

2018

Building Resilient Communities: Focus Report on the Civil Society Component of the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Programme – Phase 3



ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

Technical Support Unit

Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Programme

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Civil Society Component of the Third Debt Swap Agreement

The [third debt swap Agreement](#) between the Government of Italy and the Government of Egypt was signed on May 10, 2012, with a validity of ten years and a total value of USD 100 million.

The Agreement continues the long-standing collaboration of the previous phases of the Programme with the civil society, which allocated EGP 34,021,328 under the first phase for 14 project, and EGP 61,493,968 for 13 projects under the second phase. Regarding the third phase Agreement, it should be noted that – unlike the previous ones - it identifies allocations by sector and, quoting the Agreement, it specifically allocates *“10% of total funds to finance Egyptian and Italian NGOs projects to be selected by the Management Committee through a call for proposals procedure, in accordance with Egyptian laws and regulations”* (article 3).

Accordingly, in 2014, the Technical Support Unit of the Debt Swap Programme on behalf of the Management Committee of the Programme launched a [call for proposals for Egyptian and Italian Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\), with deadline to present proposals set on January 9, 2014](#). A total of 63 proposals were received: 57 by Egyptian NGOs, and 6 by Italian NGOs.

The selection panel included representatives from the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Italian Embassy/Italian Cooperation office, and met several times between March and April 2014 to discuss the proposed initiatives. During the last meeting on April 28, 2014 [the panel selected 12 initiatives, 6 by Egyptian NGOs and 6 by Italian NGOs](#), listed in table 1.

In addition to these 12 initiatives, [a new project by an Egyptian NGO has been formulated upon request of the Management Committee in early 2018](#), as a continuation of previous projects funded by the Italian Cooperation targeting the conservation of traditional habitations in Siwa Oasis. This project will be financed by the unspent budget of a project implemented under the second phase of the Programme which also operated in the environmental and cultural heritage field. The new initiative, titled “Rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Center of Siwa Oasis (Shali)”, will be implemented by the Siwa Community Development and Environment Conservation Association (SCDECA). The stakeholders are currently in the process of signing the Project Implementing Agreement for this initiative.

Legal Framework

In Egypt, the civil society is regulated by **Law 70 of 2017**, which replaced Law 84 of 2002.

The new law became effective on **May 25, 2017**, and according to the Egyptian law the executive regulations should have been issued within two months from the day it became effective.

However, the **executive bylaws are still under formulation**, and organizations are now operating in an uncertain situation. In fact, all Egyptian and international organizations were supposed to conform to the new regulations within one year from the ratification of the new law, which set the deadline on May 25, 2018.

