "Technologist National (Egyptian) Diploma" and a "Diploma di tecnico superiore di manutenzione impianti industriali (ITS)".
3. and iii) a vocational training center.

The implementation includes developing the educational system and business model of the cluster, human resources hiring/training plans, lab/workshop infrastructure, accreditation and organization, and the assessment of labour- market demand.

### PROGRESS AT DEC 2012

The project was originally planned to be implemented in Beni Swef Governorate, but due to unavailability of infrastructures at Beni Suef University, the Technical Education Cluster was eventually established in El Fayoum Governorate, in the city of Demo.

In 2012 project activities experienced a significant boost.

In May 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Italy between the Italian Minister of Education University and Research and the Secretary General of the Education Development Fund. The MoU aimed at establishing a cooperation framework to create an Italian Section within the Cluster.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2012 a specific Agreement to enable issuance of professional qualification certificates recognized in Italy was signed with Italian Region Emilia Romagna. The collaboration with Emilia Romagna Region - that has a sound experience in the electro-mechanics field - was designed to offer professional qualifications with an Italian imprimatur. In line with guidelines provided by Emilia Romagna Region, the first three-year cycle (leFP) curriculum was defined and approved by the Egyptian Ministry of Education.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 the Italian Section of the technical school for electrical operators officially opened, with 100 enrolled students who are regularly attending classes.

Collaboration with the Salesian Don Bosco Institute in Cairo was established: summer Italian language courses addressed to students enrolled in the first year of leFP were held in Demo (El Fayoum), under the supervision of Don Bosco Institute. Moreover, several teachers attended the summer Italian language courses at Don Bosco Institute in Cairo. 34 teachers attended a technical training course in September 2012, while a second course has been organized to be held in January 2013. Ten teachers paid a visit to Italy (Emilia Romagna Region), and had the opportunity to attend there a training course on skills certification issuance. The course included a visit to technical and vocational schools for girls in Emilia Romagna, being greatly interesting for Fayoum area.

To assess the knowledge and skills developed so far by the students, mid-term evaluation tests are ongoing, in line with the Egyptian system. At the same time, a comparative test is performed with the national system.

The Italian education model has been promoted by EDF with other donors involved or interested in developing initiatives in technical and vocational education and training (e.g. the German cooperation for the project in Assiut ITEC).

In the coming months, contacts with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian Ministry of Education University and Research (MIUR) will be strengthened. In particular, MIUR assistance will be sought to defining the following aspect:

- a) Requirements students have to fulfill to advance from the first Cycle (leFP) to the second Cycle (4<sup>th</sup> year of the IP). It is worth mentioning that cultural subject curricula (assi culturali), as well as the number of teaching hours (1054 a year) in Demo ITEC leFP are already in line with the curricula adopted in the first three years of the Italian IP course;

- b) Regulations (i.e. subjects, contents, number of teaching hours, etc.) for the second cycle, considering that the second cycle is a bilingual (Arabic / Italian) programme realized in an Egyptian technical public institute;
- c) Regulations for the management and supervision of the final examination (esame di maturità) at the conclusion of the second cycle.

**“SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT FOR DATE PALM & OLIVE PRODUCTION IN NORTH SINAI “**



**Project Code:** DS\_13\_EASTE  
**Applicant:** EASTE  
**Implementing Agency:** EASTE  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 6,638,800.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** 5,940,366.25  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 01.08.2010  
**Location:** North Sinai Governorate  
**Project Agreement:** 15.07.2010  
**Start Date:** 1.08.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.07.2013

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The initiative aims at contributing to the human and social development of the Northern Sinai by supporting the agro-food sector. In particular, the project will be addressed to the overall production chain of date palms and olives, from harvesting to selling, with special attention for research and development activities. An Environmental Quality Standard - EQS will be identified and then adopted by enterprises of the sector.

In order to create a sustainable development model, which could be applied to further areas in the country, beneficiaries of the intervention will be the most vulnerable groups in the community, who will benefit from the creation of income generating activities, with relevant impact on female employment.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

During 2012, the project continued to provide specialized technical assistance, through national experts, to 18 farms. Interventions have been carried out in both existing and newly established farms, which today represent olives cultivation pilot models to be replicated in further areas. The technical assistance provided envisages irrigation system, fertilizers, pesticides, cultivation techniques, olives and date trees care, crop protection, post-harvest management. Workshops/seminars addressed to small farmers have been carried out on the above mentioned subjects.

A service center has been created at El Areesh and it is today managed by the Environmental Protection Association for North Sinai. The service center has been equipped by the project with tractors, trailer, plough, pesticide sprayers, among others. The equipment available is used by small farmers of the surrounding areas. Each farm has a dossier open, registering every service and recommendations received.

Three main identified income generating activities have been developed. Reference is made to 1) dates processing, 2) palm leaves manufacturing and 3) arabesque manufacturing. For this purpose, training centers have been established. Spaces to be utilized have been identified within already existing institutions and / or local associations, equipment purchased and training programmes designed and implemented (still ongoing).

In particular, the project established:

- 2 centers for dates processing (one in Bir El Abd, at the Scientific Center of Suez Canal University, and one in El Areesh, at the *Young Muslim Women Association's* premises);
- 2 centers for arabesque manufacturing (one in Bir El Abd, at the Scientific Center of Suez Canal University; and one in El Areesh, at the Agriculture management department of the Ministry of Agriculture);
- 2 centers for palm leaves processing (one in Bir El Abd, at a local Association's premises; and one in El Areesh, at the Agriculture management department of the Ministry of Agriculture).

