



# **Italian - Egyptian**

## **D e b t F o r D e v e l o p m e n t**

### **Swap Program**

**Annual Report**  
**2007**



**Ambasciata d'Italia  
Il Cairo**



**Ministry of  
International Cooperation**

# **Italian - Egyptian**

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## Acronyms

AAE	Association for the Advancement of Education (NGO)
AES	Agricultural Experimental Station
ADEW	Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (NGO)
ARC	Agricultural Research Centre
BDC	Business Development Centres
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics
CBE	Central Bank of Egypt
CDA	Community Development Association
CIERA	Centro Italo-Egiziano per il Restauro e le Antichità
CIU	Consultation and Information Unit
CLEQM	Central Laboratory for Environment Quality Monitoring - NWRC
COSPE	Cooperazione per lo Sviluppo dei Paesi Emergenti (NGO)
CPF	Counterpart Fund of the Debt Swap program
EEAA	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FGM	Female Genital Mutilations
FHU	Family Health Unit
FHH	Female Head of Household
GAEB	General Authority for Education Building
GALAE	General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education
ICED	International Centre for Environment and Development (NGO)
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IEDS	Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Program
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMC	Executive Organization for Industrial and Mining Projects – MOFTI
IMIS	Integrated Migration Information System
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MC	Management Committee of the Debt Swap program
MAE-DGCS	Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – General Directorate for Cooperation
MALR	Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
MAIS	Movimento per l'Autosviluppo, l'interscambio e la Solidarietà (NGO)
MCC	Medio Credito Centrale Italiano
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MME	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MOSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MOT	Ministry of Tourism
MOTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MRI	Medical Research Institute
MWRI	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood
NCS	Nature Conservation Sector
NCW	National Council for Women
NGO	Non Governmental Organization

NVAD	New Vision Association for Development (NGO)
NWRC	National Water Research Centre - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PAP	Poverty Alleviation Program
PHC	Primary Health Care
PIC	Poison Information Centre
PMU	Project Management Unit
SCA	Supreme Council of Antiquities
SGI	Società Generale di Ingegneria
SRU	Strategic Research Unit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
WFP	World Food Programme
WNRDP	West Nubariya Rural Development Programme
WRRI	Water Resources Research Institute
WUA	Water Users Associations
TSU	Technical Support Unit to the Debt Swap Management Committee

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# Italian Egyptian Debt Swap Program

## 1 Origins: the Debt Swap Agreement

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

Italy and Egypt signed the “Debt-for-Development Swap” agreement in Rome on February 19, 2001 with the aim of converting eligible Official Development Assistance (ODA) bilateral debt owed by the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Italian Republic into financial resources to implement development projects in Egypt. The total amount of debt subject to swap operations under the Agreement is approximately **\$ 149 million** within a period of **five years** (July 2001 – July 2006). The duration of the agreement has been extended to June 2008 in order to allow the full implementation of all projects financed through the Agreement.

- ☑ The Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap (IEDS) was established by a bilateral Agreement between Italy and Egypt, signed in Rome on February 2001.
- ☑ The aim is to convert eligible Official Development Assistance (ODA) debt owed by Egypt to Italy into financial resources to implement development projects in Egypt.
- ☑ The total amount of debt subject to swap operations under this Agreement is about USD 149 millions for a period of 5 years: 09/07/2001 – 08/07/2006.
- ☑ Funds generated by the debt swap should finance development projects aimed mainly towards human development, poverty alleviation and environment protection.

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

In Italy debt swap operations are regulated by law no. 449/1997 and law 209/2000. The regulation establishes, among other things, that swaps can be carried out only for debts of countries "for which a multilateral understanding has been reached" among the creditor members of the Paris Club.



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

## 2 The Counterpart Fund

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



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

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

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

### THE COUNTERPART FUND

- ☑ In the period July 2001 – July 2006, Egypt deposited in a Counterpart Fund (**CPF**) with the Central Bank of Egypt the equivalent, in EGP, of each installment of the ODA debt (principal and interest) due to Italy.
- ☑ Funds are transferred from the CPF to the approved projects every six months after the signature of specific project's agreements and upon submission of periodical Progress Reports.

## 3 Governing Bodies

### 3.1 *The Management Committee*

The Italian Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Program is managed by a bilateral Management Committee (MC) supported by a Technical Support Unit (TSU) which acts as a MC secretariat, by monitoring the implementation and evaluating the results achieved by each project.

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

The major tasks of the Management Committee, whose meetings are normally held three times a year, are to monitor the correct implementation of the agreement, to select projects to be financed by the funds generated by the debt-for-development swap, to monitor their implementation and verify their achievements.

### GOVERNING BODIES

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

### 3.2 *Technical Support Unit*

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

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

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

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

## 4 Selection of Projects

Funds collected in the CPF mainly finance projects in the fields of human development, poverty alleviation and environmental protection, but they may also be used to finance local costs of relevant projects and programs undertaken by the Italian Development Cooperation in Egypt.

As for the applicants considered eligible for IEDS financing, the organizations entitled to apply are the Egyptian Ministries and Public Institutions, Egyptian NGOs, Italian NGOs and United Nations Agencies.

#### **ELEGIBLE APPLICANTS**

- ☒ Egyptian Ministries and Public Institutions
- ☒ Egyptian NGOs
- ☒ Italian NGOs
- ☒ UN Agencies

The Management Committee is responsible for project selection upon evaluation of the proposal presented by the applicants, the details of which are listed below. Each applicant must

first submit their logical framework and work plan followed by a resource allocation sheet and, finally, a budget.

### PROJECT SELECTION

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

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

Upon completion of the project selection process, the budget of each selected project is allocated and disbursed according to the relevant annual financial plan and progress achieved.

## 5 Monitoring of the Projects

Financial and technical monitoring is very important for an effective management of the fund and the sustainability of the projects. Every six months all projects are required to submit a technical and financial progress report to the MC to specify achievements, activities, results and expenditures according to the work plan targets.

The TSU assists the Projects in drafting progress reports correctly, according to the standard format, while at the same time strengthening the capacities of projects' staff in order to improve the performance of technical and financial project management.

### MONITORING

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

For financial monitoring, the TSU has adopted the methodology of "Performance Budget" and "Activity Based Financial Planning" where expenditures are related to activities implemented. Assisting the projects to adopt this vision required full involvement of the TSU in the area of capacity building, institutional empowerment and knowledge transfer to raise and upgrade the skills of the projects' staff. The philosophy behind this is not only to facilitate the monitoring activities but also to express a strong commitment towards improving national institutions

performance and accountability through capacity building. Within this wide broader vision the monitoring technique becomes part of the project learning process which eventually results in enhancing the project performance in management and reporting.

Whereas necessary, monitoring is done through the assistance of an external auditor, to verify financial performance of the implementer, and avoids any mismanagement of funds.

## 6 Complementary Actions of the Technical Support Unit

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

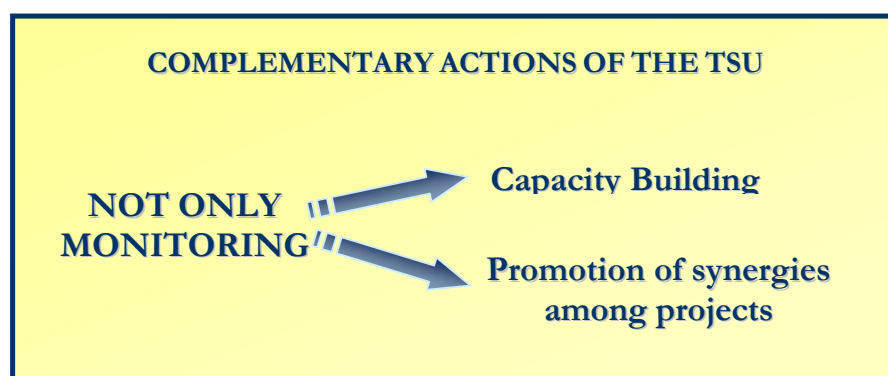
Actions for capacity building are developed through:

- specific meetings with projects staff;
- thematic workshops;
- guidelines and tools for project management.

Moreover, in order to strengthen **impact** and **sustainability** of the projects, the TSU is deeply involved in promoting synergies and forms of cooperation among projects.

This is achieved through facilitating meetings and specific activities involving:

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



## **7 Progress at December 2007**

### ***7.1 Projects Financed***

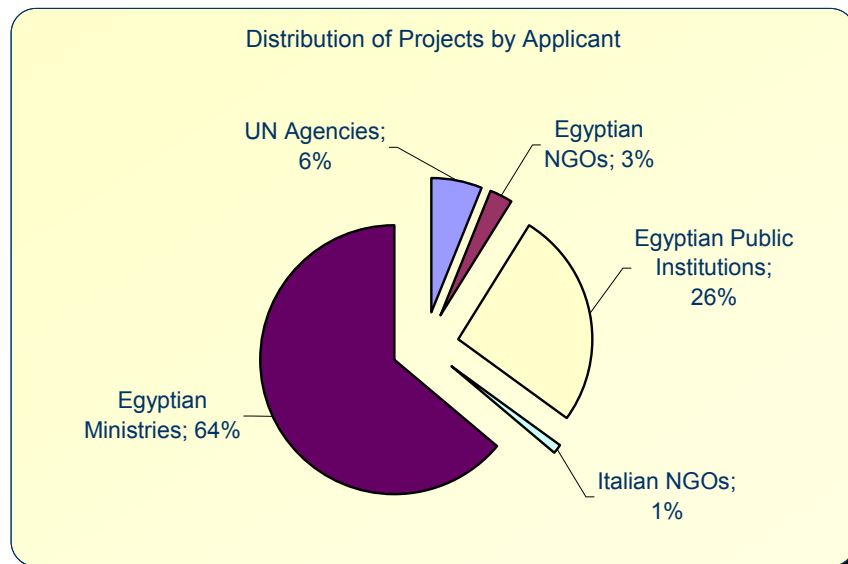
The process of selection of projects under the Debt Swap Agreement officially closed in 2004 and all funds available were allocated.

The Italian Egyptian Debt Swap program finances 54 development projects, including the Project IDS/54 concerning TSU running costs, with a total budget of EGP 836,846,974.

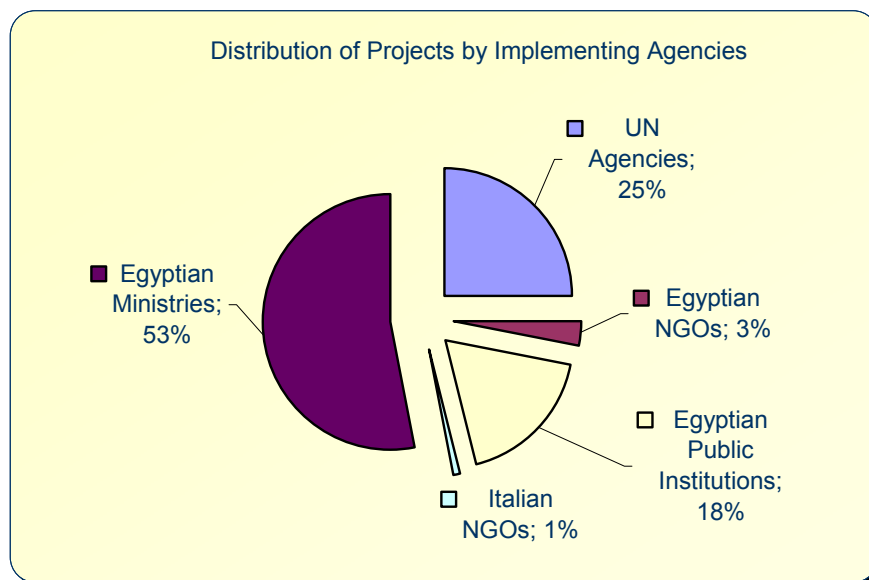
Pr. IDS	Applicant	Implementing Agency	Project	Location	Duration years	Budget EGP
1	MALR	MARL	West Noubaria Rural Development Project	West Noubaria	6	150,620,000
2	MOSS	MOSS	Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation	Asyut, Qena, Sohag	5	37,500,000
3	MOHP	MOHP	Family Health Database	Beheira, Qalyubeya	4,5	34,093,000
4	CAIRO GOV.	UNESCO	Traditional Arts and Crafts	Old Cairo - El Fustat	canceled	1,562,800
5	MALR	MALR / COSPE	Sustainable Rural Development	Wadi Rayan	5	12,613,000
6	MOHP	MOHP	Prevention of Chemical Poisoning	Minya, Dakahleya, Cairo	3	1,983,150
7	COSPE	COSPE	Marketing Link Program	National	1,5	1,261,020
8	NCW	NCW	Multi-faceted Micro-credit for Women	Mynia	4	6,807,400
9	MOT	MOT	Completion of Pottery Village	Old Cairo - El Fustat	3	5,985,414
10	MCIT	UNDP	ICT for Sustainable Human Development	National	4,5	48,434,754
11	MALR	MALR	Support to Agricultural Cooperatives	Fayum, Beni Suef, Asyut, Sohag, Aswan	4,5	25,968,820
12	NCCM	NCCM	Protection of Working Children	Manshiet Nasser	3,5	4,190,709
13	WFP	WFP/ MALR	School Feeding	Fayum, BeniSuef, Minya	4	42,489,905
14	NWRC	CLEQM	Wetland Treatment of Drain Water	Gharbeya, Daqahleya	3	1,375,000
15	NWRC	CLEQM	Assessment of Hand-pump Systems	Gharbeya, Qalyubeya	3	1,425,000
16	CARITAS	SETI CARITAS	Directory for Special Needs Services	Greater Cairo	2	275,440
17	NCCM	UNDP	FGM Free Village Model	National	3,5	2,079,000
18	NCCM	NCCM / UNODC	Campaign to Reduce Drug Abuse	National	3,5	8,005,000
19	GAEB	GAEB	Schools Construction	Minya, Sharqeya, Sohag	4,5	42,768,683
20	NCCM	UNDP	Think Twice Social Campaigns for Youth	National	3,5	14,584,416
21	MOHP	MOHP	School Health Program	National	3,5	2,225,000
22	EEAA	UNDP	Environmental Program Phase 2	National	3,5	19,900,060
23	EEAA	UNDP	Inventory of National Biodiversity	National	3,5	6,841,410
24	NWRC	WRRRI	Flash Floods Protection Works	Wadi Watier	3	13,000,000
25	NWRC	NWRC	Agricultural Development in the Southern Valley	Toshka	3,5	11,412,000
26	MOHP	MOHP	Leprosy Elimination Program	National	4	1,032,000
27	ISMAILIYA GOV.	UNDP	Participatory Slum Upgrading	Ismailiya	4	18,744,300
28	MRI	MRI	Extension of Medical Research Institute	Alexandria	2	1,735,000
29	CARITAS	CARITAS	Food for Work - Leprosarium Village	National	4,5	1,450,440
30	NWRC	NWRC	Assessment of Water Users Associations	National	1	200,000
31	NWRC	NWRC	Food Security Model	National	1	200,000
32	ICED	ICED	Community-based Waste Management	Cairo	3	1,916,000
33	MOHP	MOHP	HIV/AIDS Prevention	National	4	2,165,675
34	ALEX UNIV.	ALEX UNIV.	Brackish Water Desalination	Alexandria	3,5	5,483,840
35	MOHP	MOHP	Improving Health of Working Children	Menufeya, Asyut, Cairo	2,5	1,900,000
36	FAO	FAO	Rural Development Communication Network	National	4	9,240,000
37	MOTI	UNIDO/MOTI	Traceability of Agro-industrial Products	National	4	45,672,060
38	TOFULTY	TOFULTY	Street Children Protection	Cairo	4,5	4,648,652
39	MOTI	MOTI	Robaiki Leather and Tanneries City	Robaiki	3,5	162,030,000
40	ADEW	ADEW	Empowerment of Female Heads of Households	Cairo -Manshiet Nassser	4,5	9,430,550
41	NCCM	NCCM	Environmental Development Awareness	North Cairo	4	4,250,000
42	BEHEIRA GOV.	BWADC	Rehabilitation of Water Supply System	Beheira	3,5	50,000,000
43	SCA	SCA	Yashbak Palace Restoration Training	Cairo	canceled	1,600,000
44	APS	MAIS	Literacy and Vocational Training for Children	Sohag	2,5	1,840,800
45	MOVIMONDO	MOVIMONDO	Women Entrepreneurship	Giza	3,5	1,997,686
46	MAIS	MAIS	Improving Quality of Life in Old Cairo	Old Cairo	2	1,999,900
47	CKSL	CKSL	Enhancement of Kindergartens Services	Fayum, Asyut, Siwa, New Valley	2	1,889,250
48	AAE	AAE-COSPE	Improvement of Education	Siwa	2,5	1,986,715
49	NVD	NVD-COSPE	Improvement of Job Opportunities	Minya	2,5	1,999,475
50	MOVIMONDO	MOVIMONDO	Children with Special Needs	Giza	2	1,998,050
51	MME	IOM	Support to External Employment Department	National	0,5	311,000
52	ABU SALAMA	ABU SALAMA	Protecting Dolphin Habitat	Marsa Alam	1	1,327,350
53	MOTI	MALR	Green Corridor Pilot Project	West Noubaria	2,5	1,902,250
54	IDS - TSU	IDS -TSU	Support to TSU Running Costs	National	1	495,000
<b>Total Program Budget</b>						<b>836,846,974</b>

## 7.2 Applicants and Implementing Agencies

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



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

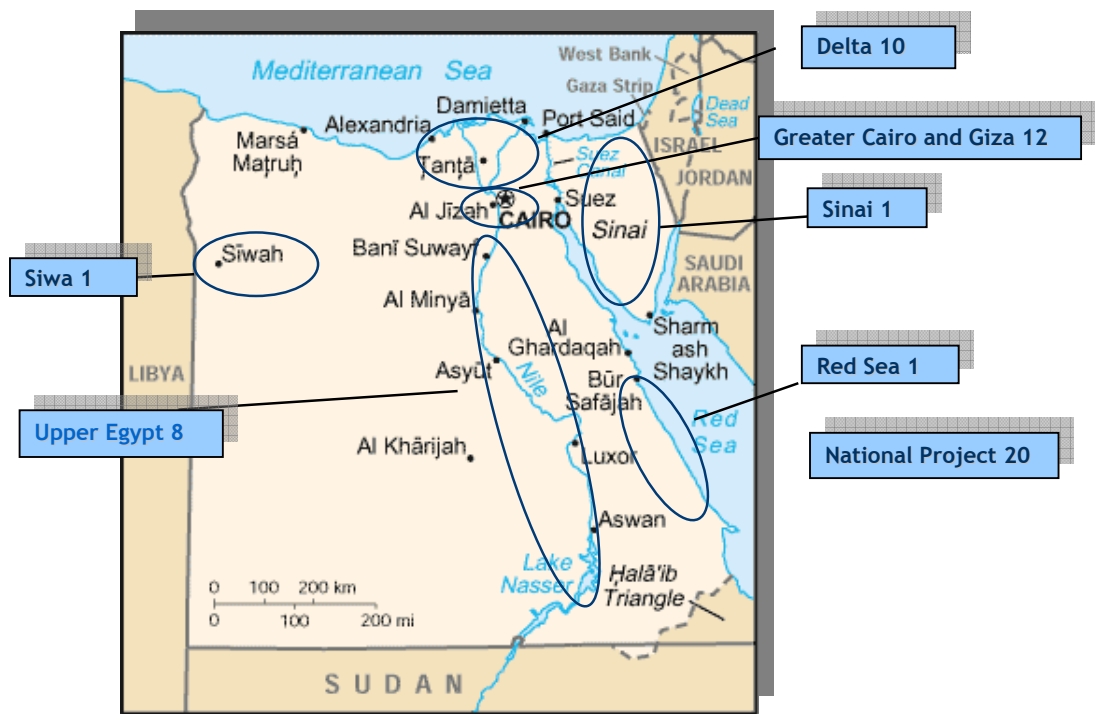


The difference between the two distributions is due to the fact that some projects approved to Egyptian institutions or ministries are implemented with the support of UN agencies.