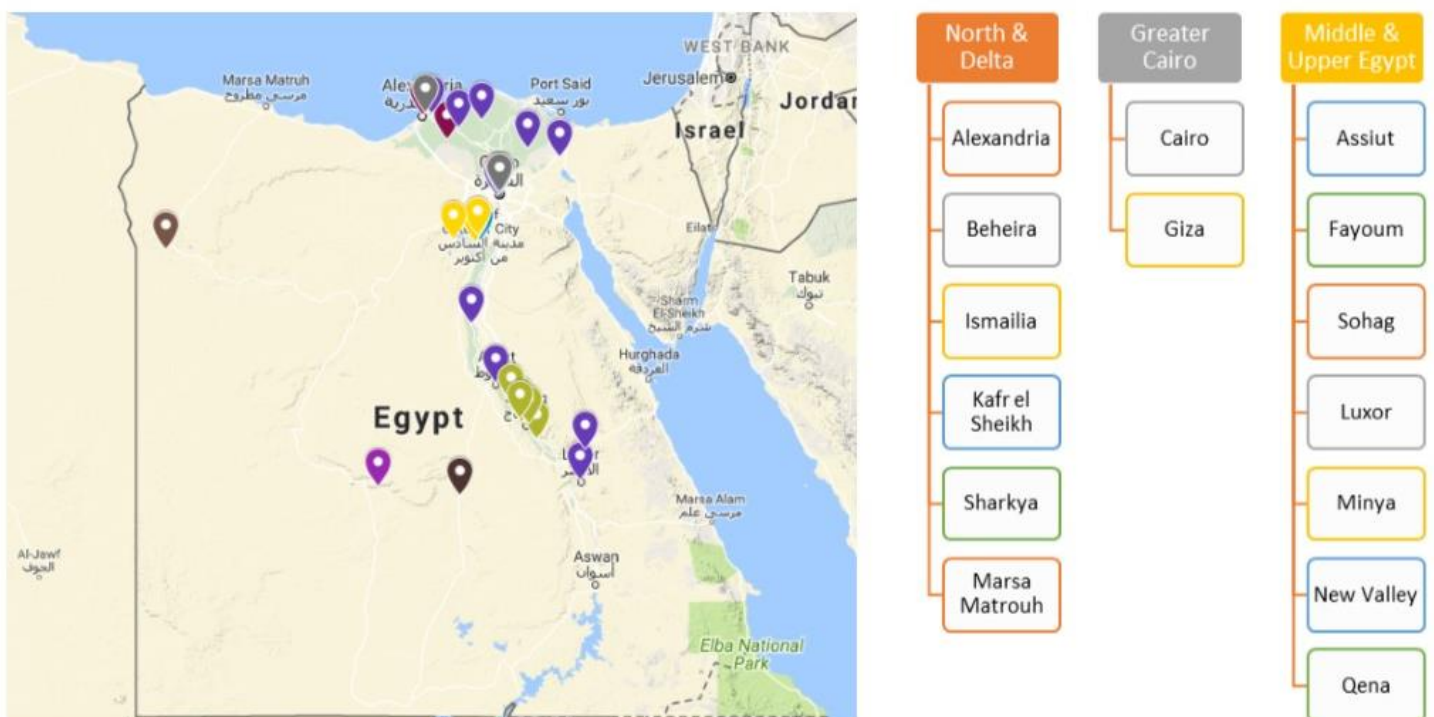
Table 1 – List of NGOs' Initiatives

	Title	NGO	Budget in EGP
Egyptian NGOs	Tamkeen: Empowering Women –with focus on Female Heads of Household (FHHs)– and Youths in Fayoum Governorate	ADEW	5,000,000
	Reintegration and protection of the social, health and legal rights of young women and street children	Hope Village Society	4,610,155
	Protection and Empowerment of Children at Risk in Greater Cairo Social Care Institutions	MMBA	3,400,000
	Employ Some to Feed Many	New Horizon	5,000,000
	Empowering Women in Fayoum Rural Areas (EWFRA)	FAODA	5,000,000
	Healthy Artistic Recovery for Mental and Other Needs Disability (HARMONY)	AWSC	5,000,000
	Rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Center of Siwa Oasis (Shali)	SCDECA	700,000
Italian NGOs	Safer Environment for Children – Phase II	Save the Children	5,000,000
	Actions for Marginalized Groups in Greater Cairo	Ricerca e Cooperazione	5,000,000
	Vocational training of arts and crafts for monuments restoration and cultural property promotion in the community	CIERA	5,000,000
	Strengthening business environment for the eco-tourist development of New Valley Governorate	CISS	4,991,300
	Handicraft and Organic Agriculture Producers' Empowerment	COSPE	5,000,000
	Becoming leaders: creation of working opportunities and sustainable economic development for Upper Egyptian women	MAIS	5,000,000

The projects operate within the following sectors, in line with the priorities set in the 2014 call for proposals:

- Women's empowerment;
- Promotion of handcraft and fair-trade;
- Job creation and training of youth;
- Human resources development and capacity building of NGOs;
- Family and child protection;
- Environment and Culture Heritage;
- Poverty alleviation and community development;
- Civil society and local authorities strengthening.

The projects cover a wide variety of the Egyptian territory, from the urban areas of Cairo and Giza Governorates, to the poorest rural Governorates such as Sohag in Upper Egypt, as shown in the visuals below¹.



¹ An interactive version of the map can be found at the following link: <https://goo.gl/AzPu4J>

Financial Status of the Civil Society Component up to May 31st, 2018

Up to May 31st, 2018, a total of EGP 58,001,455 has been allocated for NGOs initiatives under the third phase of the Programme, of which EGP 40,913,801 have already been transferred to the bank accounts of the projects and hence cancelled in accordance to article n. 4 of the Agreement, as detailed in the table below.

Table 2 – Financial status of approved initiatives

Project Code #	Applicant	Project's Title	Approved Budgets	Installments released until 31 April 2018	%	Remaining Budget	Closing Date
			EGP	EGP		EGP	
		<i>Running projects with Implementing Agreement Already Signed</i>					
DS_III_01	Save The Children	"Safer Environment for Children - Phase II (SEC-II)"	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	100%	-	Nov-16
DS_III_03	ADEW	Tamkeen: Empowering Women -with focus on Female Heads of Household (FHHs) - and Youths in Fayoum Governorate	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	100%	-	Feb-17
DS_III_04	HVS	Reintegration and Protection of the Social, Health and Legal Rights of Young Women and Street Children	4,610,155.00	4,610,155.00	100%	-	Feb-18
DS_III_05	MMBA	Protection and Empowerment of Children at Risk in Greater Cairo Social Care Institutions	3,400,000.00	3,400,000.00	100%	-	Sep-17
DS_III_07	RC	Actions for Marginalized Groups	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	100%	-	Feb-18
DS_III_09	New Horizon	Employ Some to Feed Many	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	100%	-	Aug-18
DS_III_10	FAODA	Empowering Women in Fayoum Rural Areas (EWFRA)	5,000,000.00	3,590,140.00	72%	1,409,860.00	Jan-20
DS_III_11	COSPE	Handicraft and Organic Agriculture Producers' Empowerment - "HOPE"	5,000,000.00	2,839,852.00	57%	2,160,148.00	Dec-19
DS_III_12	MAIS	Becoming Leaders: Creation of working opportunities and sustainable economic development for Upper Egypt's women	5,000,000.00	1,661,340.00	33%	3,338,660.00	Dec-19
DS_III_13	CISS	"Strengthening Business Environment for the eco-touristic development of New Valley Governorate"	4,991,300.00	2,203,950.00	44%	2,787,350.00	Feb-21
DS_III_16	AWSC	HARMONY- Healthy Artistic Recovery for Mental and Other Needs Disability	5,000,000.00	2,608,364.00	52%	2,391,636.00	Aug-20
	CIERA	"Vocational Training of arts and crafts for monuments restoration and Cultural Property promotion in the community"	5,000,000.00		0%	5,000,000.00	
		Total	58,001,455.00	40,913,801.00		17,087,654.00	