The training courses organized at the training centers involved groups of about 50 women each. As an example, concerning the center for palm leaves manufacturing established within Agriculture management department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, 57 women participated in the training programme and 17 new items were created. The products exposition in national exhibits started in the second half of 2012. Regarding the center for arabesque manufacturing established in the same department, 53 women participated in the training programme.

Furthermore, 4) oil production has been identified as further activity and, accordingly, the existing oil processing plant of Suez Canal University - Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (El Areesh) has been rehabilitated.

A tissue culture laboratory has been upgraded by purchasing new equipment, such as fridges and autoclave. The laboratory, which belongs to the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of Suez Canal University (El Areesh), selects also new species of palms and olives to be introduced in North Sinai (Media production). The project established a solid

partnership with the laboratory in this regard. A cooperation protocol was signed between the project and the University.

In addition, the project created new greenhouses: in particular, the climatized greenhouse will be used to complement the propagation process, and the other two greenhouses will be used to store the new seedlings of olives. Inside the 4<sup>th</sup> greenhouse, already existing, the project is conducting experiments to introduce new varieties of date palms and olives in North Sinai.

“ACTIONS FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN. IMPROVING CAPACITIES FOR ENHANCING INTERVENTIONS “

**Project Code:** DS\_14\_RC  
**Applicant:** RC  
**Implementing Agency:** RC  
**Total Project Budget:** 4,090,905.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
4,090,905.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 05.10.2010  
**Location:**  
Greater Cairo  
**Project Agreement:** 26.08.2010  
**Start Date:** 1.10.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.03.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project intends to contribute enhancing protection for vulnerable children, through capacity building and coordination between institutions and civil society organizations, with special attention to children with disabilities. Therefore, this initiative will promote and support rehabilitation and integration of vulnerable children, improving their families living conditions through micro credit scheme and enhancing the capacity of NGOs working in the field.

The project envisages as well the establishment of a micro credit system within a number of selected NGOs (that will be trained for this purpose), to benefit vulnerable children families.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Due to the situation in Egypt, the project experienced delays in implementing its activities, and requested for a six-month no-cost extension. As the request was accepted, the project is expected to end in March 2013.

Since its inception in October 2010, the project focused on capacity building of Community Development Associations (CDAs) dealing with vulnerable children (street children, disabled children, orphans, child workers and children affected by HIV), in remote areas of Cairo. The efforts exerted within the project led to the creation of a network composed of 25 CDAs, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize their will to actively participate in the action as local partners.

To improve the capacity of and the coordination among local NGOs in rehabilitating vulnerable children, the project realized - in collaboration with international trainers - a capacity building programme aimed at providing CDAs staff with the skills and knowledge needed to relate to their target group. This component was articulated in four thematic areas, namely i) organizational management; ii) psycho-social support; iii) participation and creative thinking; iv) and policies for child protection. Regular field visits were conducted in order to measure CDAs progress in terms of performance and to monitor the

effective utilization of acquired competences. Field visits gave also the opportunity to define personalized curricula based on the characteristics of each CDA involved. To date, 20 of the 25 CDA participating in the programme are active and their staff has adequate knowledge and skills to work in the sector of rehabilitation of vulnerable children.

The project also focused on strengthening the capacity of three local NGOs to manage and provide micro-credit loans. The assessment conducted by a consulting firm specialized in micro-finance, led to select three NGOs for receiving and manage micro credit funds for a total amount of EGP 570,000.00, earmarked to approximately 285 families being part of loans first cycle. The three NGOs went through a training period to improve their management capacity. A manual on policies and procedures to select beneficiaries was produced and then applied by the partner organizations. Moreover, the project purchased for two of the three organizations Management Information System license for funds management and loans disbursement.

To promote economic empowerment for most disadvantaged groups of the population, the initiative promoted a pilot project denominated "Voluntary Saving Loan Association - VSLA", in three low-income macro areas - namely Helwan, Masr El Qadima and Shubra El Kheima - addressed to poorest population layers that usually do not have access to micro-credit. VSLA intended to spread the culture of savings through the creation of small groups in which members themselves manage their own common savings. Almost 140 groups were created, including an average of 12.5 individuals each, for a total of about 1750 individuals (90% women).

In addition, the project prepared and published different material, in the Arabic language, on children related issues, such as participatory techniques, disabilities, children's rights, as well as management and data collection manuals.

Finally, on the bases of CDAs identified needs, the project provided equipment for outdoor game units, sensory rooms for children with disabilities, as well as kits for measuring children abilities, sport and physical activity equipment, electronic equipment.