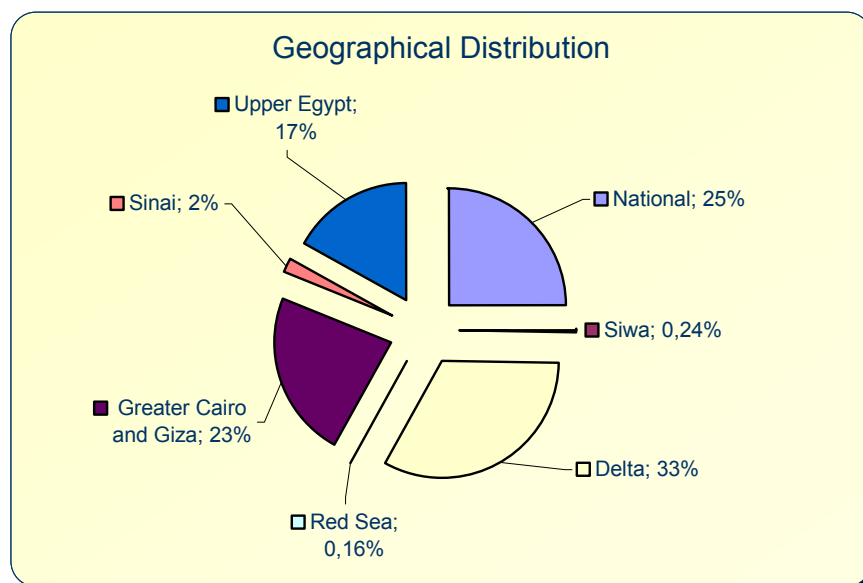


### 7.3 Geographic Coverage

The projects financed cover almost the entire country: 10 projects are specifically underway in the geographic area of the Delta, 12 in Greater Cairo and Giza, 1 in Sinai, 1 in Siwa, 1 in the Red Sea area and 8 in Upper Egypt, while 20 projects operate on a national scale.

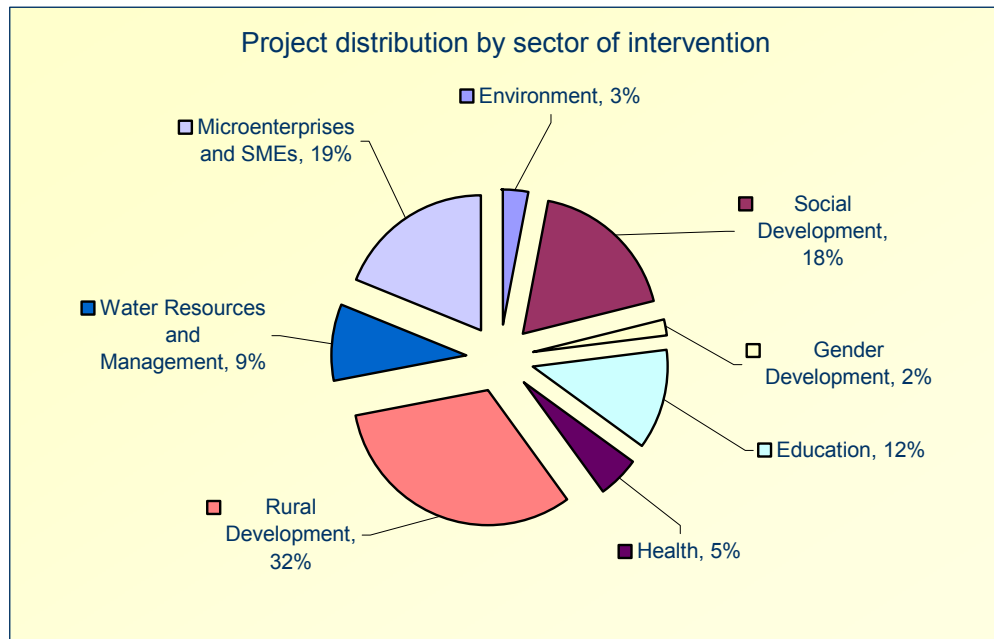


The distribution of the Projects over the country is shown in the following chart:



#### 7.4 Sectors of Interventions

As far the areas of development are concerned, obviously there is going to be some overlap between the various areas of development and the results of one project may be applicable in more than one sector. However, a simplistic break down of the total budget according to sector of intervention is shown in the following chart.

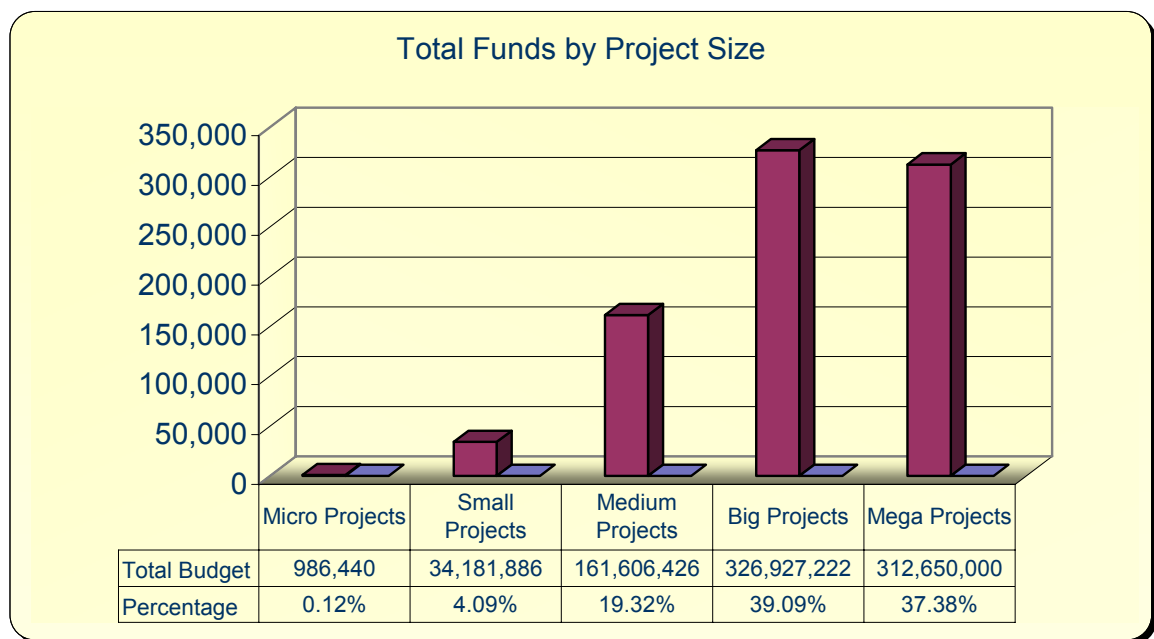


The large shares for the sectors of Rural development and of Microenterprises and SMEs are due to the relative weight of the two biggest projects financed, namely IDS/1 “West Noubaria Rural Development Project” and IDS/39 “Robaiki Industrial Leather and Tanneries City”.

#### 7.5 Projects Size

Projects can be classified, according to their budget size, as follows:

- ❖ Micro projects (budget EGP 0-500,000): 4 projects, representing 0.12% of the funds.
- ❖ Small projects (EGP 500,001-2,000,000): 20 projects, representing 4.09% of the funds.
- ❖ Medium projects (EGP 2,000,001-20,000,000): 19 projects, representing 19.32% of the funds.
- ❖ Big projects (EGP 20,000,001-50,000,000): 8 projects, representing 39.09% of the funds.
- ❖ Mega projects (EGP over 50,000,000): 2 projects, representing 37.38% of the funds.



## 7.6 Financial Figures

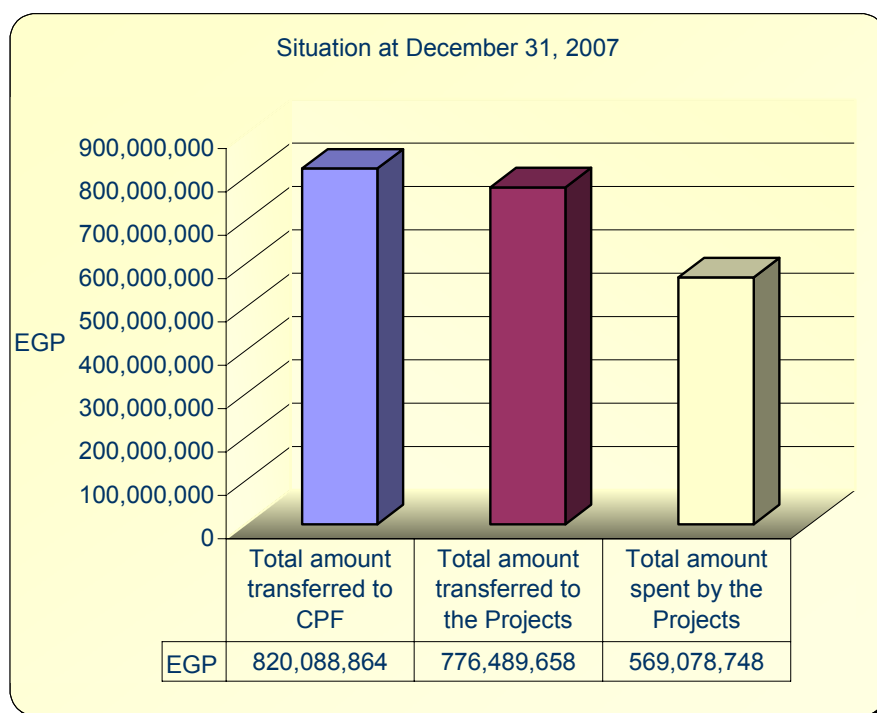
At 31/12/07, the total amount credited by the Government of Egypt in the Counterpart Fund amounts to EGP 820,088,864 corresponding to USD 149,097,996, which means that 100% of the total debt object of the Agreement (July 2001 – July 2006) has been converted.

At 31/12/07 the total funds transferred from the CPF to the accounts of the projects amount to EGP 776,489,658 representing 95% of the amount credited to the CPF by the Egyptian Government, leaving a balance of EGP 43,599,206.

As for projects' expenditure, at 31/12/07 the projects report a total disbursement amounting to EGP 569,078,748, representing about the 73% of the related funds transferred to those projects.

### As per December 2007

- ☑ Total debt cancelled: USD 149,097,996 (100% of the total amount agreed)
- ☑ Total funds credited to the CPF: EGP 820,088,864.
- ☑ Total funds transferred from CPF to the projects: EGP 776,489,658 (95% of the amount credited).
- ☑ Total expenditures by projects: EGP 569,078,748 (73% of funds transferred to projects)



## Projects Data Report<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The exchange rate LE-EURO reported (1 EURO = LE 6.34) represents an estimation calculated for exclusively statistical purposes, as average rate recorded within the whole conversion period from July 2001 to July 2006.

## **WEST NOUBARIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Project Code:** IDS/01

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

**Total Project Budget:** LE 270,736,976 (Euro 42,702,993)

**IDS Share:** LE 150,620,000 (Euro 23,757,098)

**Other Contributions:** LE 120,116,975 (Euro 18,945,895)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 126,314,958

**Location:** Noubaria (Gov. Alexandria, Beheira)

**Project Duration:** 6 years

**Start Date:** September 16, 2002

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Potatoes Production in Noubaria

The project is jointly financed by the IEDS, the IFAD and the Egyptian Government and it is implemented in an area of newly reclaimed desert lands in West Noubaria (West Delta), covering about 56,000 feddans (23,520 hectares). This area is settled by families of displaced farmers (67% of the population) and of recent graduates (33% of the population), who moved to Noubaria in the framework of the Mubarak Project, launched in 1987. The total number of beneficiaries of the project is

about 39,000 people, living in 86 villages. The general objective of the project is to improve quality of life and income of beneficiaries, by supporting social services and increasing opportunities for sustainable economic activities.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The project is structured around four main components.

- Community Organization and Development: hygienic, environmental, educational and social services improved and the role of women and local organizations activated.
- Technical Operations: productivity increased and quality of production improved.
- Marketing Operations: marketing opportunities increased.
- Credit Facilitation and Enterprise Development: financial support to establish sustainable small enterprises increased.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

In relation to the Community Organization and Development component, the project has succeeded in completing housing improvement for more than 3,000 houses and has established

and refurbished several social infrastructures, such as mosques, social event halls, schools, clinics, nurseries and vocational training units. Considerable progress has been achieved in raising awareness and improving knowledge of beneficiaries through training sessions on topics such as community development, vocational training, health issues, literacy, hygienic and environmental practices. In collaboration with the WFP, more than 55,000 food rations have been distributed to enhance food security. In the last phase of the project, the strategy will be focused also on enhancing the role of women and of the local Community Development Associations.

Within the Technical Operations component, interventions have been carried out on three main lines: crop production, livestock production and water management. The approach followed by the project is participatory and it is based on needs assessment and provision of extension services through demonstrative plots and training. For crop production, new cultivation techniques and practices have been spread, new varieties of products have been introduced and organic products for exports have been promoted. With regard to livestock production, farmers are having regular access to veterinary services, including the use of artificial insemination techniques, training sessions on breeding, fattening and feeding and supply of nutritional support to improve quality of fodder. In addition, for the last phase, the project will start up the production and selling of buffalo mozzarella, with the cooperation and technical assistance of Italian experts and investors. The introduction of buffalo mozzarella in the Egyptian market has the objective of increasing the value of local milk production and of bringing significant economic benefits to the milk producers of Noubaria. The civil works for the establishment of the Mozzarella Processing Unit are under way. For water management, technology transfer and training are achieving a better performance of irrigations systems, sustainability and a more rational and efficient usage of irrigation water. In addition, the project is also strengthening the role of local Water Users Associations.

As far as the Marketing Operations component is concerned, the project has so far promoted the establishment of 7 producers associations in order to open new marketing channels and is carrying out specific training activities on the expansion of marketing, specifications of agricultural products for exportation and publicity. In addition, collecting outlets already existing in the project area are being used as marketing outlets for production and some small local markets are being established. The project has



Livestock demonstrative plots

succeeded in creating linkages between farmers and private companies, such as Agrofood, Mafa and Agriworld, for the production of organic potatoes and summer oranges. Besides, the project is supporting the establishment of a pack house for the benefit of local producers. To this regard, it is worth mentioning that, with the aim of strengthening synergies among the IEDS projects, discussions are under way with the project IDS/37 (Traceability of Agro-Industrial Products for the European Market) on the traceability issue. These discussions are directed to give the possibility to the pack house in Noubaria of benefiting from the financial support scheme implemented by the project IDS/37, in order to apply a computer-based traceability system. Finally, since the MALR assumed in 2006 the responsibility for implementing the project IDS/53 (Green Corridor Pilot Project), important cooperation activities have been carried out between the two projects, such as technical assistance and support in the cultivation and export of artichokes and potatoes to Italy and Europe.

In relation to the Credit Facilitation and Enterprise Development component, more than LE 20,000,000 have been disbursed as loans to beneficiaries. This credit line has been used to establish sustainable economic activities, such as cattle breeding, orchards establishment, sheep breeding, modifying irrigation systems and small enterprises establishment. The functioning is supported by the intermediation of institutions, namely the General Cooperative Society for Reclaimed Lands, the National Mubarak Project for Graduates' Lands, the Development Cooperatives Training Project and the Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit. In addition, applicants can benefit from training programmes and technical assistance while loan delivery is followed up with technical visits to borrowers and financial performance reports. The interest rate applied is 8.6%. The credit line is producing positive effects in terms of increased income for the beneficiaries. This success is shown also by the fact that, with regard to the instalments transferred, more than LE 17,000,000 have already been repaid back by beneficiaries. As a consequence, the project has started since 2005 the operation of the revolving fund, providing new loans from the funds repaid back by beneficiaries. Up to 2007, more than LE 4,000,000 have been disbursed as loans, through the intermediation of agricultural cooperatives. Most of the funds of the revolving fund have been used to support the purchase of production inputs and the establishment of small economic activities managed by women.



## **POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION PROGRAM**

**Project code:** IDS/02

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Social Solidarity

**Total Project Budget:** LE 37,500,000 (Euro 5,915,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 32,511,764

**Location:** Gov. Asyut, Qena and Sohag.

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Starting Date:** August 3, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** February 29, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Project represents a geographical extension of the successful “Poverty Alleviation Program” implemented in the Governorates of Giza and Minya, by the Italian Cooperation in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs, throughout the period 1998-2005. Project’s purpose is to improve socio-economic conditions and reduce unemployment in the Governorates of Asyut, Qena and Sohag by supporting poor people, through local CDAs, in taking an active role in the Egyptian economy. The core of the Project is a micro credit scheme through which people with a monthly family income of less than LE 900, can be granted loans for developing new enterprises or expanding existing ones, as well as the CDAs can benefit of funds to develop social services such as sanitation, potable water, ID cards and birth certificates issuing, ecological ovens, libraries and socio-cultural clubs, etc.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- New job opportunities created through the delivery of loans
- Monthly income of beneficiaries increased.
- Standards of living in the target areas raised

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The Project selected 54 CDAs, as main channels to reach the target group in the three Governorates; in each CDA, the Project established and equipped a Credit Unit responsible of collecting applications, selecting loan beneficiaries, disbursing loans, monitoring and collecting the instalments back.

A specific capacity building program targeted MOSS personnel involved in the project at central and regional level, CDAs’ board members and Loan Units’ staff in order to increase their



Beneficiaries of micro credit scheme

efficiency and working skills on micro-credit scheme management and on the Social Loan Tracking System. Moreover CDAs' staff has been permanently trained to identify and define social and financial community needs.

Micro Credit beneficiaries have been selected according to the following criteria:

- Age between 21 and 60 years
- Egyptian nationality
- Valid ID Card.
- Family monthly income less than LE 900
- Good reputation.
- Resident in one of the target areas

According to last data provided, the project had transferred to the 54 CDAs a total amount of LE 19,814,580 while, through the revolving funds, the CDAs had, in turn, disbursed loans for a total amount of LE 27,710,350 with a settlement rate close to 90%.

The PAP financed more than 20,000 micro and small enterprises in four main business categories, namely agriculture, services, commerce and industry. In detail:



Beneficiary of micro credit scheme

- In Asyut, 3678 loans financed enterprises in the commercial sector, 1505 in the services' sector, 1430 in the agriculture and 780 in the industrial sector, for a total number of 7393 projects.
- In Sohag, 2249 loans financed enterprises in the commercial sector, 1096 in the services' sector, 2788 in the agriculture and 136 in the industrial sector; for a total number of 7289 projects.
- In Qena, 1633 loans financed enterprises in the commercial sector, 464 in the services' sector, 3858 in the agriculture and 249 in the industrial sector, for a total number of 6164 projects.

In addition, micro-credit beneficiaries were provided with vocational training, assuring local capacity building and knowledge empowerment, in order to help them to run their activities efficiently.

As for social interventions, the CDAs received a total amount of LE 1,489,528 in order to design and implement the most needed interventions for the villagers with the final aim of enhancing their quality of life. Among the intervention implemented: ID-cards issuing for women, awareness seminars on different issues, sanitation and potable water project, bridge constructing, etc.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/03

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 34,093,000 (Euro 5,377,445)

**Location:** Gov. Beheira, Qalyubeya

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** April 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



Medical examinations at FHU

decision-making.

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The main expected results are:

- 400 health centres in the target area transformed and reorganized into Family Health Units (FHU);
- knowledge and skills of medical and non-medical staff in relation to the Family Health Approach improved.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in June 2007. The target of 400 FHU was even exceeded, since 435 health units in Beheira and Qalyubeya were fully reorganized and upgraded as FHU. The main interventions carried out by the project to achieve this result concerned: establishment of filing rooms and family folders, physical rehabilitation, supply of medical furniture and equipment and of meeting and training facilities. In all these FHU a health demographic database, in partnership with IBM, was established and operated. The database now includes all the information that the project collected during health demographic surveys.

The information concern, at the moment, more than 5,900,000 individuals, out of which more than 2,100,000 benefited from a full general medical examination. From the group of 435 FHU, 172 were also included by the project in the so called “accreditation programme”. This programme was launched through the ministerial decree n. 147, which established all the quality standards that health units have to fulfil in order to obtain official accreditation by the MOHP. Thanks to the support of the project, all the 172 FHU succeeded in getting the official accreditation.

Finally, the project, achieved the important result of upgrading skills and knowledge of medical and non medical staff in the target area, in relation to the Family Health Approach. This result was achieved through training sessions for more than 9,500 beneficiaries (physicians, nurses, sanitarians, health inspectors and health educators) on subjects such as Family Health System, Health Reform, quality improvement, data entry and planning.