“MARINE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT (MADE) “



**Project Code:** DS\_15\_GAFRD  
**Applicant:** GAFRD  
**Implementing Agency:** GAFRD  
**Total Project Budget:** 38,472,417.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** 14,111,712.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 21.11.2010  
**Location:** Cairo and Alexandria  
**Project Agreement:** 02.11.2010  
**Start Date:** 1.12.2010  
**Expected Completion Date:** 30.11.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The MADE Project aims at consolidating fishery and marine aquaculture sectors in the “Egyptian Mediterranean Sea”, benefiting Egyptian stakeholders at all level. Indeed, the initiative intends to develop marine aquaculture in Egypt, promoting a synergic action that involves both public and private sectors, as well as strengthening the dialogue and the technological links among actors on the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

In the Mediterranean area, marine aquaculture can be considered the best solution to increase fish production, as it is important to avoid an over-exploitation of natural resources. As Public Institutions should play a pivotal role in providing guidelines to private enterprises - while promoting at the same time a sustainable and responsible approach - the initiative intends to define and provide managerial and productive models to be applied.

The project envisages therefore 4 components:

- i) Support to the Egyptian private sector by establishing a “Fishery Technical Centre” in Alexandria (i.e. PMU);
- ii) Enhancement of GAFRD/Fish Control Unit in Cairo to improve products quality (training and new control planning);
- iii) Transfer of marine fishes reproduction know-how/technology (hatchery and pre-fattening for producing high quality seed);



- iv) Transfer of marine cage aquaculture technology (establishment of productive cage unit for commercial demonstration purpose).

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#### PROGRESS AT DEC 2012

After the establishment, equipment and organization of the PMU in 2011, despite the delays due to current situation in Egypt, in 2012 the project achieved good results.

In the period October 2011 - June 2012 project activities focused on K21 Agami GAFRD marine hatchery (K21MH). The overall goal of the activity implemented in the hatchery was to produce marine fish fry/fingerlings for aquaculture production, by improving larvae techniques to culture sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and the sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) and providing on the job training for personnel.

For this purpose, 17 people working at K21MH have been actively involved in different hatchery section operations and 13 aquaculture engineers and technicians from different GAFRD and Maryut Fish Farm Project (El-Ameria, Alexandria) have been integrated within the GAFRD-MADE project.

MADE supplied 161 sea bream breeders and 64 sea bass breeders, and provided support to three live feed facility sections (Algae, Rotifer and Artemia) for the larval rearing section. Concerning eggs production, 81 sea bream females produced 66.14 million eggs and 21 sea bass females produced 9.47 million eggs.

A total of 456,300 metamorphosed and weaned juveniles of both *S.aurata* (54 % of the total) and *D.labrax* (46 % of the total) were produced within 11 pilot larvae rearing production scale indoor trials and 3 outdoor trails. 1 kg of sea bass eggs has been produced and the purchased by the private sector. Most of the metamorphosed larvae has been purchased by private marine fish farms, while 100,000 sea bream metamorphosed larvae have been purchased by the Lake Development Programme powered by GAFRD at Qarun Lake. In terms of economic impact, the first cycle of production (December 2011 - May 2012) at K21MH - enhanced through MADE project technical assistance - was estimated for a total value of 350,389.00 EGP.

An Agreement with the International Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAMB) was finalized on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 to provide Technical Assistance to productive activity in GAFRD K21 marine hatchery; new hatchery executive project validation, work control and technical test of the new hatchery construction (inputs 12 man/months); roject validation, work control, test and start up for the new cage pilot unit; Environmental Impact Assessment for mariculture development (inputs 8 man/months); Road Map for supporting the private sector in term of technologies and business indication/guidelines, taking into consideration the whole sector components and implications (institutional issues, technology, production, market, financial issues, training and research needs, also achieving the result to consolidate the relation between Egypt and Italy (inputs 8 man/mohts); organization of the National Conference on Egyptian Aquaculture Plan to be held in 2013.

MADE PMU and IAM Bari organized a training course in "Aquacoltura Ionica", a modern Italian hatchery endowed with 5-8 millions of fingerlings/year productive capacity, that can be replicated in the Egyptian context.

This high level training scheme for "Marine Hatchery Managers" carried out in Italy benefited 9 GAFRD technicians. Further trainings and workshop were organized to support technology transfer, industrial partnership, economic and commercial agreement for the consolidation of links between Egyptian and Italian stakeholders.

New hatchery in Alexandria tender document for executive project/control and start up were prepared and the related tender was launched in August 2012 and tender section held in December 2012. As the tender received only one offer, it was rejected. The tender will be launched again during the first months on 2013.

Cage unit (Bardawill Lagoon) tender documents were prepared - including all technical specifications - and the related tender launched in August 2012, holding tender session in November 2012. As two companies refused to extend the financial offer (exchange rate Euro/EGP) and one offer has been considered invalid due to technical reasons, the tender was rejected. It will be launched again in 2013.

Regarding project visibility, 12 newsletters were drafted and circulated among stakeholders. Project web site (<http://made-eg.com>) has been regularly updated.

**“SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN MINYA GOVERNORATE “**

**Project Code:** DS\_16\_EEAA  
**Applicant:** Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs  
**Implementing Agency:** UNDP  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 32,226,130.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 2,311,997.62  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 15.06.2011  
**Location:** Minya Governorate (Matai City)  
**Project Agreement:** 11.11.2010  
**Start Date:** 01.07.2011  
**Expected Completion Date:** 30.06.2014



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project represents the natural continuation of a previous intervention that established a Solid Waste Management Unit (SWM) in Minya Governorate, funded under the first phase of the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 1, within the Egyptian - Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme.

The intervention envisages three components, namely:

1. Upgrading waste collection in Matai City and provide technical assistance to upgrade the service in other relevant cities in the Governorate.
2. Establishing a waste recycling plant in one of the Markazes of Minya Governorate (Matai City) where organic waste will be turned into high quality fine compost and the secondary materials will be sorted out and sold to waste dealers for further recycling processes.
3. Upgrading and securing two open public dumps.

The Compost Plant will enable recycling about 200 tons of waste/day, reducing pollution (smoke due to open burning of agricultural and municipal wastes), leaching wastes, and avoiding soil contamination.

In addition, the intervention will contribute generating direct employment opportunities for more than 40 persons who will work in the new plant and hundreds of indirect employment opportunities for those who will work in selling and buying compost and waste materials, as well as in transportation, agriculture and land reclamation.

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#### **PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Started in July 2011, the project faced some difficulties at both managerial and technical level. In depth assessment were carried out by an Italian expert consultant in collaboration with UNDP to identify the type of recycling plant to be established by the project.

As the assessment reveals, if extended to agricultural wastes, the cost of the waste recycling plant will be higher than the estimated, thus funds available would not be sufficient to establish the required plant and to purchase all needed equipment and means of transport to collect both municipal and agricultural wastes. The risk is then to create a plant system that cannot be actually used. The Italian consultant suggested to establish a recycling plant for municipal wastes only, to be extended at a later stage also to agricultural wastes.

A Steering Committee will be held beginning on 2013 to take a decision in this regard and to approve a revision of the work plan and budget.

**“ROBBIKI INDUSTRIAL LEATHER AND TANNERIES CITY (RLC) - STAGE 1: GENERAL EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT (GETP - STEP-1.A CAPACITY 4000 M3 /DAY) “**

**Project Code:** DS\_17\_MTI

**Applicant:** Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade

**Implementing Agency:** IMC - General Organization for Industrial and Mining Project

**Total Project Budget:** EGP 64,000,000.00 (+ 22,000,000.00 IEDS -phase 1)

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**

EGP 43,076,393.00 (+ 22,000,000.00 IEDS - phase 1)

**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 10.01.2011

**Location:**

Badr City

**Project Agreement:** 22.11.2010

**Start Date:** 01.01.2011

**Expected Completion Date:** 30.06.2013

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project, co-funded by the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 2 and the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade, intends to support Egyptian Government's policies aimed at better environmental management, while addressing problems affecting urban areas. In particular, in line with the previous intervention, funded under the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 1, the ongoing initiative intends to support the completion of civil works and infrastructures in Robbiki industrial district, as well as provide Italian technical assistance - including specific training courses - and Italian advanced technology. Specialized in leather tanning, Robbiki industrial district will use innovative production systems and eco-friendly modern technologies.

In particular, the intervention envisages the establishment of a General Effluent Treatment Plant operating in Robbiki area and the creation of a dump.

The creation of the leather tanning district is the final step of the relocation of the tanneries from Old Cairo, Magra el Eion, to the new area of Robbiki. The new industrial area will gather small and medium enterprises, complemented by further business activities - such as chemicals, tanning machineries, transport, services, logistics and plant engineering - that will create new job opportunities.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Following the approval by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) of the Environmental Impact Study submitted by the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), infrastructure works were resumed (to be concluded in June 2013) and activities implementation experienced a boost.

The compensation scheme for the tanneries located in the area of old Cairo, providing agreements with employers based on different options and incentives for the relocation (including acquiring land and buildings in Robbiki, receiving compensation if leaving the activity, or obtaining land or new equipment), was approved by a ministerial decree. The related application forms were presented and analyzed to depict a clear picture of companies moving to Robbiki. Two IDA managers were assigned in July 2012 to the PMU to manage the activities of the “ stop shop for relocation”.

A relocation manual is under preparation to support tanners during the relocation process. The manual, that will be ready in January 2013, answers the most common questions and provides useful information about credits for machinery and credits for operation, housing, public transportation, Technical Assistance, feasibility studies for new tanners, business plans and suggested layout for new tanneries, trainings, machines and updated prices, manufacturers and suppliers.

29 of the planned sheds are ready; the last 5 are under construction. Cairo Governorate is providing 10,000 apartments - now under construction - to be sold or rented. A bus line Cairo - Robbiki Leather City is currently working, and will be enhanced once the production will start (January 2014).

“HEALTH GOVERNANCE UNIT “

Project Code: DS\_18\_MRI  
Applicant: MRI  
Implementing Agency: ISS  
Total Project Budget: EGP 24,869,785.00  
Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:  
EGP 8,055,689.25  
Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency: 09.11.2010  
Location:  
Governorate of Alexandria  
Project Agreement: 28.12.2008 /  
26.10.2010  
Start Date: 1.12.2010  
Expected Completion Date: 30.11.2012



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at enhancing the health care services in Egypt through supporting the research and studies in the areas of health governance and control of emerging infectious diseases as well as improving the professional, technology and policy efficiency of the Medical Research Institute (MRI) of the University of Alexandria.

For this purpose, the project envisages the establishment of an Health Governance Unit within MRI provided with full capacity for diagnosing new emerging infectious agents and human resources able to ensure technical assistance, training and consultancy in infectious disease control measures.

Two are the main components:

- △ a BSL-3 facility within the Medical Technology Centre established at the Medical Research Institute through previous programmes funded by the Italian cooperation programs
- △ a capacity building process for establishing and developing Health Governance functions

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Started the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, with duration of 24 months, the project was expected to end on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. As necessary documentation for extension was provided by MRI, since December 2012 activities are officially suspended.