MOHP staff operating the new database

## **SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF WADI EL RAYAN AND FAYUM NEW-LAND SETTLEMENTS**

**Project Code:** IDS/05

**Applicant:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation / COSPE

**Total Project Budget:** LE 12,613,000 (Euro 1,990,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** 12,613,000

**Project Duration:** 5 years

**Location:** Wadi El Rayan, Qibli el Qarun (Gov. Fayum)

**Start Date:** July 1, 2003

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Wadi El Rayan Farmer

This Project, implemented by the MALR in partnership with the Italian NGO COSPE, intends to foster the economic development of the new reclaimed desert lands in Wadi El Rayan and Fayum, with the aim of improving socio-economic conditions of settlers, in particular the new graduates who settled starting from 1993 within the Mubarak Scheme and the displaced farmers, who moved to these lands after having been deprived of theirs, following the Land Owners and Tenants Farmer Reform, undertaken in 1997.

In particular, the Project intends to help the development of a sustainable agriculture based on the organic principles and linked with appropriate irrigation systems and livestock production and with innovative marketing strategies, i.e. the fair trade network, in order to add further value to the potential production in the project areas. At the same time, the Project plans to incorporate and develop social and environmental issues which are essential for a long term sustainable development also in consideration of the fact the Wadi El Rayan constitutes a Protected Area (see project IDS/22).

Target groups are 1800 displaced farmers and 800 new graduates organized in 4 cooperatives and distributed over the following areas:

- Qibli Qarun area, namely the villages of Faruq Omar and Yousef El Sadiq, for a total area of 3200 feddans
- Wadi El Rayan area, namely the villages of Sayedna Khedr and Sayedna Mousa, for a total area of 4578 feddans.



The Italian NGO COSPE, as implementing partner, is providing technical assistance especially to support farmers in improving their marketing skills through specific marketing training and educational tours to factories for packaging and exporting agricultural crops.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Institutional capacity of farmers' cooperatives strengthened and oriented towards an export-oriented organic agriculture;
- A credit scheme, with the aim of providing start-up capital for agricultural and non-agricultural activities established;
- Quality and quantity of the agricultural production increased through a sound and sustainable use of soil and water;
- Quantity and quality of the livestock production is improved and it secures the organic fertilizers required to support an organic agricultural production;
- At least 750 farms are certified to produce and export organic agricultural products;
- An environmentally sound collection and recycling system of solid waste in at least one settlement in Wadi El Rayan and one in Fayum is in place and operative.

### PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007

According to its several components, at December 2007 the Project had achieved the following results:

- Institutional development - An export-oriented Organic Agriculture Support Unit was established within each cooperative with the mandate of developing local, technical, business and financial services to support the conversion of lands and the growth of a sustainable export-oriented organic agriculture, and of promoting cooperative relations with all the relevant governmental, non-governmental and private sector stakeholders such as Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Irrigation, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Environment, Wadi El Rayan Protectorate, Fair Trade associations, etc. Educational and awareness material about organic agriculture and alternative marketing strategies was developed and a specific capacity building program was launched.
- Credit facilities - A credit scheme was established by the Project and managed through the 4 farmers' cooperatives opportunely trained. Loans are destined to the provision of start-up capital for organic farming, livelihood activities, transition towards a drip irrigation system and income generating activities, especially for women.
- Animal production - The project succeeded in promoting among the farmers the idea of raising more animals in order to effectively make available sufficient organic fertilizer to be used for the organic agriculture production. To this aim, awareness was enhanced on issues such as animal health, diseases, vaccination and feeding methodologies and specific training



Improving irrigation system

was provided on how to manage the production, collection and use of manure in the organic agriculture.

- Plant production - The project assisted the farmers and trained them on the best practices of organic agriculture, plant nutrition management, organic fertilizers as alternatives to chemicals and pesticides, plant production monitoring, etc. Pilot farms were established within the four villages. A total number of 160 farms managed to be registered within the Egyptian Centre for Organic Agriculture (ECOAG) and to be certified to export organic agricultural products. The basic principles of fair trade were spread among the farmers and through specific marketing training and field tours. The project carried out a research and developed marketing channels for high value agricultural products, such as medicinal and aromatic plants and contracts were signed for exporting chamomile and other organic products. In the same time special training on procedures and techniques for post-harvesting handles and packaging was delivered in view of the purchase of two driers for fruits and vegetables.
- Community development - Training sessions were organized to empower local communities, particularly women, in assessing their needs and elaborate effective proposals for community development. 60 women were trained in income-generating activities such as sewing embroidery, carpet weaving, etc. and gained access to the credit scheme for starting their own business.
- Solid waste management system – The Project assessed behaviours and practices related to solid waste management through focus groups and observation and carried out a participatory workshop in order to evaluate community perceived needs and problems. Thus a plan for solid waste management was elaborated in cooperation with Wadi El Rayan Protectorate and a Solid Waste Unit established in both areas. The project is currently in the phase of establishing a compost unit which would have a great impact in the area.
- Soil water and environment - A soil analysis, which was conducted at the beginning of the Project, demonstrated the close relation between water use and productivity of the lands and underlined the need of improving irrigation techniques by converting to drip irrigation in order to rationalize water use, protect biodiversity, stop lands' salination and eventually improve quality of production. Environmental awareness campaigns were organized and information on environment conservation, natural resources management, and protected area rules were disseminated. 150 trees were planted by the families so to enhance their feeling of ownership and responsibility towards their community.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/06

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 2,583,150 (Euro 407,437)

**IDS Share:** LE 1,983,150 (Euro 312,800)

**Other Contributions:** LE 600,000 (Euro 94,637)

**Location:** Gov. Cairo, Daqahleya, Minya

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** March 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** April 30, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



Operation of the database on chemical poisoning  
establishment of a national network of PIC.

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

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- PIC established and plan of action drafted;
- PIC have fully trained staff ;
- availability of specific antidotes in the PIC increased;
- staff of the Ministry of Health and private physicians are trained on management of poisoning cases, toxicovigilance and chemical safety.



## ACHIEVED RESULTS

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

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

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



Antidotes

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

**Project Code:** IDS/07  
**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** COSPE  
**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,261,020 (Euro 199,000)  
**Location:** National  
**Project Duration:** 1,5 Years  
**Start Date:** April 13, 2003  
**Completion Date:** September 30, 2004

### OBJECTIVE



Palm Tree manufacturing in Sharqeya Governorate

Objective of the project is to contribute to alleviate poverty among vulnerable groups (rural residents, youth, women and unemployed) by supporting the development of income generating activities in the craft and agro-processing sectors.

The project represents a second phase of the initiative, launched in 1998 by COSPE and North South Consultancy Exchange that aimed at helping producers and producer groups to develop their production and management skills based on the Fair Trade principles.

Building on successful growth in production and sales realized with the first phase, the project aimed to grapple with the challenges of quality, skills and volume in the producers' work.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- New producers groups created;
- Specific producers groups with technical and management skills integrated into the Egypt Craft Center (ECC) network;
- Promotion of crafts and agro-processing activities among targeted groups in different regions implemented;
- Promotion, through ECC network, of Egyptian crafts and agro-processed products locally and on the international market.

### ACHIEVED RESULTS

The Project was successfully completed in September 2004, by achieving the following results:

Five new Producers Groups were integrated into the ECC network:

- the Siwa Association of Community Development and Environment Protection;
- the Siwa Silversmiths Group;
- the Central Association of Productive Families of Sharqeya;
- the Central Association of Productive Families of Beheira;
- the Groups of producers of Nazla pottery (Fayum).

In addition four new groups were selected:

- Women of Siwa embroidery;
- Women of olive soap production in Fayum;
- Bedouin women from Marsa Alam region;
- the group of paper production in Fayum.

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

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

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



Egypt Crafts Center Shop in Cairo

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

**Project Code:** IDS/08

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Council for Women

**Total Project Budget:** LE 6,807,400 (Euro 1,074,000)

**Location:** Gov. Minya

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** June 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** May 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



Beneficiary of the micro credit scheme

Minya Governorate, according to the UNDP Human Development Report, is among the governorates with the lowest development indicators in Upper Egypt. For this reason, the National Council for Women designed this project with the aim of helping the socio-economic empowerment of women in 4 districts of Minya Governorate.

The project, which adopts a holistic approach based on a comprehensive set of complementary socio-economic empowerment activities, ultimately aims at strengthening the participation of women and acknowledging their legitimate active role in the development of their households and their communities

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- The economic situation of 1,200 women in the targeted areas improved through credit facilities and technical assistance in order to help the creation of new job opportunities.
- The legal status of women enhanced in order to strengthen their ability to deal with civil society and the government.
- Incidence of women illiteracy in the target districts reduced
- Public awareness on specific issues raised, such as women political participation, legal awareness, human rights, violence against women, etc.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully completed in May 2007. According to its different components the following results were achieved:

- Gender-disaggregated database of target area - A comprehensive field survey in collaboration with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) was

realized in the target villages on a sample of 9,743 households in order to assess the social, economic, political and health status of women. The Survey results which were published as a comprehensive report, contributed to the establishment of a database which was used to create a geographical information system (GIS) map that shows living conditions of the households and the status of women within their households in the selected villages. The database covered demographic and population characteristics, standard of living indicators, human and financial assets, educational status, illiteracy, economic activity, political participation, women in decision making and women overall health.

- Micro credit scheme for women - 5 NGOs were selected and trained to run a micro credit scheme which went well beyond expectations: at the end of the project 2,759 women had been provided with micro loans at a very low interest rate (5%) with a repayment rate of 100%. Moreover, the provision of loans was associated to the capacity building of women in order to prepare them to run their own business and effectively manage the loan.



Beneficiary of the micro credit scheme

- Illiteracy eradication program - As for the literacy component, NCW in partnership with the NGO Caritas, selected the trainers and established 10 literacy classes for 230 women. 198 of them attended courses regularly, and 160 passed the final test and achieved the literacy certification from the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education (GALAE).
- Public awareness campaign - 5 NGOs were selected and trained in order to implement the social awareness program which targeted 3400 women and men on three main components:
  - a) social component (literacy, health, violence against women, the role of women in the families, volunteerism),
  - b) economic component (economic participation, labour market, poverty),
  - c) political component (political rights, legal and human rights, political participation, ID cards issuing).
- Legal assistance - The project, established an active collaboration with local institutions in order to help the issuing of official paperwork and documents for women: official documents were issued for 1984 women.
- Capacity building - The 5 NGO-partners were provided with capacity building in order to guarantee an effective response to community needs and the sustainability of the results achieved by the project. In particular the NGOs were trained in: community needs assessment, management tools, project management, monitoring and evaluation, etc.



## **COMPLETION OF POTTERY VILLAGE**

**Project Code:** IDS/09

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Tourism

**Total Project Budget:** LE 5,985,414 (Euro 945,000)

**Location:** El Fustat (Gov. Cairo)

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** March 20, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



The El Fustat Pottery Village

The El Fustat District, better known as Old Cairo, has been known for its excellent pottery for centuries. Unfortunately, the villagers have been forced to move many times because of the city expansion, which has had a devastating effect on both the pottery production and the life of the villagers.

Therefore, the purpose of the project proposed by the Ministry of Tourism is to preserve the traditional manufacture of Egyptian pottery profession which has passed down from father to son, and improve crafters' economic and work conditions by establishing a Pottery School

and a Center for the Revitalization of Traditional Arts and Crafts in the district of El Fustat.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

In spite of delays and bureaucratic constraints, the project was successfully completed. All the construction works were completed by June 2006 and to date the pottery village with its 32 workshops is fully operative.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/10

**Applicant:** Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme

**Total Project Budget:** LE 48,434,754

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** November 1, 2002

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



The Mobile ICT Unit

The objective of the project is to enhance the opportunities of human development of the most disadvantaged population of the country, by reducing the “digital gap” that still prevents large groups of Egyptians from benefiting from the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). For this reason, the project aims at making the use of ICT more accessible for all people and at increasing awareness of the benefits that can be obtained through ICT. Basically, the project will seek to achieve its objective by providing access points and elaborating

application tools.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A network of Smart Schools established in the country.
- 4 Mobile ICT Units functioning around the country.
- 2 web portals, one for community development and one for knowledge generation, established.
- A literacy course on CD-ROM developed and used on a national scale.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in June 2007. With the aim to facilitate access to the use of ICT, starting from the educational context, the project established a network of 38 Smart Schools in several governorates. These schools were provided with all the necessary hardware and software to use ICT in the educational process, thus improving quality of education for children. In the Smart Schools, ICT are not only used by teachers and pupils during lessons, through the Learning Management System elaborated by the project but they are also adopted

to support administrators in the management, through the School Management System. Thanks to the project, a ratio of 1 computer to every 10 students was reached and more than 400 teachers were trained for the International Computer Driving License, of whom some 130 succeeded in obtaining it. Through the Smart Schools component, the project included more than 18,000 pupils among its beneficiaries. In addition, after school time, the facilities of the Smart Schools are used as Community Learning Centres to allow adult people, especially women, to benefit from the use of ICT. At the end of the project, an average of 600 users per month was registered in the Community Learning Centres, which are operated by making pay a small fee to beneficiaries. It is worth mentioning that the MCIT will soon enlarge the network by financing with its own resources 50 new Smart Schools.

One of the most successful and innovative results achieved by the project to facilitate access to ICT was the creation of four Mobile ICT Units (two caravans and two buses). These units were equipped with computers and connected to the Internet through satellite. They go around the country, remaining for some days in a specific governorate, and they are used to allow access to ICT to the most disadvantaged people of each visited area. In order to enhance sustainability, the project also established fruitful partnerships with the private sector in order to get sponsorship for the Mobile ICT Units. At the end of the project, more than 200,000 beneficiaries had access to the Mobile ICT Units and an average of 18,000 users per month was registered. It is also worth mentioning that with the objective of increasing synergies among IEDS projects, a partnership was established with the project IDS/20 (Think Twice). In the framework of this partnership, the project will build two new Mobile ICT Units to support the Think Twice advocacy campaigns.



Beneficiaries within the Mobile ICT Unit

The project not only facilitated the access to the use of ICT, but also worked to increase awareness of the benefits of ICT by showing the real opportunities that can be obtained. In this light, the project established two web portals in Arabic. The first is a community development portal ([www.kenanaonline.com](http://www.kenanaonline.com)), which provides several information in different fields, such as health, agriculture, job opportunities, etc. The portal is now including more than 55,000 web pages and it is visited in average by 140,000 users per month, of which 50% are from Egypt, 40% from other Arab countries and 10% from the rest of the world. A partnership was also established with the project IDS/36 (Rural Development Communication Network) with the final objective of creating a sub-portal of Kenana Online, specialized in agriculture and managed with the technical support of the Agricultural Research Centre of the MALR. The second portal is an "e-library" ([www.fekrzad.com](http://www.fekrzad.com)), which is used as a knowledge generation mechanism. The portal provides beneficiaries with the opportunity of publishing researches, studies and articles on several subjects, which become available to any stakeholder. Several thematic competitions were also implemented among school teachers and pupils, in order to generate articles and stimulate research capacity. More than 1,400 articles are now available on the web portal. Also in relation to the portals, the project managed to get sponsorship from the private sector.

Another important application tool elaborated by the project is a literacy course through CD-ROM. The project developed a training kit which is now used all over the country and which is



producing the amazing effect of allowing even illiterate people to use personal computers. It is worth mentioning that more than 2,000 people, thanks to the literacy course, succeeded in the examination of the General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education (GALAE). Moreover, the project concluded an agreement with GALAE to continue using the CD-ROM for a target of 10,000 beneficiaries every year.

All the application tools elaborated by the project are promoted not only through the access points of the project (Smart Schools and Mobile ICT Units) but also through a partnership with a network of 150 NGO spread in 16 governorates, which manage IT clubs. To this regard, an important role was played in Cairo by the NGO Resala for the use of the literacy CD-ROM. In addition, the project established another partnership with the NCCM in order to implement further literacy courses with the CD-ROM of the project.

With the aim of achieving a greater sustainability, the project worked during the final stage to increase awareness among stakeholders on the use of ICT for development. To this regard, the project launched a call for proposals to finance small projects implemented by NGOs, on the use of ICT for development. Two proposals were selected and implemented. One project was implemented by the Egyptian NGO Omar El Farouk Association for Community Development and it is called "Learning for life initiative – Abu Seer"; the objective was to enhance ICT skills and knowledge of youth, so that they can use them to promote the cultural heritage of the area of Abu Seer (Sakkara) and improve their job opportunities. Approximately 100 beneficiaries were reached by this project. The second project was implemented by the Italian NGO MAIS and it is called "Promotion of ICT in Sohag governorate"; the objective was to promote ICT access for the rural area of Sohag, with particular regard to people with special needs. To this regard, the project supported with ICT facilities 4 local CDA and 2 schools for people with special needs; some 370 beneficiaries were reached by this project.

The project was deeply committed in promoting and sharing its experience both at national and international level, by presenting its model to several important conferences, such as the UN World Summit on Information Society in 2005 and by organizing awareness workshops for national NGO. An important result of this series of workshops was the launch of the idea to create an Egyptian Federation of NGOs specialized in ICT for development.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/11

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

**Total Project Budget:** LE 47,300,860 (Euro 7,460,703)

**IDS Share:** LE 25,968,820 (Euro 4,096,028)

**Other Contributions:** LE 21,332,040 (Euro 3,364,675)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 19,029,316

**Location:** Gov. Fayum, Beni Suef, Asyut, Sohag, Aswan

**Project Duration:** 5 years

**Start Date:** August 1, 2003

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Medical campaign

The goal of the project is to enhance the role of local agricultural cooperatives as a framework for participatory integrated community development in newly established settlements in selected governorates of Upper Egypt (Fayum, Beni Suef, Asyut, Sohag and Aswan) and to improve the living standards of the target population. The project is intended to provide a model of development to be replicated in other rural communities and will seek to achieve its objective by supporting the services provided by cooperatives to local population.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The main expected results of the project are:

- quality of current services provided by cooperatives improved and new services introduced;
- access to financial services facilitated, especially for women;
- access to health and environmental services improved;
- access to marketing services facilitated;
- capacity of cooperatives enhanced.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The project identified 13 cooperatives to conduct its activities (2 in Beni Suef, 1 in Asyut, 7 in Aswan, 1 in Sohag and 2 in Fayum).

Local agricultural cooperatives play an important role in the community development of the population living in newly reclaimed lands. However, cooperatives have to face several constraints, mainly linked to lack of financial resources and adequate capacity. For this reason, the project is full supporting selected cooperatives to provide services to farmers and their families.

One of the most important results achieved by the project was the launch of a credit line to support economic activities of target beneficiaries, including women. After implementing needs assessment and feasibility studies and assessing real economic opportunities, the project has allocated a fund of LE 3,000,000 to cooperatives. So far, approximately LE 2,500,000 have been disbursed from this fund as loans for beneficiaries of 10 cooperatives (each loan does not exceed a maximum of LE 10,000 and the interest rate applied is 7%), mainly to finance livestock and trade activities. In the final stage of the project, a new fund of LE 1,250,000 will be also established to finance modernization of irrigation systems.



Beneficiaries during awareness seminars

In order to facilitate marketing and selling of agricultural products, cooperatives have started to provide marketing services, thanks to the support of the project. To this regard, a small packing unit and two small marketing stations have been established in Aswan and the necessary transportation means, to deliver products to the marketing stations, have been provided.

A new category of services that the project has introduced concerns environment and health. To this regard, several medical and veterinary campaigns have been implemented in the target area, in cooperation with the MOHP, in order to improve health status of beneficiaries and livestock. In addition, several awareness sessions are constantly implemented to improve environmental and hygiene practices.

In order to guarantee the sustainability of the project, all services are provided along with the implementation of a capacity building plan of action, directed to managers of cooperatives. This plan of action is carried out through theoretical and practical training sessions, mainly on management and follow-up of the credit line, use of participatory approach, planning, reporting and financial management.

## **PROTECTION OF WORKING CHILDREN IN MANSHIET NASSER**

**Project Code:** IDS/12

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

**Total Project Budget:** LE 4,190,709 (Euro 661,000)

**Location:** Manshiet Nasser (Gov. Cairo)

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** September 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** February 28, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



Vocational training on safe work measures

Child labour represents one of the most pressing problems in Egypt. In fact, although the Egyptian law forbids any child under the age of fourteen to work, employers rarely comply with it and often take advantage of poor socio-economic conditions of the families.