To date, only the first installment was disbursed. A very low percentage of the funds have been spent by the project.

The Health Governance Unit was established, consisting in 4 or 5 rooms equipped with desks, air conditioners and new PCs where ISS experts periodically deliver training courses. A training programme on public health management was conducted by ISS technical staff (6 modules out of 8 implemented).

Concerning the BSL - 3, to be established at the Medical Research Centre, civil engineering studies were conducted and technical specifications and tender documents for a turnkey system prepared, with the support of ISS and in collaboration with WHO, that provided specific recommendations on the way ahead, also through the creation of a "Technical Review Committee".

When preparing tender documents, the team realized that the cost of such a technologically advanced laboratory is higher than the estimated. Indeed, BSL-3 related essential aspects were not taken into consideration during project formulation and budget. A project revision was then considered essential to continue the project.

The Dean of the Medical Research Institute, while reiterating the priority of the project, is committed to provide a revised work and financial plan to be discussed in the occasion of the Project Steering Committee.

**“POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH CREATING LOW COST JOBS IN THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTOR IN QALUBIYA GOVERNORATE (EZBET EL NAWAR AND AL AKRASHA). “**



**Project Code:** DS\_19\_ICED  
**Applicant:** ICED  
**Implementing Agency:** ICED  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 2,480,008.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 1,873,256.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 14.07.2011  
**Location:**  
Ezbet El Nawar and Al Akrasha - in Qalubiya  
Governorate  
**Project Agreement:** 06.07.2011  
**Start Date:** 01.08.2011  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.07.2013

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Building on the good results achieved by the project “Poverty alleviation through creating low-cost jobs in the solid waste system in the Greater Cairo region” (IEDS / II/ 1), this intervention aims at upgrading waste recycling workshops in two selected areas - Ezbet El Nawar and Al Akrasha - in Qalubiya Governorate, by providing new machinery or retooling the existing ones.

The project is expected to create some 450 new jobs during the two year period, in addition to some 1500 indirect jobs related to upstream and downstream activities. The project will also contribute improving the environmental and unsafe health and working conditions of the workers through the supply of safety protection wears and provision of specific trainings.

#### **PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

After identifying needs and defining selection criteria, 40 wastes recycle workshops in the Zabaleen ares of Ezbet ElNawar and Al Akrasha in Qualubya Governorate were selected and upgraded with required machinery. At the same time, workshop operators were trained on safety procedures.

Up to now, 155 of the expected 450 jobs were created.



“SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN “

**Project Code:** DS\_20\_STC  
**Applicant:** Save the Children Italy  
**Implementing Agency:** Save the Children Italy  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 4,199,429.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 1,100,523.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** 19.09.2011  
**Location:** Cairo and Alexandria Governorates  
**Project Agreement:** 28.05.2011  
**Start Date:** 01.10.2011  
**Expected Completion Date:** 30.06.2014



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at supporting the social inclusion of street children, orphans or children at risk of losing parental care, by implementing focused activities - at both national and grass - root levels - in two districts in Cairo and Alexandria Governorates. The project envisages collaboration with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, to implement the action plan for minors at risk; and to strengthen the role and the capacity of Child Protection Committees - both at the district and central levels - to prevent, detect and refer on child abuse.

The project will also contribute to increase awareness of local community on minors at risk problems, and improve families' economic situation by providing micro-credit loans and non-financial services to mothers of children at risk in informal areas in North Cairo.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

Safer Environment for Children (SEC) project has been experiencing delays and constraints in its start-up phase. The project has officially started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2011 but several unexpected events have contributed to jeopardizing its full and proper implementation. Among these events it is worth mentioning the turnover of project managers and turnover of NCCM Secretary General.

Despite the delays, 75% of project staff was hired.

The technical and financial assessment of local NGOs working directly with vulnerable children was carried out to identify the local partner. Nine NGOs were assessed, all of them members of Egyptian Network of Street Children NGOs (ENSC). The assessment

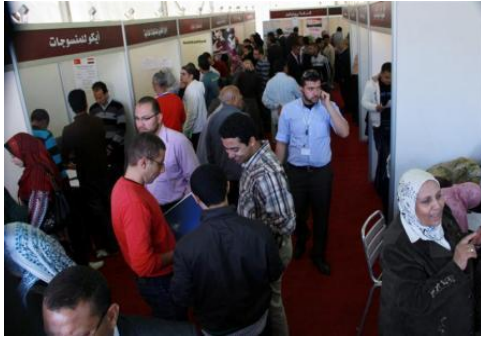
mainly focused on technical and financial criteria such as relation with targeted group, experience in related activities, previous experience with national and international donors as well as sustainability and

The project officer paid several visits to international organizations working with vulnerable children in order to exchange experience and figure out the chances of future cooperation.

As agreed with the Debt Swap Technical Support Unit (TSU) a thoroughly financial and technical revision of the proposal has been submitted with a view to redesign and adapt the intervention to the new context, scenario and developments connected to the political changes unfolded by the Egyptian uprising, especially regarding the institutional partner that will be actively involved in the projects activities and expected results.

The revision was approved in December 2012 and a 9-month no cost-extension was granted.

## “TRANSITION TO EMPLOYMENT: CAREER GUIDANCE FOR YOUTH AND JOB CREATION “



**Project Code:** DS\_21\_ILO  
**Applicant:** ILO  
**Implementing Agency:** ILO  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 5,903,976.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 1,042,645.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 23.04.2012  
**Location:** Cairo and selected Governorates  
**Project Agreement:** 21.02.2012  
**Start Date:** 01.05.2012  
**Expected Completion Date:** 30.04.2014

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This project represents the natural continuation of the ongoing intervention “Effective School to Work Transition through Career Information and Guidance for Youth Employment”, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by ILO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower and Migration, in five pilot Governorates.

In line with the strategy adopted so far, strengthening and widening the successful results already achieved, the initiative intends to contribute to further developing the institutional capacity framework of Public Employment Services (PES). The project will support a more effective and quicker transition from school to work, leading job seekers, mainly young people, to find more and better jobs. For this purpose, it will build upon a package of integrated initiatives to mobilize Public Employment Offices in 10 Governorates (such as Cairo, Giza, Alexandria - El Mahrousa, Matrouh, Port Said, Assiut, Sohag, Ismailia, and Kalioubiya among others), education institutions, youth associations, training providers, workers’ and employers associations, local authorities and media in selected areas. In order to be more effective, the project will establish links with ongoing major initiatives supporting Egypt’s education and training systems reform.

This intervention is designed on the basis of the positive experiences and lesson learnt of recent programmes involving Egypt’s Public Employment Services (PES), to provide all necessary information on career guidance and labour market to young people, building upon various entry points of relevant stakeholders, under the leadership of the Ministry of Manpower and Migration. Indeed, it should be ensured that in the future PES offices play a stronger role in supporting young people find a decent job.

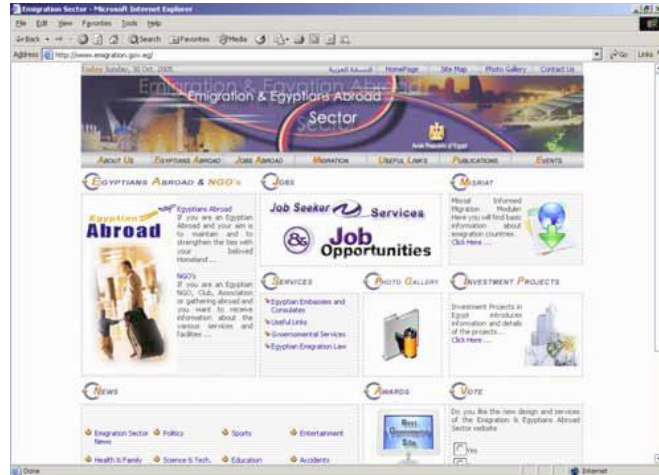
### PROGRESS AT DEC 2012

Activities focused on realizing a PES Offices Assessment to select to identify the Governorates the project will implement its activities. For this purpose, several field visits were carried out in Cairo, Giza, Qalioubiya, Menoufeya, Alexandria, Gharbiya, Port Said, Ismailiya, Assiout, Sohag, Matrouh and Fayoum. 10 Governorates were eventually selected, based as well on further ongoing interventions funded by the Italian Government.

The initiative was officially presented in December 2012, in the occasion of the closing event of the project “Effective School to Work Transition through Career Information and Guidance for Youth Employment”.

“INTEGRATED MIGRATION INFORMATION SYSTEM (IMIS) III “

**Project Code:** DS\_22\_MoME  
**Applicant:** Ministry of Manpower and Migration (MoMM)  
**Implementing Agency:** IOM  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 7,442,833.00  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 2,227,492.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** the 1<sup>st</sup> installment has been transferred to the applicant on 28.06.2012 but still has not been transferred to the Implementing Agency so far  
**Location:** National  
**Project Agreement:** 20.03.2012  
**Start Date:** 01.07.2012  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.12.2013



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at contributing to strengthen Ministry of Manpower and Migration’s capacity to manage labour migration and harness its development potential, building on the experience of “Integrated Migration Information System” programmes (IMIS and IMIS+), funded by the Italian Government and implemented by IOM between 2001 and 2010, in partnership with the Ministry of Manpower and Migration.

Accordingly, the initiative intends to enhance national capacities to analyze and respond to international labour market demand and to introduce quality assurance mechanisms to labour matching processes, in line with the lessons learned through IMIS and IMIS+ projects. It also mean to

Further objectives are to develop, pilot and evaluate an operational framework to facilitate seasonal labor migration from Egypt to Italy, with a view to supporting the implementation of the 2010 *Joint Declaration between the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Migration for Cooperation on Migration for Seasonal Work*; and to support relevant authorities, civil society organizations and migrants to link migration and development, including to channel remittances and the social, financial and human capital associated with return, towards productive ends.

**PROGRESS AT DEC 2012**

The project, presented by the Ministry of Manpower and Migration and implemented by IOM, was approved by the Management Committee in December 2011. The first installment

was disbursed to the Ministry of Manpower and Migration in June 2012. As the Agreement between the concerned Ministry and IOM - required to transfer the funds from the Applicant to the Executing Agency - has not been signed so far, the activities did not start yet.