This problem has extremely serious long-term effects on children: in fact it deprives children of their legitimate right to basic education thus limiting their future prospects and perpetuating the circle of poverty.

Moreover, in order to escape the law, children are employed in the informal sector and often in

hazardous jobs with very poor working conditions and inadequate safety measures and consequently with serious threats to their health and without any social or health insurance.

In this framework, the purpose of this project, which targets the area of Manshiet Nasser, one of the poorest districts in Cairo, is to facilitate the withdrawal of working children from hazardous occupations or whereas not possible, at least improve conditions and safety measures for them. To this aim, the project has adopted a triangulated approach targeting not only working children, but also their families and their employers in order to remove the constraints that lay at the roots of child labour.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Local capacities for sustainable social services is strengthened;
- Public support is mobilized and awareness is raised on the rights of the child and in particular the rights of working children;
- A package of health, educational and social support services for working children has been established;
- Vulnerability of women and families has been reduced.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project, which ended on June 2007, successfully addressed 4 main dimensions of child labour issue:

- Institutional capacity - The project promoted an active participation of civil society and selected, trained and worked in close partnership with 5 CDAs of Manshiet Nasser area, in order to strengthen their institutional capacities and management skills and guarantee the sustainability of the results achieved after the termination of the project.

- Reduction of health risks of working children - In order to reduce risks for working children and help them to move from hazardous occupations to safer ones, after having classified the different kinds of child labour through a statistical survey, the Project launched an integrated training program based on three different kinds of training:

- a. Vocational training for a total number of 66 working children, 32 in the mechanic and 34 in the textile sector, with the aim of upgrading their status from unskilled to semi-skilled worker and helping them to move to the formal sector with social insurance.
- b. Transformational training for 24 children working in hazardous occupations, with the aim of building or “transforming” their skills in order to be able to move from their current hazardous job to more safer occupations.
- c. Direct training organized by three private companies within their factories and directly linked to a job position: in this way 50 children were placed in the textile sector, 166 in the textile, and 100 in the food production sector.



Literacy class

Moreover, the project: conducted 44 awareness sessions on safety measures in working environment for 414 workshop owners, 294 owners' wives and 384 working children.

- Provision of care and protection to working children and their families – The Project established a comprehensive package of services for working children and their families.
  - a. Health care: the project rehabilitated and renovated the Al-Asheera Medical Centre providing medical care to 21,227 residents and eye-examination and free eyeglasses to 181 beneficiaries.
  - b. Educational care: the Project in cooperation with Abnaa Barkouk CDA organized an education program through which 285 children above the age of 12 attended and graduated from literacy classes, school fees were paid for 233 children to enrol them back to school, 400 students attended evening classes, 35 children joined flourishing classes in order to continue with preparatory school and 20 of them passed the final exam.
  - c. Legal protection: in coordination with the CDAs of Ezbet Bekhit and Abnaa Barqouq the Project facilitated the issuing of 1887 ID cards and 88 birth certificates
- Addressing root causes of child labour: the Project launched a number of services aimed at reducing the impact of the main causes for child labour, such as poverty, lack of information, low education, etc.

- a. Micro credit: the project established a micro credit scheme for the families of working children in order to address those financial constraints which often force children to drop out schools and start working. The scheme, based on step lending method, with a flat interest rate of 18% and a range from LE 500 up to LE 3,000, issued 2070 loans to beneficiaries (1048 males, 1022 females) for a total amount of LE 1,155,000 with a repayment rate of 96%. Moreover the Project established the Motherhood Community Club, through which 160 women were trained on sewing and rewarded with 160 sewing machines.
- b. Awareness Campaign: The project launched an awareness campaign in order to sensitize the community about child labour issue and the other problems of the area. 12 focus discussion groups were organized at the beginning of the project to gain deeper understanding of Manshiet Nasser residents' needs and to strengthen their participation; after that, a number of awareness sessions were attended by 1467 residents on child labour hazards and related issues but also on other themes such as drug abuse, FGM, reproductive health, early marriage, etc. Moreover, posters, booklets and t-shirts were produced and distributed.
- c. A Children and Environment Club was established: 710 children participated in 30 sessions of the child and environment club that aims at raising children awareness concerning the negative impacts of child labour, community participation, carpentry, general health and importance of education.



## **SCHOOL FEEDING IN UPPER EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/13

**Applicant:** The United Nations World Food Program

**Implementing Agency:** The United Nations World Food Program /Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

**Total Project Budget:** LE 59,326,153 (Euro 9,357,437)

**IDS Share:** LE 42,489,905 (Euro 6,701,878)

**Other Contributions:** LE 16,836,248 (Euro 2,655,559)

**Location:** Gov. Fayum, Beni Suef, Minya

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** April 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



School children having their snacks

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The main expected results of the project are:

- enrolment rates in the target schools increased and drop-out rates reduced;
- short-term hunger minimized for the target student population;
- snacks produced in compliance with required food quality standards;
- job opportunities created in the field of food processing and distribution for approximately 1,000 persons;
- capacity of the Government of Egypt to manage school feeding programmes enhanced.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in June 2007. Thanks to the support provided by the project, the National School Feeding Programme has become more effective in the target area. Snacks were distributed to pupils for all the duration of the school year and, at the end of the project, an increase of school enrolment rates from 12% to 16% was found. Attendance rates are above 90%, so they are higher than the target established by the project during formulation (80%). Through a series of interviews in target schools, a general satisfaction of school children involved in the feeding programme was found and teachers stated that they have noticed higher levels of concentration in pupils, as an effect of the reduced short-term hunger.

Snacks distributed to school children were produced in the Government plants of Beni Suef and Fayum. Thanks to the support of the project, the production centres were well equipped with upgraded machinery and utensils. What is more, a quality control system, managed by qualified food technologists, was established in order to guarantee that food production is operated under rigorous safety standards.

More than 1,000 women were employed in the production centres and they have acquired, thanks to the project, specific skills and knowledge. Their experience is now a valuable opportunity, since they will be able in the future to gain employment in similar establishments or to set up their own income-generation activities.



Workers at snacks production centres

Finally, another important result, achieved by the project through the technical assistance provided by the WFP to the MALR and the MOE, was the improved capacity of the Government of Egypt to manage the School Feeding Programme in a more efficient and transparent way. To this regard, it is worth mentioning that the WFP implemented in 2006 a study to evaluate the whole National School Feeding Programme. Important conclusions and recommendations were identified at the end of the study in order to improve the future management of Programme among which, in particular, the need to further decentralize management and to focus resources on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged areas of the country.



## **PASSIVE IN-STREAM WETLAND TREATMENT OF DRAIN WATER**

**Project Code:** IDS/14

**Applicant:** National Water Research Centre

**Implementing Agency:** Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,875,000 (Euro 295,741)

**IDS Share:** LE 1,375,000 (Euro 216,877)

**Other Contributions:** LE 500,000 (Euro 78,864)

**Location:** Gov. Gharbeya, Daqahleya

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** April 6, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 5, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**

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



Awareness workshops with local beneficiaries

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Pilot passive wetland treatment systems established;
- awareness of local communities on water pollution increased;
- guidelines on proper irrigation practices established.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in June 2006. Two pilot sites for the implementation of the treatment systems were selected: the first site is in the village of El Bahwo (governorate of Daqahleya) and the second in the village of El Aysha (governorate of Gharbeya). The treatment systems were established, using relatively low-cost technology and a monitoring system for water quality was also developed.

In addition, the project worked deeply to raise awareness of local beneficiaries, through several meetings and workshops, on the hazards that may come out from the use of polluted drainage water for irrigation.



Awareness workshops with local beneficiaries

Finally, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the results achieved, the project published two manuals for the benefit of local communities: the first on the operation and management of the treatment systems established and the second on the guidelines for the most appropriate irrigation practices.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DRINKING WATER USING HAND-PUMP SYSTEMS**

**Project Code:** IDS/15

**Applicant:** National Water Research Centre

**Implementing Agency:** Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,975,000 (Euro 311,514)

**IDS Share:** LE 1,425,000 (Euro 224,763)

**Other Contributions:** LE 550,000 (Euro 86,751)

**Location:** Gov. Gharbeya, Qalyubeya

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** April 6, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 5, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



Construction works

In several rural areas of Egypt, the main source of drinking water is represented by shallow ground water distributed through the use of hand-pump wells. This water source is often polluted due to poor protection measures, the lack of appropriate sewage systems, septic tanks and chemicals from agricultural and industrial activities. It is calculated that approximately 20% of the Egyptian population does not have access to safe drinking water. Hence, the project aims at developing means of protection for shallow ground water from the various sources of pollution and at

providing better drinking water to the population in the rural areas. The project is implemented as a pilot intervention in the governorates of Gharbeya and Qalyubeya.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Two new systems of hand-pump wells established.
- Public awareness concerning the relation between water and human health increased.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully completed in June 2006. After preliminary investigations and analysis of the main sources of pollution for water, the villages of Arab El Aaida, in Qalyubeya and of Meshreif, in Gharbeya, were selected as demonstration sites for the implementation of the project.

A ground water quality assessment and a geophysical survey were carried out in the two demonstration sites. A rehabilitation plan was designed for the new hand-pump systems. Civil works were completed and the two new wells are now operating.

The project deeply worked to increase the level of awareness of beneficiaries in relation to the linkage between water quality and health, the necessary measures to prevent pollution, as well as the operation and maintenance of the new wells. An important effect of the awareness level achieved was the creation of a joint action group that local communities formed together with local authorities in order to monitor and take necessary actions on health problems that may arise from drinking polluted water.



New wells established

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

**Project Code:** IDS/16  
**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Seti-Caritas  
**Total Project Budget:** LE 275,440 (Euro 44,000)  
**Location:** Gov. Cairo, Giza, Qalyubeya  
**Project Duration:** 2 Years  
**Start Date:** May 11, 2003  
**Completion Date:** March 31, 2005

### **OBJECTIVE**



The Directory

The general objective of the project is to protect and safeguard the right to equality and equal opportunities for disabled people. In particular, the project intends to help facing the problem of lack of information about the rehabilitation services for persons with special needs by preparing a comprehensive directory for Greater Cairo. This should help to enhance their access and integration into society through social, vocational and medical rehabilitation.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

A Directory of services for persons with special needs available in Greater Cairo area published and distributed.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

After collecting all the previously published information about services for persons with special needs, the Project, through specific questionnaires, collected and updated the information on all available services in the Greater Cairo region building a specific database. Therefore last stage of the project was focused on the draft, the publication and the distribution of the Directory which was successfully launched on March 31, 2005 with a ceremony hosted by the Italian Cultural Institute.

## **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)-FREE VILLAGE MODEL**

**Project Code:** IDS/17

**Applicant:** National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Program

**Total Project Budget:** LE 14,680,754 (Euro 2,315,576)

**IDS Share:** LE 2,079,000 (Euro 327,918)

**Other Contributions:** LE 12,755,754 (Euro 2,011,949)

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** April 6, 2003

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



FGM workshop in Aswan

Objective of the Project is to promote a mass abandonment of the female genital mutilations (FGM) practice, through reversing the social, cultural, religious pressures that force women to still perpetrate this practice.

The Project adopts an innovative approach by targeting communities as a whole, instead of individual families or specific target groups, in order to create an environment conducive to a dialogue where influential groups (community leaders, teachers, mothers, midwives, youth and men) can support families to eventually abandon the practice. Accordingly, the project uses a human rights based approach that accommodates FGM within a comprehensive developmental package addressing the rights of the girl child from a socio-cultural perspective

and incorporating the right to education and the prevention of early marriage.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The Project, which successfully ended in December 2006, was structured in four main components:



**Institutional capacity** – The Project selected 12 focal NGOs in Upper Egypt and 8 in Lower Egypt, responsible of organizing awareness initiatives and providing concrete services to the 120 villages selected. In the same time a mechanism to coordinate a National Movement against FGM was established under the umbrella of NCCM, bringing together different donors, UN agencies including UNICEF, UNFPA and other national partners like doctors and judges.

**Advocacy Network** - The project built an advocacy network with the different concerned groups by raising their awareness on FGM and training them on how to lobby within their communities.

- **Youth:** UNV volunteers were selected at Governorate level, especially among university students, to create a network of well trained, dedicated and persuasive agents of change in the villages, schools, youth centres and universities, by raising awareness on FGM and promoting volunteerism.
- **Legal community:** following the Afro-Arab Conference on Legal Tools and FGM held in 2003, a taskforce was established within NCCM for identifying policy gaps and assess the Egyptian legislation through the analysis of the judicial experience during the past years; training workshops and seminars were organized with judges and district attorneys with the aim of standardizing legal sentences on FGM and lobbying for a clear law.
- **Medical community:** training workshops were organized and a Civic Movement of Doctors Against FGM was established to create a pressure group of leading university professors and young doctors to announce their stance against FGM thus making the general public aware that FGM is a clear violation of the code of medical ethics and an act of malpractice.
- **Media personnel:** training workshops were organized to empower media personnel to raise direct and effective dialog on the detriments of FGM

**Community Initiatives** - On the basis of the village profile conducted at the beginning of the project, which assessed communities' needs in each target village and according to the proposals submitted and approved, community initiatives encompassing cultural and sport initiatives, literacy classes, computer classes, ID cards issuing, seminars on children rights, were launched by the 20 NGOs in the 120 target villages.

In 2005, after two years of extensive communications, education and training initiatives targeting families, community leaders, health workers and religious leaders, two communities, Benban village of Aswan and Abu Qorqas El Balad village of Minya, were able to overcome peer pressure and convince families not to circumcise their girls: thus the community leaders of these villages were the first to sign a Public Declaration calling for an end of FGM practice.



Signature of Benban anti-FGM Declaration

**Social Communication campaign** – The Project managed to break the silence on an issue previously considered to be a taboo, by developing an integrated communication campaign with unified messages disseminated through media channels for all the relevant stakeholders. In order to increase the advocacy the project produced a toolkit (booklets, posters, training manual, calendars, etc.) for supporting the awareness campaigns against the FGM practices and produced several TV programs on the National TV incorporating FGM as a key issue of child's

rights, as well as a radio programme named “The girl is Egyptian” which is aired three times a week on the Public Radio Network.

The momentum of action toward complete elimination of FGM in Egypt has recently accelerated, following the tragic FGM-related death of a 12-year-old girl in Upper Egypt. Minister of Health and Population issued a ministerial decree that fully criminalizes FGM and once and for all closes the legal loophole to undertake this practice by preventing anyone, including health professionals, from performing FGM whether in government or non-government hospitals. In parallel, Al-Azhar Supreme Council of Islamic Research – the highest religious authority in Egypt - issued a statement explaining that FGM has no basis in core Islamic Sharia or any of its partial provisions and that it is indeed a harmful practice that should be avoided.



## **THE NATIONAL PROJECT FOR DRUG ABUSE DEMAND REDUCTION AMONG YOUTH**

**Project Code:** IDS/18

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

**Implementing Partner:** United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime Prevention

**Total Project Budget:** LE 8,005,000 (Euro 1,263,000)

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** January 1, 2004

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

This Project represents a major milestone for the National Campaign for Protecting Youth launched by the first lady of Egypt, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, with the aim of contributing to reduction of drug abuse in Egypt.

The project which is implemented in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Crime and Drug Prevention, intends to address the drug problems at the community level through a pioneering philosophy based on the active participation of youth and the creation of positive pressure groups within schools and youth clubs with the aim of increasing awareness about drugs' hazards among their colleagues.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A National Strategy for Protecting Young from Drugs defined;
- Awareness program in 100 preparatory and secondary schools and in 30 youth centres and clubs implemented;
- NGOs working in the field of protection from drugs throughout the country empowered and coordinated;
- A national media campaign to reflect the problem from its different dimensions implemented;
- A training centre for operators in the field of drug prevention in Egypt established;
- A comprehensive working package for operators in the field of drug prevention created.



Beneficiaries in one of the Youth Centres

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The Project had three main components:

Awareness on drug abuse among youth, parents and supervisors - The Project implemented an awareness program in 200 preparatory and secondary schools, 100 youth centres and 19 youth camps: a strong and qualified nucleus of 12,000 students was trained to act as youth leaders within schools and youth centres to spread awareness among other youth and train them on new methods of prevention and facing negative peer pressure. 100 youth centres were provided with all the needed equipment and training materials to encourage youth to spend more quality time rather than focusing on socializing and being subject to negative peer pressures.

In the same time the Project compiled a comprehensive set of manuals targeting trainers, parents, media personnel and youth and launched a capacity building program to ensure that the method of training and approach is unified. Therefore, social supervisors in schools and youth centres were selected and trained to apply the manuals and 400 families were trained on parenting methods of early detection and ways of dealing with an addict.

In particular, due to the positive feedback and the excellent results of the schools initiative, the Project signed a Protocol with the Ministry of Education to merge the youth manual within the school formal activities nationwide: a pilot phase launched in 100 schools proved its success.



Awareness Event

Community mobilization - The Project launched a community mobilization campaign through the empowerment of the NGOs working in the field of drug prevention: 24 NGOs were selected and trained in 14 Governorates and through them 49 community mobilization initiatives were implemented.

Moreover, for the first time in Egypt, the Project established a National Union for all the NGOs working in the field of drug prevention, providing them an umbrella to guarantee a unified manner for effectively facing the problem. The

Union is now executing the following tasks:

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

Within the Union's headquarter a training centre was established, equipped with all the needed materials and tools to offer training to NGOs' cadres and all those who are interested in participating in drug prevention programs.

National campaign - A National Strategy for Protecting Youth from Drugs was compiled with the participation of all relevant Ministries and Institutions and was officially launched in June 2005 by the first lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, during the High Level Arab Conference for Protecting Youth from Drugs organized by the Project. The strategy was published and distributed among all project's partners so to facilitate the procedures of identifying the roles and the duties of each party which will act as members of one entity i.e. NCCM Drug Unit

A number of leaflets and brochures were published, two awareness posters were attached to public buses, a documentary film was produced covering project philosophy and achieved results and a booklet was published documenting activities, success stories, challenges and downfall. Two TV spots were produced and aired on local stations and subway screens and radio spots on misconception of drugs were produced and aired.

## **SCHOOLS CONSTRUCTION**

**Project Code:** IDS/19

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** General Authority for Educational Buildings

**Total Project Budget:** LE 42,768,683 (Euro 6,745,849)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 42,089,483

**Location:** Gov. Sharqeya, Minya, Sohag

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** January 6, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** March 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Children in new schools established

The project is linked to the National Program for Educational Development and to the literacy policy recently launched by the Egyptian Government. Its main aim is to provide a suitable educational environment to school children in the governorates of Minya, Sharqeya and Sohag, which are particularly deprived areas where obsolete buildings need to be replaced to cope with the growing population of school age children. The project will build, maintain and equip 23 schools: 8 in Minya, 8 in Sharqeya and 7 in Sohag. The works will consist of complete

refurbishment, new constructions, partial refurbishment and extensions. They will include the establishment of all relevant infrastructures (water, electricity and sanitary networks, as well as the construction of paved roads to guarantee access to the schools for children). In addition, schools will be provided with the necessary educational equipment, furniture and recreational areas. The project will contribute to reduce density per class and multi-shifts.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMEBER 2007**

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

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

The 8 schools were completed in Sharqeya and are operational (all of them are completely renovated schools). Water and electricity networks were established for all the schools; works for access roads were also implemented.



Children in new schools established

**THINK TWICE:**  
**SOCIAL MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS**  
**FOR EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE IN EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/20

**Applicant:** National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Program

**Total Project Cost:** LE 14,584,416 (Euro 2,301,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 14,584,416

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> July 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** February 29, 2008

## OBJECTIVE



Child Labour Campaign

The Think Twice Project aims at raising awareness and creating a conducive environment for changing attitudes, perceptions and behaviours regarding the rights of children and youth, by encouraging positive and empowering attitudes towards young people through social marketing techniques, integrated media campaigns and art for development. Communication for development is, in fact, a strategic mechanism of advocacy for all the issues related to children and youth: integrated media campaign are very effective in reaching out to

the general public, especially if accompanied by strong advocacy work at community level. The project deals with different issues related with child protection and youth participation specifically with Child Labour, Street Children, HIV/AIDS, Drug Abuse, FGM, Girl Education, Children with Disabilities, Early Marriages, Communication within the family, etc. In this sense, the Think Twice project can be considered as an umbrella providing effective and unified media messages for all NCCM projects funded by IEDS.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- Public awareness raised on specific issues related with the rights of the children and youth using mass media tools;
- Capacity of the civil society raised in advocating rights of the child using media tools and art and youth active participation and volunteerism promoted;
- Capacity of NCCM and other relevant institutions strengthened in managing and carrying out social communication campaigns.



**PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The Think Twice Project had 3 main components:

- National Campaign - an integrated media campaign was launched to advocate on the national level a number of social issues related to the rights of youth through the use of several communication tools. In detail the Project produced campaigns on five main issues, namely schools drop-out, communication within family, street children, girls' political participation and disabled children through the use of TV spots which were aired in subway and cinema screens, radio programs (1 radio program, 1 drama, 40 capsules, 10 spots), printed materials (tabloids, brochures, posters, etc.), outdoor (6 billboards in strategic spots, 18 in train stations, 100 bus signages, etc.). Moreover, the Project reached an agreement to establish a partnership with the project IDS/10 (ICT to Foster Egypt's Sustainable Human Development) in order to devote two ICT mobile units to spread Think Twice themes also in the remote areas of the country.
- Community Initiatives - The Project contracted 10 NGOs in 7 Governorates. A Communication Centre was established within each NGO in order to offer a point of gathering and work for youth to use arts and creative methods to advocate for human rights in their community. For each NGO, 10 youth were selected (UN volunteers) to act as leaders in the implementation of community initiatives. They were trained on human rights, communication within family and the other thematic issues covered by the Project and in the same time they received special training on how to use artistic tools as photography, puppet theatre, animation, patchworks, and media messages to deliver development messages. Moreover, in two Governorates the volunteers took part to the prestigious initiative "Sailing the Nile" linked to the MDGs Campaign.
- NCCM Capacity Building - a Social Communication Unit was established within NCCM to support communication and complement the work of the Media Unit. NCCM mandate was strongly supported through TV interventions, website, printed materials, events, awards while its staff was trained in the areas of communication, public relations, events organization, etc. In the same time the Project established a partnership with the Ministry of Information and the ERTU (Egyptian Radio Television Union) by launching an innovative capacity building program for 100 media professionals working on children programs in order to include development messages in programs like cartoons, soap operas, etc.



Making of a TV spot on girls education

## **EXPANSION OF THE BEHEIRA SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME**

**Project Code:** IDS/21

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 2,225,000 (Euro 350,946)

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** December 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

The project is based on the successful experience of a pilot school health programme promoted by the Italian Cooperation in 1998 in the Governorate of Beheira. Its main aim is to extend to other governorates of the Nile Delta the school health programme implemented in Beheira to fight infections caused by intestinal helminths in children aged from 6 to 12 years old (both enrolled and not enrolled in schools). Thanks to a more efficient reallocation of financial resources, the project extended the target area, including all governorates of the Delta and two governorates of Upper Egypt (Beni Suef and Fayum).

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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



School children receiving medical treatment

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in June 2007. For its implementation, it developed fruitful partnerships with the World Health Organization, for technical assistance and purchase of medicines, and with the University of Valencia for operational research.

In relation to the elimination of infections caused by intestinal helminths, purchasing and distribution procedures for medicines were implemented in order to cover an area inhabited by more than 30,000,000 people. Beneficiaries received medical treatment. In addition, promotion materials were distributed during training workshops for health staff, teachers, community and religious leaders in order to improve health education and hygiene practices.

At the end of the project, data revealed the following findings:

- reduction of the prevalence of schistosoma mansoni from 1,8% to 1,3%;
- reduction of the prevalence of ascaris lumbricoides and trichuris trichiura from 5% to 2%, approximately;
- reduction of the prevalence of human fascioliasis from 5% to 1% approximately.



School children receiving medical treatment

An important achievement in strengthening the monitoring capacity of the MOHP was the completion of the baseline survey for parasitological monitoring in the target areas of the project and the development of a reliable surveillance and monitoring system. This system will allow the MOHP to analyze and interpret data, in order to elaborate control strategies and conduct specific field actions in the future.



## **EGYPTIAN-ITALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME PHASE II**

**Project Code:** IDS/22

**Applicant:** Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme

**Total Project Budget:** LE 62,306,065 (Euro 9,827,455)

**IDS Share:** LE 19,900,060 (Euro 3,138,811)

**Other Contributions:** LE 42,406,005 (Euro 6,688,644)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 18,183,440

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** October 16, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

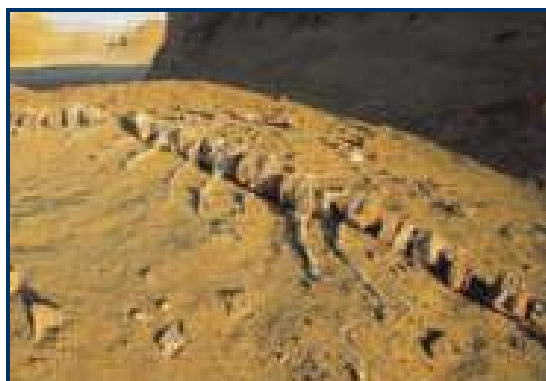
### **OBJECTIVE**

The project represents the continuation of the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of cooperation between Italy and Egypt in the environmental field which ended in 2003. Its main aim is to contribute to the protection of Egypt's natural and cultural resources, by providing institutional support to the EEAA in order to enhance its capacity of managing and protecting environmental resources.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

The project is divided into 7 main components:

- Legal and Institutional Framework Project: institutional and legal framework of the EEAA strengthened by updating legislation and regulatory framework for solid waste, protected areas and marine environment.
- Institution and Capacity Building for the Nature Conservation Sector (NCS): NCS in the EEAA empowered in order to assure proper management of the national network of protected areas.
- Wadi El Rayan Protected Area: protected area managed in a sustainable manner with the participation of local stakeholders and support to the economic development of Fayum.
- Gabal Elba Protected Area: protected area managed in a sustainable manner with the participation of local stakeholders, while contributing to the economic development of the region.
- Siwa Environmental Amelioration Project: economic development and environmental amelioration of the oasis of Siwa enhanced.



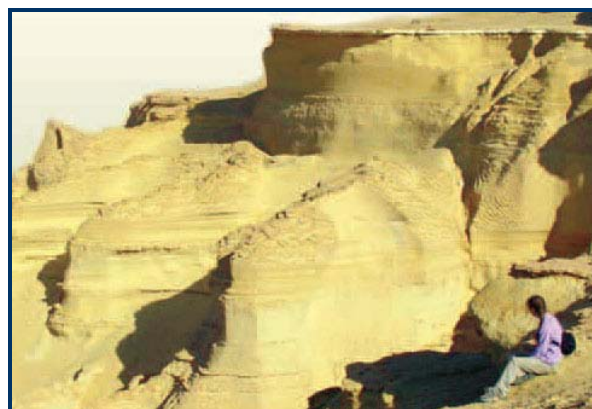
Whale fossils in Wadi El Hitan

- Solid Waste Management in Minya: a pilot scheme in the governorate of Minya established in order to consolidate the institutional capacity in the sector of solid waste management.
- Decision Support System Project: a computer-based tool developed in order to reinforce the Decision Makers' capacity of analysis and evaluation in relation to the water resources planning process.

#### PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007

In relation to the Institution and Capacity Building for the NCS, 3 technical units have been established at the NCS and they are operational and in charge of planning, environmental impact assessment, licensing and marketing. What is more, the project has developed several studies to assess the existing legislation on protected areas through a series of reviews. Important achievements of the project concern the evaluation of environmental impact of economic activities, implemented before granting licenses, the declaration of Gilf Kebir as a new protected area and the formulation of management plans for the protected areas of Qaroun and Ras Mohammad.

For the components related to the management of the protected areas of Wadi El Rayan and Gabal Elba, Visitor Centres were established and support is provided to monitoring and patrolling activities. Close cooperation with local stakeholders is in progress, particularly with local producers. In addition, the project supported the establishment of an open-air museum in Wadi El Hitan and its nomination by UNESCO as a World Heritage Natural Site. In Wadi El Rayan, cooperation activities are being carried



Wadi El Hitan panorama

out with the Italian Gran Sasso National Park, the Italian NGO COSPE and the project IDS/5 (Sustainable Rural Development of Wadi El Rayan and Fayum New Land Settlement).

In Minya, several technical and sector studies were implemented in order to evaluate the current situation for solid waste management and recommendations to improve the system were elaborated. In addition, a design for waste collection and transport was elaborated, as well as a plan for a sanitary landfill.

For the Decision Support System Project, the system is almost finalized and will be soon presented to stakeholders to introduce possible scenarios in relation to planning of water resources management.

For the component linked to Siwa Environmental Amelioration, activities are focusing on support sustainable agriculture, by providing technical assistance and support for cultivation practices and livestock production.

In relation to the Legal and Institutional Framework, several studies were implemented on the sectors covered by the project (waste management, marine environment and protected areas), including the draft for the reform of the Egyptian law. N.4/1994 on protected areas, which was presented to the Egyptian Parliament for approval. This component is also providing support

to the establishment of environmental courts. To this regard, several training sessions and capacity building activities were implemented for judges and prosecutors.

A web site of the project was created to promote its activities: [www.eiecop.org](http://www.eiecop.org).

## **NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY AND MONITORING SYSTEMS (BIOMAP)**

**Project Code:** IDS/23

**Applicant:** Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme

**Total Project Budget:** LE 6,841,410 (Euro 1,079,087)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 6,377,678

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** October 16, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Biodiversity Department at the NCS upgraded and strengthened.
- System of recording, evaluating and monitoring biodiversity improved.
- A communication, education and public awareness programme developed.
- A strategic plan for the institution of a natural history museum developed.



Egyptian biodiversity

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

After a SWOT analysis of the Biodiversity Department, new staff was hired and a reorientation plan of tasks was elaborated. The Biodiversity Department is now working with the new staff and negotiations with the EEAA are in progress in order to allow these people to continue working for the department after the end of the project.

A new database was created to record biodiversity, which already holds 57,340 entries. The database of BioMap actually consists of specific sub-components for each species of plant and animal. Monitoring schemes of biodiversity have been prepared and implemented involving undergraduates, university staff and rangers. Several training sessions on biodiversity monitoring have also been implemented for rangers.



Egyptian biodiversity

After finalizing a communication, education and public awareness plan, the project launched its official web site ([www.biomapegypt.org](http://www.biomapegypt.org)), which hosts a clearing house mechanism that aims at spreading awareness and information on several issues linked to biodiversity. In addition, the project is also working to link the database of BioMap to the web site, in order to allow final users to give their contribution to the constant updating of the database. An important activity, implemented by the project in relation to biodiversity awareness and culture is the creation of several publications, both for school children and adults. Among them, it is worth mentioning: “Gardens of Sinai: Bedouin Heritage and Natural History”; “Sinai Baton Blue: The Story of the Smallest Butterfly”; “Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation in Egypt”; “The Egyptian Tortoise”.

Finally, the project has almost completed a strategic plan for the institution of a Natural History Museum. The plan will be then promoted to UNESCO and to the community of stakeholders.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/24

**Applicant:** National Water Research Centre

**Implementing Agency:** Water Resources Research Institute

**Total Project Budget:** LE 18,884,000 (Euro 2,978,549)

**IDS Share:** LE 13,000,000 (Euro 2,050,473)

**Other Contributions:** LE 5,884,000 (Euro 928,076)

**Location:** Wadi Watier (Gov. South Sinai)

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** August 21, 2003

**Completion Date:** August 20, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**

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



Floods in Nuweiba

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Three detention dams and one artificial lake constructed.
- Additional water resources available, through aquifer recharging.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in August 2006. The first two years of the project were devoted to revision and updating of studies concerning the area of Wadi Watier, through site investigations, geological, geophysical, hydro-geological and hydrological studies. Technical assistance was provided to the project through collaborations with the University of Palermo and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari.

Based on the findings of studies, designing and tendering procedures were put into place for the construction of three detention dams (Qudira 1, Qudira 2 and El Hegny) and one artificial lake. All civil works were completed.





Execution of protection works

An important effect achieved by the project is the possibility to provide additional water resources, through aquifer recharging, from the water harvested by the three dams and the lake. To this regard, the project implemented research on aquifer recharging, by collecting data on rainfall and updating isohyetal maps.



## **WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN VALLEY**

**Project Code:** IDS/25

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Water Research Centre

**Total Project Budget:** LE 19,938,000 (Euro 3,144,795)

**IDS Share:** LE 11,412,000 (Euro 1,800,000)

**Other Contributions:** LE 8,526,000 (Euro 1,344,795)

**Location:** Toshka (Gov. Aswan)

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** September 6, 2003

**Completion Date:** March 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



Farmers and their production in Toshka

The project tries to promote comprehensive agricultural development for the area of Toshka, an area of approximately 540,000 feddans (226,800 hectares), which is characterized by availability of water through the new established channel from the lake Nasser, abundant land resources and good weather conditions. These natural factors can potentially guarantee diversity in crop growth, opportunities within international markets and a contribution to national food security. For this reason, the project aims at enhancing the role of local farmers, by supporting them with extension services.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Agricultural production and productivity in the target area improved and skills and knowledge of farmers enhanced.
- Greater information available on agricultural practices and irrigation systems in the area of the project.
- Greater knowledge achieved on the socio-economic status of beneficiaries.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in March 2007 and it was implemented through a positive cooperation experience between the NWRC and the Agricultural Research Centre of the MALR.

At the conclusion, the project found significant improvements in terms of greater yield, larger cultivated area, deeper technical knowledge of beneficiaries and better quality of production. In

order to achieve this result, the project carried out two main categories of extension services for farmers: periodical consultations and training.

In relation to consultations, the project established on the field a Consultation and Information Unit (CIU), composed of experts who were responsible for conveying information and providing technical assistance to the beneficiaries. Consultations were provided to four groups of beneficiaries: 20 permanent farmers (receiving assistance for all the duration of the project); 217 variable farmers (selected randomly and visited by consultants only in specific periods of the project); 73 visitors (farmers who spontaneously requested assistance to the CIU); 4 investors (large companies investing in the area). Main problems of beneficiaries concerned: cultivation techniques, use of irrigation systems, quality of soil, logistics and marketing, machinery. The CIU helped all beneficiaries in finding solutions for their problems.

With regard to training, the project enhanced skills of more than 460 farmers, by implementing several training workshops on: management of agricultural lands, on-farm irrigation management, crop management and integrated management for soil and water resources.

Another important result achieved by the project was the identification of several recommendations on the most suitable irrigation systems and agricultural practices for the area of Toshka. This result was achieved by establishing two experimental farms and implementing research activities in the field and laboratory analysis on soil and water. All information collected were also used to provide better assistance and transfer of knowledge to farmers during consultations and training.



Research laboratory

Finally, the project was able to conduct a study, through two rounds of questionnaires for a sample of 288 farmers, concerning the socio-economic status of beneficiaries in the area. This study is an important and precious source of information for supporting any future planning and intervention in Toshka.

The activities of the project were supported by the elaboration of two important tools that are now available to support any development project in the area: a GIS and a database collecting all the information on the different components of the project and the activities of the CIU.

It is also worth mentioning that, for the sustainability of the project, a governmental decree was issued to maintain the CIU, under the umbrella of the NWRC, in order to keep providing its services. Its activities will be financed through a part of the research income of the NWRC.

## **LEPROSY ELIMINATION IN EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/26

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,032,000 (Euro 162,776)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 1,032,000

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** March 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** January 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Capacity of health staff in passive case finding enhanced.
- Active case finding intensified.
- Community awareness on prevention increased.



Medical examinations during contact surveys

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**



Medical examinations during contact surveys

In order to enhance passive case finding capacity, the project has implemented several training workshops in different governorates of the country. Thus, more than 6,000 health staff operators were trained (doctors, nurses, sanitarians) in Kafr El Sheikh, Qena, Beni Suef, Fayum, Minya, Sharqeya, Beheira, Asyut, Sohag, Aswan, Qalyubeya and Menufeya.

With regard, to active case finding, the project implemented contact surveys to detect new leprosy cases in Kafr El Sheikh, Qena, Sohag, Asyut and Minya. From the surveys, it came out that the percentage of leprosy cases identified for the sample examined in each governorate was around 2%.

Finally, to promote prevention, the project implemented awareness workshops for more than 700 beneficiaries in Qalyubeya, Daqahleya, Fayum and Sohag.

## **PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING IN ISMAILIYA**

**Project Code:** IDS/27

**Applicant:** Governorate of Ismailiya

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Program

**Total Project Budget:** LE 18,744,300 (Euro 2,957,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 14,374,502

**Location:** Districts of El Hallous and El Bahtini (Gov. Ismailiya)

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** May 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** April 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of this project is to improve living conditions for the dwellers of two slum areas in the suburbs of Ismailiya, namely El Hallous and El Bahtini, through a comprehensive participatory upgrading approach. In fact, past experience showed that the mere provision of physical services and infrastructure is not able to change quality of life for slum dwellers while community mobilization and participation is essential to develop a sense of ownership and ensure the sustainability of the project achievements.

In this sense, the project represents a pilot initiative, which aims at establishing a best practice for a slum upgrading process based on an integrated participatory approach and addressing the physical, environmental, economic and social aspects, in order to achieve an effective sustainable development of the area.

Direct beneficiaries of the Project are approximately 15,000 settlers of both slum areas, among which a very high percentage of vulnerable marginalised groups such as widows, elderly and orphans. The majority of workers are poor fishermen, who are among the most deprived sector of the society, particularly impacted by the development of the last few years, with its consequences of pollution, reduced catch, lack of access to the lakes, a two months fishing ban introduced by law.



Participatory upgrading planning

The Project is structured in three main components:

1. Building capacities of local authorities and communities in participatory local governance.
2. Providing basic municipal infrastructure and enhancing living environment,
3. Improving the social profile of slum dwellers



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## EXPECTED RESULTS

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- Empowerment of local authorities and local communities to participate in decision making, planning, implementation and monitoring of the upgrading activities;
- All inhabitants of the project area have access to paved roads and safe footpaths, piped potable water, electricity, latrines and connection with sanitation network;
- Health, school and other social services available in the project areas.

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## PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007

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At December 2007 the Project had achieved the following results:

**Institutional Setup and capacity building** – Under the expertise of UN Habitat, a comprehensive training program was implemented for the departments within the Governorate and Municipality that are involved in designing and implementing the upgrading of slum areas, in order to provide them with the necessary technical know-how and build their capacities in participatory local governance, urban planning and management, decision making, leadership and negotiations techniques, etc.

Local communities were mobilized and directly involved in the decisions pertaining the upgrading process, through a number of workshops on issues such as land secure tenure, participatory planning approach; two inception meetings were also held at the beginning of the project in both areas and consultations have taken place continuously during the project life.

Four female community leaders were identified, selected and trained to assist the project and to interact with the other members of the community in order to raise their awareness on environmental preservation, health and hygiene, child and woman rights, etc.

In order to enhance the participatory decision making techniques and to ensure an effective participation of the residents in upgrading activities, several working groups were established and monthly meetings are being held on issues such as infrastructure, land tenure, social activities with the aim of minimizing possible traumatic effects of the upgrading particularly when relocation of houses and families is necessary.

**Physical Upgrading** - the Project launched a huge program of infrastructural works in order to enhance living environment in both slum areas, by providing all houses and establishments, with basic municipal infrastructure. Works are currently still under implementation and include:



Clean-up campaign

- Sanitation Network
- Potable Water Network
- Electricity Network
- Paved Road and footpath network
- House Numbering and Street Signage
- Buildings painting and maintenance
- Green areas development
- Recreational areas development
- Solid Waste Management system

**Social Upgrading** - The Project did not focus only on the physical and infrastructure upgrading but also in improving the social profile of the slum dwellers, in particular through:

- Enhancing educational services: all schools in the areas were fully renovated and 9 teachers were trained in medical first aid to deal with emergency situations; El Hallous Youth Centre was fully renovated and equipped with a gym.
- Enhancing the income of poorer groups: temporary jobs were created through the infrastructural upgrading program launched by the Project; a credit scheme and a vocational training program were established in partnership with a local NGO in order to help and encourage the development of new micro businesses.
- Improving the status of women: the Women Reproductive Health Unit in El Bahtini was renovated and fully equipped in collaboration with a sister UNDP project; ID cards and voting cards were issued for almost all women in both areas; literacy classes were organized and attendants who passed the final exam received an official certification; awareness campaigns were conducted to sensitize the community on public health, environmental protection health hazards, child care, girls right, women empowerment, etc.