**“PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION FOR MENTAL DISABILITY (REMEDY)“**



**Project Code:** DS\_23\_AWSC  
**Applicant:** Alex Workshop Center (AWSC)  
**Implementing Agency:**  
**Total Project Budget:** EGP 2,550,854.000  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
EGP 1,001,092.00  
**Date of transfer of first installment to  
Implementing Agency:** 17.07.2012  
**Location:** Alexandria and Behera  
Governorate  
**Project Agreement:** 19.06.2012  
**Start Date:** 01.08.2012  
**Expected Completion Date:** 31.07.2013

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project intends to promote psychosocial rehabilitation of patients with mental illnesses by developing artistic laboratories, sheltered workshops, self-help groups, work skills and supported work opportunities. The intervention will involve mental health center “Franco Basaglia”, created in Kobanya Abu Keer (Kafr El Dawar, Behera Governorate) by MeHeNet project funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian Ministry of Economic Development and a number of Italian Regions.

In particular, the project will contribute enhancing capacities for improving self-help, self-sufficiency, autonomy and dignity for people with mental disorders; creating opportunities for self-fulfilment and social inclusion for people with mental disorders through art therapy, and encouraging harnessing individual skills to prevent or contrast mental disabilities through work and employment.

Raising awareness in the community to combat stigma and discrimination and to promote positive mental health is also envisaged.

**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

The Agreement between the Egyptian NGO Alex Workshop Center (AWSC) and the Mental Health Secretariat of the Ministry of Health and Population has not been signed yet. The Agreement is required to enable AWSC to work in “Franco Basaglia” Mental Health Center. Several meetings were held with representatives of AWSC, of Mental Health Secretariat and of project partners (Public Health Agency of Lazio Region and the Region of Puglia) to reach an agreement among the parties and proceed to signature.

“SUPPORT TO THE EGYPTIAN PROTECTED AREAS (SEPA) “

**Project Code:** DS\_24\_EEAA

**Applicant:** Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA)

**Implementing Agency:** UNDP

**Total Project Budget:** EGP 11,000,000.00

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**

EGP 1,476,314.00

**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** the 1<sup>st</sup> installment has been transferred to the applicant on 12.11.2012 but still has not been transferred to the Implementing Agency so far

**Location:** Siwa Protected Area, Wadi el Rayan Protected Area, Gilf Kebir National Park, Wadi Gamal National Park, the Eastern Desert and Salloum Protected Area

**Project Agreement:** 01.09.2012

**Start Date:** 01.12.2012

**Expected Completion Date:** 30.11.2014



**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

SEPA project is to be considered as a natural evolution of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme (EIECP). In this framework, it will contribute to ensure the sustainability of the activities undertaken to enhance the system of the Protected Areas of Egypt, in preparation of the third forthcoming phase of the EIECP and through complementary and synergic actions to the UNDP-GEF project “Strengthening Protected Areas’ financing and management systems”.

The intervention will carry out its activities in Siwa Protected Area, Wadi el Rayan Protected Area, Gilf Kebir National Park, Wadi Gamal National Park, the Eastern Desert and the recently declared Salloum Protected Area.

Building on the experience gained through the interventions already implemented in the framework of EIECP, the project will further strengthen the Management Units of the targeted Protected Areas (PAMUs), develop sustainable tourism, as well as contribute to the promotion of world-class parks, which can enhance the conservation of both natural



and cultural heritage, from one side, and act as a propulsive instrument for the socio-economic sustainable development of local communities, on the other.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

As the Implementing Agreement was signed and the project account opened, the first installment was disbursed to EEAA in November 2012. However, funds have not been transferred yet to UNDP, as the National Security authorization to intervene in the identified areas has not been released so far.

“Green Trade Initiative “

**Project Code:** DS\_25\_GTI

**Applicant:** Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade

**Implementing Agency:** UNIDO

**Total Project Budget:** EGP 54,962,854.00

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**

EGP 0.00

**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** no installment has been transferred so far

**Location:** national

**Project Agreement:** 19.04.2012

**Start Date:** the project has not started yet

**Expected Completion Date:** to be defined

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The *Green Trade Initiative* (GTI) aims at continuing and broadening the successful experiences and lessons learnt of other initiatives funded under the Debt Swap Programme - Phase 1, such as the “*Green Corridor Pilot Project*” and the “*E-Trace: Traceability of Agro-Industrial Products for the European Market Project*”.

The strategy proposed by the *Green Trade Initiative* is meant to enhance the competitiveness of Egyptian horticultural fresh production and, accordingly, its export rate towards Europe, through Italy. This goal will be achieved by building capacity at institutional level and by stimulating links and partnerships between the Italian and Egyptian private sectors not only in production and export but also in the transfer of technical assistance, know-how and technology.

In particular, the GTI will focus on four main pillars:

- i) Enhancing horticultural produce quality and phytosanitary controls by defining and adopting national standards for quality and monitoring for production and export of high-value fresh produce and introducing phytosanitary protocols in line with the European regulations;
- ii) Strengthening logistics and transportation infrastructures to facilitate access to European markets;
- iii) Increasing private sector investments in the value chain by mobilizing existing financial resources;
- iv) Facilitating access to the national and international markets for small producers, disseminating horticulture market information (prices and products), participating in specialized fairs and fostering the establishment of joint ventures with Italian and, in general, European companies.

**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

The project was approved in December 2011 and the Agreement with UNIDO was signed in September 2012. Project funds should be budgeted in Line Ministry budget in January 2013

and first installment accordingly transferred to the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade. The activities did not start yet.