## **EXTENSION OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Project Code:** IDS/28

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Medical Research Institute – University of Alexandria

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,735,000 (Euro 273,659)

**Location:** Gov. Alexandria

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Start Date:** May 1, 2005

**Completion Date:** May 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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



The MRI in Alexandria

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was completed successfully in May 2007, concluding all the civil works that were planned.



## **FOOD FOR WORK**

**Project Code:** IDS/29

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** CARITAS Egypt

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,450,440 (Euro 229,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 1,450,440

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** August 14, 2003

**Expected Completion Date:** April 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Children of Abu Zaabal village having their lunch

Food for work can be considered as an umbrella program with the objective of giving support to 400 poor families and more than 3000 individuals targeted by Caritas' initiatives all over Egypt, through the regular supply of food grants, in order to reduce their financial burden and improving, in the same time, their health conditions.

The program stems from the idea that food aid, given to the right people at the right time, makes it possible for them to devote time, energy and money to development opportunities. In fact, the distribution of food grants intends to encourage the beneficiaries to send their children to school, receive health care, as well as follow vocational

trainings and literacy classes.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Living conditions for target groups raised
- New job opportunities created for women and young people;
- Level of literacy raised among women and young people;
- School Drop-out reduced among children of target groups;
- Awareness and health conditions raised.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

At December 2007 food aid had been distributed as incentive to participate to the following activities:

Leprosy Program - Caritas is active in the Leprosarium of Abu Zaabal (Cairo) and Ameriya (Alexandria) with medical assistance activities, vocational training, literacy, micro credit program, etc. At December 2007 food aid had been provided to 169 families for a total number of 900

individuals to encourage beneficiaries to send their children to school and participate to literacy and vocational training classes.

Youth Working Camps - youth working camps were established by Caritas with the aim of engaging youth in rehabilitation, maintenance, construction and renovation works, planting, and of course recreational activities. At December 2007 food aid had been distributed to 668 children as hot meal during the activities



Distribution of food allow children to go to school

Micro-credit program – Caritas established this program to distribute small loans with the aim of helping the creation of new job opportunities and the establishment of new micro enterprises. Food grant represents a logical component of the aid with the aim of reducing the financial burden of the loan beneficiaries. At December 2007, food aid had been distributed to 40 beneficiaries of the micro-credit program.

Vocational Training Program – In order to encourage an effective participation to its vocational training program, Caritas, during the training sessions distributes hot meals to the students.

New Reclaimed Lands Program – Caritas is distributing food to the young farmers in the new reclaimed lands of Nubareya area in order to sustain and strengthen the position of these farmers and relieve them of some financial burden until the lands will become more productive. At December 2007 100 families with 547 beneficiaries and 263 children had received food grants.

Health Nutrition Education Program: food aid is regularly distributed to the beneficiaries of the seven Caritas' Socio-medical Centers, which, at December 2007, were providing assistance to 3791 individuals, mainly mothers and children.

## **ASSESSMENT OF WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS IN EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/30

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Water Research Centre

**Total Project Budget:** LE 528,000 (Euro 83,281)

**IDS Share:** LE 200,000 (Euro 31,546)

**Other Contributions:** LE 328,000 (Euro 51,735)

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 1 year

**Start Date:** October 1, 2003

**Completion Date:** November 30, 2004

### **OBJECTIVE**

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



### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

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



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

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

Assessment indicators were elaborated and they

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

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

**Project Code:** IDS/31

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Water Research Centre

**Total Project Budget:** LE 573,000 (Euro 90,379)

**IDS Share:** LE 200,000 (Euro 31,546)

**Other Contributions:** LE 373,000 (Euro 58,833)

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 1 year

**Start Date:** November 9, 2003

**Completion Date:** January 8, 2005

### **OBJECTIVE**

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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



### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**



Improving irrigation practices is essential to achieve food security

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



## INTEGRATING COMMUNITY-BASED WASTE MANAGEMENT INTO INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING

**Project Code:** IDS/32

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** International Centre for Environment and Development

**Total Project Budget:** LE 2,116,000 (Euro 333,754)

**IDS Share:** LE 1,916,000 (Euro 302,208)

**Other Contributions:** LE 200,000 (Euro 31,546)

**Location:** Gov. Cairo

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** September 10, 2003

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2006

### OBJECTIVE



Recycling workshops

The project tackles the problem of the risk of progressive loss of work for the informal traditional community of garbage collectors (*zabaleen*), due to the new municipal solid waste management introduced in Cairo, which is based on collection out-sourced to multinational companies. The introduction of the new system may also affect the possibility of recycling waste, a task that is not carried out by multinational companies while *zabaleen*, on the contrary, are deeply involved in trading or using as animal feeding some components of waste. The main objective of the project is to support *zabaleen* in integrating into the new

process of international contracting by improving their technical capabilities and providing them with modern technologies. The project is implemented in 3 settlements of *zabaleen* in Cairo: Mokattam, Ezbet El Nakhl and Motamadeya.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- A programme of collection of waste segregated at source implemented;
- business and legal information available for the formalization of the economic activities of *zabaleen*;
- technological upgrading of selected waste recycling workshops.

### ACHIEVED RESULTS

The project was successfully concluded in October 2006. Its main intervention was to experiment two possible strategies to avoid loss of job for the community of *zabaleen* and to integrate them in the new waste management system in Cairo. The first strategy was focused on facilitating the direct

recruitment of the *zabaleen* by the multinational companies, by upgrading their technical capacity. To this regard, the project concluded an agreement with one of the multinational companies that is now responsible for garbage collection in Cairo, AMA Arab Environment Company (AAEC), the Egyptian subsidiary of the Italian company AMA, to implement a pilot experiment of waste collection based on segregation at source. 15 *zabaleen* from Ezbet El Nakhl worked under the supervision of AAEC in the district of El Zawia El Hamra to carry out the segregated waste collection for approximately 7,300 households. 30 young people were also involved, in cooperation with the Egyptian NGO Spirit of Youth, to promote awareness among households on the new system of collection and they distributed baskets to households for different types of waste.

The second strategy experimented by the project, was focused on promoting the specialization of *zabaleen* on the recycling sector, rather than on collection since, in this way, the *zabaleen* could obtain business opportunities from trade of recyclable waste. In order to guarantee the success of this strategy, the project realized that two main types of intervention were necessary: disseminate business and legal information in order to promote the formalization of the economic activities of the *zabaleen* in small registered companies and a credit facilitation to support the upgrading of recycling workshops. Consequently, several training and awareness sessions were held for the *zabaleen* on legal aspects of formalization and several business information were provided to them, such as identification of possible dealers, partners, potential markets, etc. In addition, the project gave full technical support to the establishment and registration of a small cooperative of 50 *zabaleen*, in which each member contributed with a small share of LE 50.



Recycling workshops

Besides, a credit line was established to support the upgrading of the machinery of the recycling workshops. The credit line was based on a mixed mechanism of cost-sharing and revolving fund: the total cost of a machine was paid by the project in advance and the beneficiary had to refund back, without interests, 50% of the total cost. The project, at the end of its activities, found that, as a result of the upgrading process, more than 270 new jobs, linked to the operation of machines, were created.



## **HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/33

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 2,165,675 (Euro 341,589)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 2,165,675

**Location:** Gov. Kafr El Sheikh, Sharqeya, Beni Suef, Fayum, Asyut

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** February 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** March 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Awareness material within the VCT centre

Egypt remains a country with a relatively low prevalence of HIV infections. Yet, there is growing evidence of the increase of infections among social groups with risky behaviour, which might entail the spreading of an epidemic if preventive measures are not taken. The task is even more difficult when it is considered that risky behaviour is highly socially stigmatized and, hence, driven underground. Within this framework, the project aims at maintaining the transmission of HIV in Egypt at a low level, supporting the National AIDS Control Programme, which is based on the establishment of a network of Voluntary

Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres. Since these centres provide their services on anonymous basis, they can attract the confidence of people with risky behaviour and distribute information about preventative measures more easily.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Five new Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centres established in Sharqeya, Beni Suef, Kafr El Sheikh, Fayum and Asyut.
- Awareness about HIV among youth population, people with risky behaviour and community leaders increased.
- Quality of life among people infected by HIV improved.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The project completed the establishment of the five VCT centres. The centres were furnished and equipped and all staff was trained in counselling and laboratory investigations (rapid tests). According to preliminary data, already 936 people have visited the VCT centres for counselling, of

whom 863 have gone on to be tested. Services provided are free but the project is studying the possibility of introducing an affordable price, between LE 5 and 10, in order to assure sustainability. At the same time, the project is working to promote the services provided by the VCT centres, which is not an easy task, considering social stigmatization.

In order to increase awareness on prevention, several posters and booklets have been prepared and distributed among young people and workshops have been held in youth centres, schools, universities and NGO. At the same time, other awareness meetings have been held for workers of the tourist and factory sector, as well as for community leaders.

Finally, thanks to the support of the project, anti retro viral medications were purchased and provided to infected people.



Street sign for the VCT centre

## **BRACKISH WATER DESALINATION FOR URBANIZATION OF REMOTE ARID AREAS IN EGYPT**

**Project Code:** IDS/34

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Alexandria University Desalination Studies and  
Technology Centre

**Total Project Budget:** LE 5,483,840 (Euro 864,959)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 5,483,840

**Location:** Gov. Alexandria

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** July 27, 2004

**Completion Date:** January 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Selected site for implementation

The lack of potable water as a major obstacle in urbanization of remote arid areas in Egypt is the problem that this project seeks to solve. Since brackish water from underground wells is the only available water resource in several of these remote areas, the project aims at creating new fresh potable water resources, in conformity to the World Health Organization quality standards, through the development of adapted and viable brackish water desalination packages. The project is implemented as a pilot intervention on the north-west coast of Egypt (west of Alexandria).

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A data base with all relevant information on project location developed.
- Two mobile pilot desalination plants established.
- National desalination know-how and capacity developed.

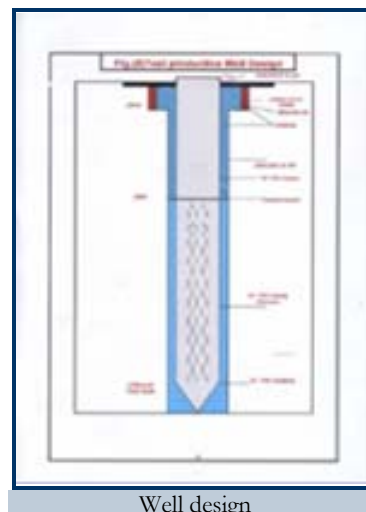
### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

In the first phase of implementation, the project conducted several field visits to select the area for establishing the pilot desalination plants. The selected sites are Fuka and Sawani Samalous, 25 km south of Dabaa. Water samples were collected and tests implemented, in cooperation with the MWRI. All relevant information and analyses were included in a data base established at the Faculty of Engineering of Alexandria University.

The second phase of the project is now in progress and it is devoted to the establishment of the two mobile desalination plants. To this regard, the project is using the reverse osmosis technology, since it was judged as the most technically and economically suitable to the project area. All the

studies concerning thermal and membrane desalination were completed. Contractors were selected and works are in progress.

The project is following an important strategy of development, based on the promotion of a national expertise and capacity in the field of desalination, which can become also a model for the Middle East area. To this regard, the project is paying particular attention to develop young human resources. Indeed, a group of 16 young graduate engineers was trained by the project on a desalination course of studies, which was implemented in Egypt for the first time. The 16 graduates constitute now a task-force involved in the operational phase of the project, for the establishment of the two pilot desalination plants. Moreover, this task-force is also giving an important contribution in terms of national research in the field of desalination. To this regard, it is worth mentioning that they submitted a technical paper to the International Conference on Desalination Technologies and Water Reuse that was held in Sharm El Sheikh in May 2006.



Well design

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

**Project Code:** IDS/35

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Health and Population

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,900,000 (Euro 299,685)

**Location:** Gov. Cairo, Menufeya, Asyut

**Project Duration:** 2,5 years

**Start Date:** January 26, 2004

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**

The project aims at promoting measures for improving the health of working children following the approach of Primary Health Care (PHC) recommended by the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization. This objective will be achieved by enhancing capacity of the MOHP to provide health assistance for working children.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Occupational health units in the target area renovated.
- Human resources of target occupational health units upgraded on medical care for working children.
- The system of health assistance for working children is enhanced.
- Main risks in work places reduced.
- A data base on working children and working conditions is established.



Working children during medical examinations

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in October 2006. 10 clinics in the project location were improved through physical rehabilitation and supply of necessary medical equipment. In addition, capacity of health staff on the issue of child labour has been strengthened through training sessions for 320 sanitarians, 900 physicians and 880 nurses.

In order to enhance the system of health assistance provided to working children, attendance health cards for 5000 children were produced, interviews and medical examinations of 3000 children were implemented. 63% of children examined was found sick and was medically treated.

More awareness has been achieved on how to reduce risk factors for the health of working children in the work places, by assessing 1950 workplaces and identifying appropriate correction measures that should be adopted and by implementing seminars for 540 employers and 540 NGO about safety measures at work.



Working children during medical examinations

Finally, a data base was established at the MOHP with all the information and analyses collected during evaluation of workplaces, interviews and medical examinations of working children. This data base is extremely important for the support of any future national policy and intervention addressed to working children.



## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION NETWORK (RADCON)**

**Project Code:** IDS/36

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Total Project Budget:** LE 10,266,000 (Euro 1,619,243)

**IDS Share:** LE 9,240,000 (Euro 1,457,413)

**Other Contributions:** LE 1,026,000 (Euro 161,830)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 9,240,000

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** April 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** March 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

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

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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



Poster advertising RADCON services

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The development of the information system is completed. Its management structure was established in the framework of the MALR and it was linked to a network for research and extension. This network includes: 8 Research Institutes, 8 Regional Research Stations, 31 Specific Research Stations, 3 Central Administrations, 12 Agricultural Directorates, 96 Extension Centres, 7 Universities and 3 NGOs. 490 trainees, selected from the operators of the extension centres, have participated in courses on the use and management of the system and on modern information technologies. In order to develop the content of the system, an information needs assessment study was implemented. As a result of the study, 5 modules were embedded in the content of



RADCON, namely: small projects for youth, rural women related activities, environment, marketing and NGO. A business plan for the sustainability of the system has almost been finalized.

The project is now working in testing the system and the transmission of its information to a pilot group of beneficiaries among 50 selected rural communities from the most vulnerable areas of the country. To this regard, the project developed a communication plan and started a training programme for 115 facilitators in the selected villages, who will be responsible for transmitting information from RADCON to final beneficiaries.

In order to transmit information to beneficiaries, the project also developed contents to be broadcasted in TV and radio programmes. Some programmes have already been broadcasted and they concerned mainly recommendations on agricultural practices and livestock production.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the project is working in cooperation with the Project IDS/10 (Information and Communication Technologies to Foster Egypt's Sustainable Human Development), with the final objective of supporting the establishment of a sub-portal specialized in agriculture under Kenana Online. In addition, the Project IDS/10 will offer its ICT Mobile Units to support transmission of information from RADCON to beneficiaries in the villages.

## **TRACEABILITY OF AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FOR THE EUROPEAN MARKET**

**Project Code:** IDS/37

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

**Implementing Agency:** United Nations Industrial Development Organization/ Ministry of Foreign Trade and Industry

**Total Project Budget:** LE 45,672,060 (Euro 7,203,795)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** 33,566,146

**Location:** National

**Project Duration:** 4 years

**Start Date:** July 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



The project aims at supporting and facilitating Egyptian exports of agro-industrial products to Europe. In particular, it will help exporters to comply with the European Community Regulation n.178/2002 on food safety and circulation, which rules traceability requirements of imported food. In this way, the project will enhance competitiveness, product quality and safety and it will lead the way for the Egyptian agro-industrial sector to stand at forefront of global economy.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A national expertise, encompassing the private and public sector, on the issue of traceability, food safety and quality management, under internationally recognized regulations, is built.
- Data on traceability of products are collected and made available to stakeholders.
- Modern traceability systems are adopted by selected companies, through a financial support scheme.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The project is basically structured around two main components: technical assistance and financial assistance. For the technical assistance activities, the responsible agency is the UNIDO, while for the financial assistance the responsible agency is the MOTI.

In relation to the technical assistance, the project is building capacity not only for private companies but also for the public sector, namely the MOTI and the MALR, in order to increase

the effectiveness of trade policies and extension services. One of the first results achieved by the project was the creation of a Traceability Manual, which provides accurate information on how to comprehensively trace the history of the product throughout the supply chain. Several training sessions have been implemented in order to raise awareness of beneficiaries on the concept of traceability, make them familiar with the Manual and assess their existing traceability systems. So far, more than 60 companies have been involved in the technical assistance activities of the project, as well as several officers from the MOTI, the MARL and the project IDS/53 (Green Corridor Pilot Project).

Within the technical assistance, the project started to include also aspects related to food quality and safety. In this light, it has so far provided assistance to 5 companies in order to support them in satisfying the compliance requirements necessary to get the certification ISO 22000. In addition, the project finalized the preliminary design of a training programme addressed to the Egyptian Plant Quarantine Department of the MOTI. The objective is to support the upgrading of the quarantine experts of the MOTI, in line with recognized international practices and food safety requirements.



Traceability exercise

In the first phase of its activities, the project focused its target on companies of the fresh produce industry while, since June 2007, it has extended the target to include also the sector of processed produce. To this regard, thanks to a workshop, a first group of 15 companies was identified for being involved in the technical assistance activities.

In order to enhance confidence in the Egyptian produce at international level, the project is also working to make available to any potential stakeholders all data concerning traceability and quality of products. To this regard, the project conducted a study related to a group of key exported products and provided, for the first time in Egypt, a comprehensive mapping of existing growers and pack houses for those products. On the basis of this study, the project is working on the prototype of a “traceability map”, providing basic information on the production areas related to specific products. Moreover, the project is working in cooperation with the MALR to upgrade the National Pesticide Database and make it available online. The database will include all information on nationally registered pesticides. A contract was also signed with HOMOLOGA, an international pesticide database, in order to provide accounts to beneficiaries, who will have access to information on pesticides produced in several countries involved in the international trade of agricultural products.

In relation to the financial assistance, the project is supporting some selected companies to apply modern IT traceability systems through a fund of LE 27,600,000. The financial assistance is implemented on a cost-sharing basis: 15% of the contract value of the IT traceability system will be paid directly by each beneficiary, while the project will contribute to finance the remaining 85% of the contract value, but for a maximum limit of LE 300,000. Beneficiaries are selected mainly among those companies that participated in the training programme of the project. They receive full technical assistance during the application phase and transfer of instalments is subject to technical monitoring and evaluation. Up to 2007, more than 60 applications have been approved and started implementation. Discussions are under way with the project IDS/01 (West Noubaria

Rural Development Project) in order to allow the pack house in Noubaria to benefit from the financial assistance.

All the opportunities provided by the project are actively promoted, both at national and international level, through the project website ([www.etrace-eg.org](http://www.etrace-eg.org)), articles and interviews in Egyptian (e.g. Egypt Today, Al Ahram) and international (e.g. Euro-Fruit Magazine) magazines and newspapers, brochures and flyers, interviews in Egyptian TV and radio programmes (e.g. Good Morning Egypt, Al Bernamig Al Amm), local and international fairs and conferences (e.g. Fruit Logistica, Arab Quality and Food Safety Conference in Lebanon, annual conference of the African Regional Standards Organization, round-table in Rome organized by UNIDO and the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs on “Trade and sustainable development to fight poverty”). Many of the participations in the international conferences aim at promoting and sharing the Egyptian traceability experience and model in the Mediterranean area.

## **STREET CHILDREN PROTECTION**

**Project Code:** IDS/38

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Tofulty Foundation

**Total Project Budget:** LE 4,648,652 (Euro 734,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 4,247,345

**Location:** District of Helwan (Gov. Cairo)

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** January 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** June 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**

Tofulty Foundation is a Non-Governmental Organization which works in the field of street children since 1998, in the district of Helwan, southern Cairo. The project, through a right-based approach, aims to help young people to come off of the streets and to find their own way to be reintegrated in the society.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A database on street children in Helwan created;
- A safe feeding and sleeping place available;
- Health and psychological support available;
- Basic education, legal assistance, vocational training and other free social services available;
- Opportunities of safe and sustainable micro business activities available;
- Institutions, families and local community awareness on street children problems increased;



Recreational activities

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The beneficiaries of this project are approximately 500 children and their families of Helwan area. The Project through its network of social workers is constantly working on the field to detect children living in the streets and building a relation of mutual understanding and trust, encouraging them to join project activities.

To this aim, the Project has established an itinerant Mobile Unit so to be able to physically reach boys and girls living in the streets and attract them with creative recreational opportunities in order to take them out of their oppressive daily environment and encourage positive and constructive attitudes.



Vocational training on carpentry

Children detected and attracted through the Mobile Unit are then invited to join the Drop-in Centre, an open space which children can freely access in any moment of the day even if, at night, they will prefer going back to the streets. The Centre serves as a shelter where children can feel safe and protected and find the opportunity to live as children of their age: in fact, the centre offers recreational activities such as sports, games, music, painting and other activities in order to encourage their creativity, sociability and explore their potential.

At the same time the Drop-in Centre represents a comfortable structure of primary assistance for street children in their path to rehabilitation: children are in fact provided with health and psychological support in order to understand their peculiarities and help them in accepting and acknowledging their situation and their need to be helped.

The children who reach this stage are then invited to leave the streets by accessing the temporary home component which offers them free accommodation, food, health care, etc.

The main aim of this phase is working on retracing the family and verifying the possibility of finding a solution for children to return home within their own families, re-enrol school, etc. Social workers are fundamental in this phase since they work with both parts, trying to help families to understand how to deal and communicate with their children.

Whereas not possible, the Project encourages and helps children to build up their own life by providing them with a permanent accommodation in shared apartments, counselling services, educational courses such as literacy or vocational training courses (carpet weaving, sewing, electrics, carpentry, etc), legal assistance for the issue of identity cards and birth certificates, small credit to help them to start their own business, etc.

The Project has also launched an advocacy campaign by organizing workshops, publishing brochures and newsletters in order to raise the public awareness on the plight of street children and reducing the hostility towards them. Moreover, taking into consideration that the phenomenon of street children in Egypt is usually associated with delinquency, the project introduces also activities of training and raising the awareness of the police in some outskirts of Cairo as in the case of the Juvenile Police Station of Azbakeyya.



## **ROBAIKI INDUSTRIAL LEATHER AND TANNERIES CITY**

**Project Code:** IDS/39

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Trade and Industry

**Total Project Budget:** LE 312,150,000 (Euro 49,235,016)

**IDS Share:** LE 162,030,000 (Euro 25,556,782)

**Other Contributions:** LE 150,120,000 (Euro 23,678,233)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 162,030,000

**Location:** Robaiki (Gov. Cairo)

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** November 1, 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** April 30, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Civil works at Robaiki

The project is part of a wider plan launched by the Egyptian Government for the creation of a new industrial leather cluster in Robaiki area (at some 51 km from Cairo, on the road to Suez). The new cluster will be based over a surface of approximately 2.2 millions m<sup>2</sup> and will be characterized by modern systems of production and environmentally friendly technologies. Roundabout 320 small, medium and large private tanneries will be relocated from the existing cluster in Old Cairo to this new area. The objective is, on one side, the elimination of one of the major sources of pollution inside Old Cairo

and, on the other side, the reorganization of leather enterprises within the new Leather Industrial Park to encourage and support production in a marketable and competitive way, both at local and international level.

The plan for the Robaiki Leather City consists of three stages. The contribution of the IEDS is focused mainly on Stage 1, during which all the external and internal infrastructures will be established and the social and economical needs and effects of the relocation will be assessed, through a participative approach involving tanners.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- An updated Master Plan for the new industrial leather cluster formulated.
- A Participative Plan for the gradual transfer of Old Cairo tanneries developed and agreed upon by tanners.
- Tanners willing to transfer their activity in the new cluster identified.

- Civil works for external and internal infrastructures and the sewage and industrial treatment plants executed and operation is assured.
- A Technological Services Centre established in the new industrial cluster.

#### PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007

In order to achieve its objectives, the project has developed a strategy which is based on:

- a development approach that links together the economical and social components, taking into consideration not only aspects to improve production but also the quality of life of the beneficiaries that will settle in the new area;
- mechanisms to support relocation, such as financial incentives to purchase new machinery;
- a demand-driven approach for relocation, aiming to satisfy the actual needs of all stakeholders involved;
- cooperation and twinning with Italian clusters, such as the ones in the regions Campania and Toscana, in order to transfer Italian know-how and build upon the successful experience of the Italian model for industrial clusters.



Civil works at Robaiki

In the framework of this strategy, the project works in cooperation with ASSOMAC, the association of the Italian manufacturers of equipment and technologies for the shoe, leather and tannery industries. Through the technical assistance provided by ASSOMAC, the project has completed a feasibility study to evaluate all the technical, economical and social consequences of the relocation of the involved tanneries and related population from Old Cairo to Robaiki area. The study was conducted with the active participation of all targeted tanners, analyzing the financial and social sustainability of the whole operation.

Based on the feasibility study, the project has started the implementation of a plan of action that considers all the legal and administrative aspects of the new cluster and all the necessary steps to support the relocation of tanners. To this regard, the project has started a legal survey on the ownership structure of the existing tanneries in Old Cairo (Magra El Eion).

In relation to the external and internal infrastructures of the new cluster, the project is currently executing the civil works for the networks, the electric, water and gas supply. The tenders were awarded to four companies: Arab Contractors, Rural Electrification Authority, Egyptian Natural Gases Company and New Urban Communities Authority.

## **EMPOWERMENT OF FEMALE-HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES**

**Project Code:** IDS/40

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Association for Development and Enhancement of Women

**Total Project Cost:** LE 9,430,551 (Euro 1,488,000)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 8,971,727

**Location:** Gov. Cairo, Gharbeya, Qalyubeya.

**Project Duration:** 4,5 years

**Start Date:** December 8, 2003

**Expected Completion Date:** March 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Literacy class in Qaliubeya Governorate

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women is an Egyptian NGO which works for the development of women status on local and national level.

This Project, in particular, aims to improve the social, economic, and legal conditions of women in low-income communities by promoting widespread sensitization to the plight, especially of Female Heads of Household (FHH) and providing opportunities for these women to increase their income, enhance their knowledge and skills and eventually gain control over their lives.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Women's knowledge and awareness of their legal rights increased;
- About 7,000 women benefited from the micro credit program and are trained in microfinance and business practices;
- About 14,000 legal documents obtained for women;
- About 500 women learnt to read and write participating in literacy courses;
- About 900 teenagers' girls participated in the Girls' Dreams Program

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

Project activities have targeted three underprivileged areas in Cairo, Qalyubeya and Gharbeya Governorates, respectively Manshiet Nasser (Cairo), El Qanater El Kheireya (Qaliubeya) and El Agezi (Tanta). In order to tackle the main problems for FHH the Project designed a package of services with the aim of enhancing their economic, legal and social status.

Micro-credit Program – The project designed and established a micro credit program based on group lending methodology, through which loans are provided to self-forming groups of five

women thereby freeing them from the need of collateral or guarantor and allowing women to get loans only by signing a receipt which is legally and individually binding. Moreover, the group lending methodology enhances women communal sense and supports women in breaking their isolation from the community.

- In Cairo, 2824 applications were collected and 2306 loans disbursed for a total amount of LE 1,087,000
- In Qalyubeya and Gharbeya 6870 applications were collected and 5317 loans disbursed for a total amount of LE 675,800.

**Legal Program** – Since marginalized women do not legally exist and, in addition to poverty and prevailing ignorance, they are totally dependent on their husband, father and brother for any legal transaction, the Project established a Legal Program in order to: i) assist women in obtaining their legal documents, ii) raising their legal awareness; iii) filing lawsuits relating to the personal status law on their behalf.

- In Cairo, the Project increased the awareness of 2450 women through 126 legal awareness sessions; issued 6692 ID cards and 2032 birth certificates and other legal papers; filed 83 lawsuits.
- In Qalyubeya and Gharbeya, the Project increased the awareness of 4787 women through 220 legal awareness seminars; issued 11,909 ID cards, 5742 birth certificates and 57 other legal papers; filed 66 lawsuits in Qalyubeya and 100 lawsuits in Gharbeya.



Girls' Dream Component

**Literacy Program** – Since illiteracy is one of the main factors which hinder the advancement of women, particularly among the underprivileged communities, the project established a literacy program which, in order to attract the attendance of women, is based on lessons focusing on life skills, such as how to prepare nutritional goods (jam, pickled olives, cold cuts, etc.), lessons on beading and embroidery which can help women to better manage the household or to build an income generating project.

- In Cairo, the Project opened 15 classes and managed to raise literacy and life skills of 317 women, 230 of them passed the final exam and got the literacy diploma.
- In Qalyubeya and Gharbeya the Project opened 34 classes and managed to raise literacy and life skills of 408 women.

**Girls' Dreams Program** – The project established this program aiming primarily to increase confidence and self esteem of girls with limited or no education, by allowing them the opportunity and the tools to explore their capabilities and by teaching them how to better manage their lives, on the basis of three main aspects: i) life skills and personal relations, ii) health and nutrition, iii) legal rights of women and children.

- In Cairo 262 girls were selected with an average of 197 regular attendants;
- In Qalyubeya 295 girls were selected with an average of 258 regular attendants;
- In Gharbeya 255 girls were selected with an average of 190 regular attendants.

**Awareness Component** – the awareness on the situation and plight of FHH has been raised among policy and decision makers, media, general public and other NGOs, and a change in policy and practice has been advocated.



## **NORTHERN CAIRO PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**Project Code:** IDS/41

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** National Council for Childhood and Motherhood

**Implementing Partner:** AMA Arab Company for Environment / Association for the Protection of Environment

**Total Project Cost:** LE 4,250,001 (Euro 671,000)

**Location:** Gov. Cairo

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Start Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2004

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

The project intends to address the environmental problems that affect the Northern Cairo communities such as the random disposal of garbage which is accumulated in streets and public areas and to radically change behaviours and attitude of local communities by convincing them that environment is closely related to health and social problems.

For this reason, the Project, in order to have more impact on the communities, will approach and deal also with the social and health problems surrounding the environment of child and his family such as illiteracy, unemployment and women's and children's rights.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A social survey about the inhabitants of 7 districts of Northern Cairo available;
- Students and teachers from 97 schools and local leaders trained on environmental awareness;
- Community environmental guard groups established;
- Educational material on environmental awareness prepared and distributed;
- 3000 women and girls able to read and write and aware of local environmental problems and related health issues.



Awareness poster produced by the Project

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project successfully completed its activities in June 2007. Activities were organized in three main components:

- Survey phase, aimed at raising public awareness in neighbourhood communities of Northern Cairo on environmental development and health issues - A social survey was conducted on 7783 families from Northern Cairo's seven districts, representing 10% of the inhabitants in order to investigate on human development, health status, socio economic status. The main problems identified in the area were the random disposal of garbage, street children, drug addiction, FGM, and the lack of basic information on reproductive health and safe pregnancy. Accordingly, 200 neighbourhood leaders were selected from religious institutions and from civil society and were trained in order to be able to create environmental, social and health awareness among the citizens of Northern Cairo; ad-hoc workshops were then conducted on the main problems identified through the survey.
- Environmental guard phase, aimed at raising public awareness for environmental development in schools – Training sessions were organized in cooperation with AMA for 160 teachers in 97 schools of Northern Cairo on how to create environmental, social and health awareness. To this aim, 14 Environmental camps were organized to train a total number 1944 students from different schools in the Northern Cairo Districts (primary-preparatory-secondary) to be environmental guards. During the camps, a special uniform was distributed to participating students, who were involved in environmental activities such as tree planting, cleaning up activities, paper recycling and in a number of artistic, cultural, sports and fun activities, which were carried out with the aim of developing the students' artistic skills, their sense of team-spirit and positive competition. A green belt surrounding Northern Cairo with 1900 trees was completed. A "Green Corner" context was organized among 85 schools from six districts and 32 of them were rewarded with computers and school furniture while over 500 students obtained special certificates.
- Female education phase, aimed at raising public awareness amongst women and girls on illiteracy eradication and its effect on the environment and general health issues - Cooperation between NCCM and the National Organization for Adult Learning was established and the Organization provided books and educational tools which were then adapted to be used in an active learning curriculum. 138 female facilitators were selected and trained on how to prepare material to facilitate the active learning process and how to transmit information through innovative and more attractive methods. Finally 98 literacy classes were established for almost 2000 women and girls who, at the end of the courses, were able to read and write and were informed and sensitized on environment and related social and health issues. As incentive for the literacy classes' participants, a small credit program was set up in two of the seven target districts in order to encourage families to set up or expand their own business by providing them with small loans in order to be able to support their families achieve financial independence and keep their children at school: the initiative was managed through 2 small CDAs which disbursed a total number of 1440 loans with a repayment rate close to 100%.



Youth Centre: environmental students' camp



## **REHABILITATION OF BEHEIRA WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM**

**Project Code:** IDS/42  
**Applicant:** Beheira Governorate  
**Implementing Agency:** Beheira Water and Drainage Company  
**Total Project Budget:** LE 50,000,000 (Euro 7,886,435)  
**Location:** Damanhour (Gov. Beheira)  
**Project Duration:** 3,5 years  
**Start Date:** October 1, 2003  
**Completion Date:** March 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

The project aims at improving the supply system of potable water serving the population of the district of Damanhour (Beheira Governorate), both in the urban and rural areas. The current



Civil works in Damanhour

network of pipes in the project location is indeed substantially old and it has several leakages, which cause frequent cut-offs of the distribution and contamination of water. Damanhour includes roundabout 620,000 inhabitants (230,000 in the city and 390,000 in rural areas) and the project will seek to increase the average per capita water supply from the current 120-130 l/inhabitant per day to 200 l, in the urban areas and from 40-50 l to 100-120 l, in the rural areas. In addition, the project will work on capacity building, transfer of technology and know-how in order to increase efficiency of water management.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A Master Plan for the rehabilitation of the whole water supply system in the district of Damanhour (urban and rural areas) formulated and available.
- High priority works in the district identified.
- Priority areas of the urban water supply system in Damanhour rehabilitated.
- Capacity and knowledge of the staff of the BWADC increased.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

After the evaluation of the existing water supply network in Damanhour, the project developed the Master Plan, with the identification of the rehabilitation needs. The Master Plan is intended for carrying out a rehabilitation intervention in three stages, until 2022: from 2005 to 2008, from 2008 to 2012 and from 2012 to 2022.

The project successfully completed the rehabilitation of the eastern area of Damanhour, installing a new network of pipes with an extension of more than 85 km. Thanks to this pilot intervention, water arrives now to houses regularly and it is not contaminated. There are no more leakages and, consequently, the town is cleaner and free of mud. The intervention was supervised by the private company Chemonics Egypt, which provided all the necessary technical assistance.

Finally, the capacity of the technical staff of the BWADC has improved in relation to operation and maintenance, management, planning and design, through the cooperation and partnership with the Italian company Società Generale di Ingegneria SpA (SGI). SGI provided to the project technical assistance, transfer of know-how and training. Some training programs were held also in Italy, namely in Ancona and Milan.



Map of civil works in Damanhour

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

**Project Code:** IDS/44

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** MAIS

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,840,800 (Euro 291,000)

**Location:** Districts of Akhmim, Sokulta and Dar el Salam (Gov. Sohag)

**Project Duration:** 2,5 years

**Start Date:** March 9, 2004

**Completion Date:** June 30, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



Vocational training on sewing

This project aims at contributing to poverty alleviation in the Governorate of Sohag, one of the poorest in Egypt. It can be considered as an extension of an existing project implemented by MAIS and financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Support of Females Heads of Household” in the Governorate of Sohag which supported poor female heads of household with an awareness program and a micro-credit scheme for economic activities. It was from the needs expressed by these women that this project was designed: this project was meant to extend educational and training activities to the children of these poor women in order to

promote the development of the whole family.

The specific objective of the project is to increase job opportunities for children of Female Heads of Households and other low-income families, through supporting 10 local CDAs to develop sustainable services in literacy and vocational training for children of poor families, in order to allow them to substantially improve their education and therefore their possibilities of finding a more rewarding job.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- 500 children have access to a two-year literacy course;
- 250 children have access to computer classes;
- 1,000 children have access to vocational training courses.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The Project, which ended on June 2006, achieved the following results in its three main components:

- Literacy Program: the project established and equipped 20 classrooms in 8 CDA-partners; 20 facilitators were selected and trained as literacy teachers; awareness was raised among families in order to encourage them to send regularly their children to school; 20 literacy classes, for the duration of two years each, were organized in close collaboration with the Upper Egypt Association allowing 587 children, from 8 to 22 years, to gain the skills of reading and writing and 103 of them to pass the National Literacy Exam.



Literacy class

- Computer Program - The Project established and equipped five computer laboratories in 5 CDA-partners; facilitators were selected and trained in order to implement 3 computer courses of 6 months in each CDA. At the end of the Project 517 children, from 14 to 22 years, through the training were able to use computer and to perform activities relevant to the labour market, as for example secretarial work, accountancy, publishing, etc.
- Vocational Training Program - The Project established and equipped 15 laboratories in the 10 CDA-partners and selected and trained 15 professional trainers. Through a preliminary survey, the Project assessed the labour market needs and, according to the results, vocational training courses, of 10 months each, were organized for the most needed vocations in the target area. At the end of the Project 1016 children, from 14 to 22 years, had acquired effective capacities in specific vocations, such as in sewing, electrics, plumbing, palm tree waving, carpentry, loom, mobile repairing, and painting.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTION**

**Project Code:** IDS/45

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Movimondo

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,997,686 (Euro 316,000)

**Location:** Districts of El Omraniyya, El Saff, Abu Ragwan, Dahshour (Gov. Giza)

**Project Duration:** 3,5 years

**Start Date:** April 15, 2004

**Completion Date:** August 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

This Project, implemented in cooperation with the local NGO-partner Al Mubadara, represents a complementary pilot initiative to the project “Community Development through the Growth of Small and Micro Enterprises”, financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim is integrating gender perspective in the non-financial services already provided by the Business Development Centres (BDC) established in the four CDA-partners by the complementary project, with the aim of providing effective support to disadvantaged women facilitating their access to economic opportunities.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Local CDAs strengthened in designing and managing non-financial services for women entrepreneurship;
- Impact of CDAs in promoting gender equality and women entrepreneurship increased;
- Women of the target area empowered and aware of their rights and of the local-available economic opportunities.



Seminar on reproductive health care

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project, which completed its activities in August 2007, succeeded in strengthening the capacities of the 4 CDA-partners in designing and delivering non-financial services for women entrepreneurs, integrating them within the services provided by the BDCs established by the complementary project.

CDAs were involved in drafting a manual on gender policy and guidelines, which was undersigned, along with an executive plan for including gender perspective in CDAs' plan of action. Accordingly, a Women Committee was established in each CDA and women representation in CDAs' General Assemblies was encouraged. Two gender field officers and eight volunteers for each CDA were selected and attached to the BDCs' staff, after having received, together with three board members for each CDA, specific training on gender equality and women entrepreneurship-related issues.



Therefore BDCs were able to design and launch, in each CDA, a comprehensive package of gender-tailored services, based on the experience gained through the complementary project and according to the results of the market needs assessment realized at the beginning of the project. The package included among other services:

- Vocational training (carpets, dried flowers, veil pins, liquid soap, cosmetics, perfumes, embroidery, sewing, etc.)
- Computer training
- Awareness raising events (reproductive health, legal and social insurance, etc).



Legal assistance

Special SME-Literacy classes were organized in each CDA under the supervision of Adult Education Authority in which, besides reading and writing, women were provided with an ad-hoc SME module, as a guide step by step in the process of starting a new business for illiterate women. To this aim a manual on how to start a business for illiterate women was drafted and used as reference book.