**“DEVELOPING THE HANDICRAFTS SKILLS AND ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN UPPER EGYPT “**

**Project Code:** DS\_26\_MALR

**Applicant:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR)

**Implementing Agency:** IAMB

**Total Project Budget:** EGP 23,000,000.00

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 0.00

**Date of transfer of first installment to Implementing Agency:** no installment has been transferred so far

**Location:** Beni Swef, Assiut, Sohag and Aswan Governorates

**Project Agreement:** 11.11.2012

**Start Date:** the project has not started yet

**Expected Completion Date:** to be defined

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The initiative aims at improving women’s conditions in rural areas in Beni Swef, Assiut, Sohag and Aswan Governorates in Upper Egypt, fostering the creation of micro and small businesses run by women. More than 2000 women will be trained in different sectors, spanning from handicrafts, to marketing and business management, so as they can set up income-generating activities.

This action will contribute to promote women economic independence, and improve living conditions of the communities they belong to. Women will be also supported in the learning process, in particular in basic literacy and calculation, as well as in attitudes to adopt for child welfare and hygiene.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

The Executing Agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agronomic Mediterranean Institute of Bari (IAMB) was signed in November 2012. In order to disburse the first installment and start the activities, project funds need to be budgeted in Line Ministry budget.

**“BUILDING RURAL ASSETS WITH VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES “ (BRAVO)**

**Project Code:** DS\_27\_MAIS

**Applicant:** MAIS

**Implementing Agency:** MAIS - COSPE

**Total Project Budget:** EGP 4,148,036.00

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** EGP 0.00

**Date of transfer of first Installment to Implementing Agency:** no installment has been transferred so far

**Location:** Fayoum Governorate

**Project Agreement:** the Agreement has not been signed so far

**Start Date:** the project has not started yet

**Expected Completion Date:** to be defined

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at poverty-reduction among small producers, of women excluded from labour, and of unemployed youth, by tackling the challenges hindering the full development of Fayoum Governorate in its three main economic sectors (tourism, handicraft, agriculture).

The proposed strategy is based on the enhancement of the available assets, and the creation of new opportunities, both on the market of goods and labour.

The project will play a significant role towards the achievement of women’s economic empowerment by targeting unemployed women and girls, as beneficiaries of skills development and micro finance actions, to play the actors’ role in services and facilities establishment.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

Although the initiative was approved in December 2011, it did not start yet due to delays in administrative procedures to obtain the license to implements the project, to be incorporated in MAIS registration.

Technical Progress

Initiatives under formulation / not approved

**“PROGETTO SUD”**

**Project Code:** N/A  
**Applicant:** Progetto Sud  
**Implementing Agency:** Progetto Sud  
**Total Project Budget:** N/A  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** N/A  
**Location:** N/A  
**Start Date:** N/A  
**Expected Completion Date:** N/A

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The initiative aims at contributing to the socio-economic development of Egypt by combating unemployment and promoting continuing vocational training in the construction sector.

Hence, this pilot project intends to overcome the shortage of skilled labor in the building industry and address the inadequacy of training programmes currently available for masons and plasterers. The overall objective of the project is building a standards-based qualification and training system that respond labor market needs and provides a workforce trained.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

Due to delays in administrative procedures concerning NGO’s registration in Egypt, the project has not been approved so far.

“INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF ANTIQUITIES - EX SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANTIQUITIES - FOR MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE AND PERMANENT OPENING TO THE CULTURAL TOURISM THE MEDINET MADI ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK“

**Project Code:** N/A  
**Applicant:** Ministry of Antiquities  
**Implementing Agency:** UNDP  
**Total Project Budget:** N/A  
**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:**  
**Location:** N/A  
**Start Date:** N/A  
**Expected Completion Date:** N/A

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

This project is to be considered a natural continuation of the ISSEMM component of the Egyptian-Italian Environmental Cooperation Programme (EIECP), contributing to ensure sustainability to the efforts exerted to promote the Archaeological Park of Medinet Madi, opened in May 2010.

The initiative aims at contributing to open and manage the Archaeological Park of Medinet Madi and its Visitor Centre, adopting a eco-friendly sustainable approach for its conservation. Moreover, the activities will be support socio-economic development of local communities, harnessing the invaluable cultural heritage of Fayoum Governorate to promote eco-tourism.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

The project is currently under formulation.



“MECHANIC BAKERY “

**Project Code:** N/A

**Applicant:** Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations World Food Programme

**Total Project Budget:** N/A

**Funds Transferred at Dec. 2012:** N/A

**Location:** N/A

**Start Date:** N/A

**Expected Completion Date:** N/A

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The project aims at establishing a high-capacity automated model bakery with 3 production lines producing a standardized good quality *baladi* bread loaf that is packaged to improve shelf life, safety standards and hygiene. The project sets standards and plans for optimized performance in management, production, operations and distribution that can be replicated nationwide.

The model bakery, which will produce 1 million loaves of bread a day, will be established in line with Government of Egypt plan for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of *baladi* bread Supply Chain and it could be replicated nationwide.

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**STATUS AT DEC 2012**

WFP was selected to be the implementing agency, responsible for construction of the bakery and provision of training. WFP is currently working on the formulation of the project.