At the end of SME literacy classes, women prepared a feasibility study of micro projects with a maximum capital of 500 pounds and the best feasibility studies were awarded with vouchers for an effective help to start the business

BDCs' services were actively promoted within the respective communities through:

- Awareness seminars;
- Special events, such as in the occasion of the Women International Day or the Mother Day;
- A website which included all the relevant information about the services;
- Promotional materials as brochures, leaflets, key holds, bags, etc.



## **IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OLD CAIRO**

**Project Code:** IDS/46  
**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** MAIS  
**Total Project Cost:** LE 1,999,900 (Euro 316,000)  
**Location:** District of Old Cairo (Gov. Cairo)  
**Project Duration:** 2 years  
**Start Date:** November 17, 2004  
**Completion Date:** November 30, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**



Vocational training for budding electricians

This project focuses on increasing job opportunities for children and improving quality of life for families in the area of Old Cairo in view the of the relocation of the tanneries (see project IDS/39), which at the moment represents the main source of income in the whole area.

As children represent a great help to their families and cannot easily stop working, the project stems from the idea that, more than by fighting the employment of children in the labour market, their living conditions can be improved through adopting

a more integrated approach:

- children themselves can benefit from more education and professional training, thereby having access to better job prospects;
- families can improve their general standard of living becoming more aware of health and nutrition issues.

This project aims at supporting the local partner Abu El Soud Social Development Association (ASSDA) in building and providing sustainable services as basic education and appropriate vocational training for working children and to improve living conditions of working children's families, by offering health services, and organizing awareness seminars on health and nutrition.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

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

## ACHIEVED RESULTS

The project successfully ended on November 2006: the results achieved even exceeded the plan; according to the three main components:

**Literacy Program** - Several seminars were held with parents and families in order to discuss the educational needs of the children and encourage them to send their children to school; the Project refurbished and fully equipped 3 classrooms in ASSDA premises, selected and trained 3 teachers and organized 5 literacy courses: consequently 550 children and 193 adults had free access to literacy classes. To increase the educational value of the courses the project organized also regular educational recreational activities such as educational trips and work groups.

**Vocational training program** - Seminars were held also to discuss professional needs of the children and encourage their parents to send them to the classes; the Project renewed and fully equipped 6 vocational laboratories and a computer lab in ASSDA premises organizing a total number of 36 vocational and computer training courses (A/C-Refrigerators, Sewing, Plumbing, Electrical, Computer Maintenance, Computer training). At the end of the Project 772 children and 377 adults had built their capacities and raised their working skills in specific fields.



Vocational Training Sewing Class

**Health care program** – At the beginning of the Project, a survey on health and socio-economic conditions in the tanneries area assessed community needs in the health field; ASSDA medical centre was rehabilitated and refurbished with new equipment in cooperation with the MOHP; awareness was created in the families regarding nutrition needs and health of working children; nurses, doctors and laboratory technicians were hired in order to guarantee free health-care services for working children and their families. At the end of the project 716 working children and 284 families had received free medical care while 1040 children had received nutritional supplements.

Moreover 351 women attended the regular health awareness seminars which were held on themes such as general health, hygiene, nutrition, reproductive health, first aid, bird flu, etc.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ENHANCEMENT OF NGO KINDERGARTEN SERVICES**

**Project Code:** IDS/47

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Central Kindergarten Supervisors League

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,889,250 (Euro 297,989)

**Location:** Gov. New Valley, Fayum, Asyut, Siwa

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Start Date:** September 21, 2004

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE**

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



Children of kindergartens

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- A standard training programme and methodology for staff of kindergartens is designed and available;
- knowledge and skills in Early Childhood Development are improved for staff of selected kindergartens and the MOSS, through the implementation of the standard training programme;
- physical environment of selected kindergartens is refurbished;
- official recognition from the MOSS obtained for the designed training programme on Early Childhood Development.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The project was successfully concluded in October 2006. Through, the technical support of a group of experts from Cairo University, the project elaborated a standard training programme on Early Childhood Development, directed to staff of kindergartens. The next step of the project was to use this programme on a pilot group of kindergartens, as well as staff of the MOSS. To this regard, a network of trainers from some kindergartens was selected (18 in Asyut, 2 in Siwa, 6 in the New Valley, 7 in Fayum). Their task was to implement training sessions on the standard programme to other kindergartens. At the end of the project, 243 kindergartens were reached, for

a total amount of 713 trainees. In addition, 21 staff members from the local departments of the MOSS were trained.



Upgraded playground

As an effect of the implementation of the training programme, the project found during the final evaluation that the quality of the educational and even physical environment of the kindergartens was significantly improved, in terms of better teachers' performance, better health and hygienic conditions, better play environment for children, better sense of participation of children, higher support from families of children.

In addition, in order to enhance more effectively the capacity of kindergartens, the project selected a group of 20 kindergartens involved in the training programme and gave them the possibility of assessing, planning and implementing, under the supervision of the project, a small physical rehabilitation intervention for their own kindergartens.

The project was fully supported for its successful experience by the MOSS, which recognized officially the training programme for the staff of kindergartens.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION QUALITY IN SIWA

**Project Code:** IDS/48

**Applicant:** Association for Advancement of Education

**Implementing Agency:** Association for Advancement of Education / COSPE

**Total Project Cost:** LE 1,986,715 (Euro 314,000)

**Location:** Siwa (Gov. Matruh)

**Project Duration:** 2,5 years

**Start Date:** February 17, 2005

**Completion Date:** October 31, 2007

### OBJECTIVE

The Project, implemented in partnership with the Italian NGO COSPE, intends to promote a sustainable development of Siwa Oasis through an improvement in the quality of education.

In particular, the project intends to improve the technical and educational skills of teachers, reduce school drop-out especially for girls, by enhancing students' and parents' participation, and in the same time aims at sensitizing the community on the importance of preserving the unique environmental and cultural heritage of Siwa, which can represent a factor of development for the Region.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Teachers have improved their skills, their knowledge on curricular subjects, their teaching methodology and have strengthened their environmental awareness;
- Students have strengthened their awareness of environment and cultural heritage and have improved their knowledge in the most weak subjects;
- Drop out rate has decreased especially for girls;
- The role of parents' council within the schools has been enhanced.



Training on Environmental awareness

### ACHIEVED RESULTS

The Project, which successfully ended in October 2007, worked actively with 13 schools of the oasis, targeting teachers, students and parents and achieved the following results:

**Teachers** – The Project launched a comprehensive capacity building program targeting not only teachers but also schools' principals in order to raise the skills on their respective subjects and train them on the most innovative teaching techniques and methodologies. At the end of the Project, more than 200 teachers had been trained on modern educational approaches (4 courses), modern learning theories (5 courses), innovative methods of teaching for English (4 courses), Arabic (4



courses), Mathematics (5 courses), computer skills. Moreover special training was delivered to schools' Principals on communication skills and effective school management.

Students – In order to strengthen students' participation and reduce school drop out, the project implemented several initiatives with the aim to reactivate the role of schools as landmark for the surrounding communities.

- A computer club was established and fully equipped in each of the 13 schools for almost 1000 children.
- A Health and Environment club was established and equipped in each of the 13 schools with the aim of raising health, environmental and tourism awareness through the establishment of a green corner in each school, the organization of environmental camps, the publication of the Environment Friends Magazine and the realization of awareness seminars in cooperation with the main relevant institutions.
- Special support classes were organized for more than 1000 students with weaknesses in subjects as Mathematics, Arabic, English, etc.

Moreover, several awareness workshops on the importance of education, especially targeting girls, were organized and 32 girls after special training communication skills were enabled to actively volunteer or working in the field of service provision.

Parents – Objective of this component was to encourage the active participation of parents in their children's life and in particular in school activities, through the reactivation of School Parents Board and the organization of several activities to encourage joint participation of students, teachers and parents such as computer courses, sport competitions, environmental camps, day-trips to the main tourism destination in collaboration with the Archaeology and the Protectorate Directorates in Siwa.



Training for teachers on computer skills

All these activities were always linked with training and awareness raising activities on Siwa environmental and cultural heritage implemented by COSPE and targeting, at the same time, teachers, students and parents. Among the main topics:

- Awareness on the current state of the natural resources in the oasis;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Awareness on archaeological and architectural heritage;
- Community environment day;
- Awareness on eco tourism.



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

**Project Code:** IDS/49

**Applicant:** New Vision Association for Development

**Implementing Agency:** New Vision Association for Development / COSPE

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,999,475 (Euro 316,000)

**Location:** Gov. Minya

**Project Duration:** 2,5 years

**Start Date:** August 15, 2005

**Completion Date:** December 31, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**

The Project, implemented by the Egyptian NGO New Vision for Development in partnership with the Italian NGO COSPE, aims at the economic and social empowerment of vulnerable youth, women and disabled people in Minya Governorate, through giving them access to effective financial and non financial services, in order to create new sustainable job opportunities and eventually alleviate poverty.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Market demand for manpower in the targeted areas assessed.
- Guidelines and standards for technical and professional training formats for main vocations developed.
- An Employment and Information Centre (EIC) created and working efficiently.
- A Professional and Basic Vocational Training Centre (PVTC) established.
- An effective and sustainable loan system established.
- New full and part-time jobs created through training courses and micro credit delivered to new and existing micro-enterprises.



Vocational Training activities

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

The Project enhanced the knowledge and the understanding of the new Egyptian economic environment through performing a Labour Market Study (LMS) which assessed the market demands for manpower in Minya Governorate and identified the 10 most promising vocations and professions. According to the results of the study, guidelines and standards were developed for technical and professional training.

This helped the Professional and Basic Vocational Training Centre, established and fully equipped by the Project, to provide effective training for those most needed vocations and professions assessed by the LMS.

Moreover, the Project established an effective credit program with the aim of delivering micro loans for the creation or the expansion of micro and small enterprises.

Both the training courses and the credit program are part of the services managed through the Employment and Information Centre established by the Project, which serves as an orientation desk for people seeking for jobs or training and a gateway for the other services provided by the Project. The EIC, which hosts an updated database of job vacancies, collect the applications of people and according to their requests, their aspirations and their skills it can:

- whenever the applicant's skills match with any of the vacancies available, deliver a job matching service directly linking the employers who need manpower with people entitled to their specific vacancies.
- whenever the applicant intends to build or expand its own enterprise, the EIC can refer him to the Credit Unit.
- whenever the applicant's skills do not match with any of the vacancies available, the EIC can refer them to the PVTC giving them access to effective training programs in order to build their capacities to better meet the actual labour market needs and then to access the job matching or the credit services.



At the end of the Project, 139 new sustainable jobs opportunities had been created: 41 individuals found a job through the Employment and Information Centre and its job matching service; 28 established their own micro-enterprise through the micro-credit program, 3 managed to get employed after having raised their working skills through a training course of the PVTC.

Moreover, a very innovative and interesting initiative implemented by the Project was the Job Fairs, which was organized for the first time in Egypt, gathering 2000 youth and 16 private companies and agencies, with the aim of enhancing the availability of new job opportunities creating a direct link between job demand and the labour market needs.

## **IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

**Project Code:** IDS/50

**Applicant:** Movimondo

**Implementing Agency:** Movimondo / Seti Caritas

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,998,050 (Euro 316,000)

**Location:** Districts of El Omraneyya and el Saff (Gov. Giza)

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Start Date:** August 1, 2005

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2007

### **OBJECTIVE**



Social Activities - Daytrip (CBR El Saff)

The Project, implemented in partnership with the Egyptian NGO Seti-Caritas (see Project IDS/16), tackles the almost total lack of services targeting disabled children, such as tailored education programs, counselling for families, disabled-friendly infrastructure and social activities. Target areas are the districts of El Omraneyya and El Saff in Giza Governorate, where it is estimated that approximately 3.4% of the inhabitants, nearly 250,000 people, are disabled.

This great number of people is challenged by serious scarcity of rehabilitation resources, most of which, whereas available, lack tools

and trained personnel: in this regard the Project, aims at enhancing the psycho-physical and social development of Children with Special Needs (CSN) as well as their integration in the community at social, cultural and economic level, by developing CDAs' capabilities to implement specific health, social and educational support services.

Project strategy is based on a capacity building approach known as Community-based rehabilitation, which is characterized by the active involvement of families, schools, doctors, etc. in order to promote a sustainable inclusion of the disabled children in the community life.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- CDAs' management capacities strengthened and facilities improved.
- CDAs able to address CSN problems and promoting CSN activities and integrate them into community context.
- Psycho physical and social development of CSN promoted
- Community sensitized on disability issues.

## ACHIEVED RESULTS

The Project, which was successfully completed in September 2007, had three main components:

- Strengthen CDA capabilities of build and manage services for children with special needs.
- Actual rehabilitation of disabled children.
- Awareness on disability issues.

CDAs board members were actively involved in project planning and strategy since the beginning: they received specific training on management skills, disability issues and CBR approach, so to be able to build and manage a CBR centre. In order to assess the specific needs of each district, a field survey helped the establishment of a database of the social services available in the target areas such as schools, hospitals, doctors, pharmacies, rehabilitation centres, sport centres, etc. CBR Centres were finally established and equipped in both districts; to this aim CDA premises were fully rehabilitated in el Saff while a new ad-hoc building was constructed in El Omraneyya.



Vocational training class (CBR Omraniyya)

As for the rehabilitation component, a CBR volunteer team was selected and trained by the project in order to perform the daily activities of the CBR centre as children welcoming and registration, weekly club, special training for disabled children and their parents, home visits, organization of social events, etc. A total of 270 contacts with CSN were established during the project of which more than 90 cases regularly took part in the daily activities of the project. Therefore CBR centres were strengthened and promoted and are now well known within their respective community. They receive high appreciation by the families which have experienced the activities as an effective mean of social inclusion while their children are getting new skills and developing their psycho-physical condition.

As for the third component, awareness on disability related issues was raised through workshop, special events, brochures, videos, etc. A very good linkage was created with the key actors of the areas as local authorities, including the religious ones, medical institutions as doctors and pharmacies which have actively supported the centres.

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

**Project Code:** IDS/51

**Applicant:** Ministry of Manpower and Emigration

**Implementing Agency:** International Organization for Migration

**Total Project Budget:** LE 311,000 (Euro 50,000)

**Location:** Gov. Cairo

**Project Duration:** 6 months

**Start Date:** June 19, 2005

**Completion Date:** December 20, 2005

### **OBJECTIVE**



The new offices in the internal area

This project was part of the overall implementation of the Integrated Migration Information System (IMIS) initiative financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration (MME). The purpose of the project is to support the External Employment Department (EED) of the MME to effectively implement the job matchmaking modules set up in the framework of IMIS. This project, in detail, provided the EED, formally entrusted to process the requests for Egyptian manpower presented by foreign employers, with the appropriate infrastructures and technical support to accomplish

a proper management of the matchmaking component linked to IMIS.

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

- The offices of the EED were rehabilitated and furnished;
- Computers, network connections and leased line were installed in EED.



## **DOLPHINS HABITAT CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE**

**Project Code:** IDS/52

**Applicant and Implementing Agency:** Abu Salama Society

**Total Project Budget:** LE 1,327,350 (Euro 210,000)

**Location:** Marsa Alam (Gov. Red Sea)

**Project Duration:** 1 year

**Starting Date:** September 1, 2005

**Completion Date:** November 30, 2006

### **OBJECTIVE:**



Spinner Dolphins in Samadai Reef

The project, implemented by the Egyptian NGO, with the scientific assistance of an international team of researchers, promotes the sustainable development of tourism in the Egyptian southern Red Sea coast in order to preserve the environment and the marine biodiversity. Indeed, in the last few years, Samadai reef, a natural lagoon 5 km southeast of Marsa Alam, which offers sheltered waters for a vast community of spinner dolphins (*Stenella Longirostris*), witnessed a major increase in tourism and human interaction with the Marine mammals, with a serious hazard for the fragile environmental balance. Therefore, the Project aims to

build the local capabilities, especially among rangers and field guides, in the scientific, technical and managerial field, in order to guarantee a sustainable management of the area and promote the development of a tourism which can rely on the preservation of the amazing marine biodiversity of this region as one of its main resources.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Increased knowledge of the dolphin habitat and on the appropriate use of the reef for the development of sustainable eco tourism in the area;
- Monitoring programs developed and improved and a model for the development of eco-tourist activities established;
- A protected marine area established and functioning;
- Rangers and field guides are trained in research, management procedures and techniques of specially protected areas;
- Awareness of dolphins and marine biodiversity enhanced among stakeholders and tourists;

### **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

- An in-depth knowledge of dolphins' presence and use of Samadai reef was achieved through the research activity of the international team for a more effective management and sustainable use of the area.



- A plan for the sustainable management and the monitoring of the area for tourist purposes was developed based on the acquired scientific knowledge of the dolphins' environment and on the previously acquired experience.
- 2 Rangers and Field guides were trained in protected area management procedures and techniques in order to guide visitors inside Samadai reef with the aim of respecting the dolphins' habitat and the environment and to monitor on possible violation of the regulations.
- Awareness on dolphins and marine biodiversity was enhanced among stakeholders, local operators and tourists through disseminating brochures, leaflets, snorkel books and launching a website ([www.abusalama.org](http://www.abusalama.org)), in order to promote tourism respectful of marine habitat.



Spinner Dolphins in Samadai Reef

## **PILOT PROJECT FOR THE GREEN CORRIDOR**

**Project Code:** IDS/53

**Applicant:** Ministry of Trade and Industry

**Implementing Agency:** Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

**Total Project Budget:** LE 4,037,750 (Euro 636,869)

**IDS Share:** LE 1,902,250 (Euro 300,039)

**Other Contributions:** LE 2,135,500 (Euro 336,830)

**Funds Transferred at December 2007:** LE 1,158,050

**Location:** Noubaria (Gov. Alexandria, Beheira)

**Project Duration:** 2,5 years

**Start Date:** January 1, 2006

**Expected Completion Date:** March 31, 2008

### **OBJECTIVE**



Green Corridor logo

The project is implemented in the framework of the Green Corridor Joint Declaration, signed by the Egyptian and Italian Ministers of Agriculture in 2002. The aim of the Joint Declaration is to set a framework to enhance bilateral cooperation between Italy and Egypt, facilitating and increasing the production and export to Italy and Europe of Egyptian agricultural products. In this context, the project is a pilot intervention to test and create the suitable conditions for the start-up of the Green Corridor Initiative (now renamed Green Trade Initiative).

### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

- 3000 tons of selected crops produced and exported to Italy, according to European specifications;
- a pack house established in conformity to European standards;
- traceability requirements fulfilled and quality certification obtained;
- an Operational Plan for the Green Trade Initiative is drawn according to the experience gained from the results of the pilot project.

### **PROGRESS AT DECEMBER 2007**

The management responsibility of the project was assigned by the MOTI to the MALR and, in particular, to the West Noubaria Rural Development Project (Project IDS/1). Therefore, the two projects work in close coordination and partnership. To this regard, it is worth mentioning that the main support provided by the Project IDS/1 consists in technical assistance and credit facilitation.

The project is currently experimenting with the export process to Italy of some selected crops, by supervising the entire supply chain from cultivation to final destination. Main crops concerned are: grapes, potatoes, green beans, cucumbers, artichokes, cantaloupes and pumpkins. In this framework, the project selected several Egyptian exporters and Italian importers (especially from Apulia region), in order to support them with technical assistance and consultations. To this regard, an important role is played by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, which performs several technical assistance activities for the project and has elaborated some guidelines concerning export of artichokes. So far, the project has completed successfully the export process for 128 tons of artichokes and 16 tons of green beans.



A pack house was identified in West Noubaria and the process of refurbishing according to European standards is under way.

For exported products, the project has successfully implemented an innovative geo-traceability system, which provides full tracking of products from cultivation to final destination, through the internet. In addition, the project cooperates with the Project IDS/37 (Traceability of Agro-Industrial Products for the European Market) in order to benefit from technical assistance and training in relation to the Traceability Manual elaborated by the Project IDS/37.

A study in cooperation with Italian consultants is in progress to formulate an Operational Plan for the Green Trade Initiative, which should support new business ideas in the logistic sector and improve the Egyptian competitiveness.

The project is fully committed in promoting its activities through a web site ([www.green-corridor.com](http://www.green-corridor.com)) and by attending important Egyptian and international fairs, such as Frutivég Egypt and Fruit Logistica in Berlin.



**This Report was produced by the Technical Support Unit to the  
Management Committee of the  
Italian Egyptian Debt for Development Swap Program**