It should be noted that the contribution of EGP 700,000 that will finance the initiative titled "Rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Center of Siwa Oasis (Shali)" is actually remaining funds from a project implemented under the second phase of the Programme, titled "Support to the Egyptian Protected Areas (SEPA), which also operated in the field of cultural heritage and its conservation.

It is worth mentioning that all initiatives – but the one by SCDECA – have been formulated in 2014. Since then, inflation rate has considerably raised, and the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound against the US Dollar has taken place in November 2016. Therefore, all projects had to modify their budget in light of the new market costs with consequent technical adjustments that would ensure the achievement of the same objectives even after the financial review.

Status of the Initiatives

Currently, [four projects of the civil society component have been already concluded](#) (all by Egyptian NGOs) with positive results, as will be discussed more in detail later in this report. [Seven projects are ongoing](#) (four by Italian NGOs and three by Egyptian NGOs), [one is in the process of opening the bank account](#), and [one is in the process to be approved by the Management Committee](#) of the Programme in order to sign the Project Implementing Agreement.

The initiatives promoted by the civil society are mainly concerned with community development, and work with beneficiaries such as women, youth, children, farmers and artisans among others. Overall, [more than 6,500 women and 800 youths are targeted](#), showing a clear focus on those sections of the population that are the most affected by unemployment. Additionally, in the field of social protection, [more than 25,000 children](#) are targeted; among them are particularly children at risk, children living in the streets, and children living in social care institutions. While disabled individuals might fall under the previous categories, [on a project specifically works with mentally disabled people, targeting at least 70 in total](#). The projects also target to create more than [250 SMEs](#) operating in agriculture, ecotourism, handicrafts, and other fields; these SMEs will promote employment and income-generating activities mainly among women and youth, who will be trained in business skills and in some cases will be given microcredit loans to launch their projects. An incubator for SMEs will also be established in the New Valley Governorate, an underserved area for start-up companies. Additionally, the projects target more than [280 members of staff of non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations](#), as well as [68 local government officials](#), who are provided with training and capacity building opportunities.

36,000+ Direct Beneficiaries

- Women
- Youth
- Children at risk
- People with disabilities
- Farmers and artisans
- SMEs

250,000+ Indirect Beneficiaries

- Families of direct beneficiaries
- Inhabitants of the targeted territories

In regard to microcredit loans, [more than 3,800 have or will receive microcredit loans, of which almost EGP 5,000,000 have already been disbursed](#). Additionally, 700 groups have also received microcredit through the Village Loans Saving Association model for a total of EGP 1,391,025.

Table 3 - Status of the initiatives promoted by NGOs

Title	NGO	Approval by MC	Signing of PIA	First Installment	Status
Safer Environment for Children – Phase II	Save the Children	July 2014	28.08.2014	19.10.2014	Concluded
Tamkeen: Empowering Women –with focus on Female Heads of Household (FHHs)– and Youths in Fayoum Governorate	ADEW	September 2014	22.10.2014	18.02.2015	Concluded
Reintegration and protection of the social, health and legal rights of young women and street children	Hope Village Society	September 2014	09.11.2014	22.02.2015	Concluded
Protection and Empowerment of Children at Risk in Greater Cairo Social Care Institutions	MMBA	October 2014	18.11.2014	04.03.2015	Concluded
Actions for Marginalized Groups in Greater Cairo	Ricerca e Cooperazione	February 2015	09.08.2015	22.09.2015	Ongoing
Employ Some to Feed Many	New Horizon	June 2015	21.04.2016	18.08.2016	Ongoing
Empowering Women in Fayoum Rural Areas (EWFRA)	FAODA	June 2015	28.11.2016	09.01.2017	Ongoing
Strengthening business environment for the eco-tourist development of New Valley Governorate	CISS	August 2015	19.12.2016	-	Ongoing
Healthy Artistic Recovery for Mental and Other Needs Disability (HARMONY)	AWSC	June 2016	25.05.2017	-	Ongoing
Handicraft and Organic Agriculture Producers' Empowerment	COSPE	June 2016	05.11.2017	31.12.2017	Ongoing
Becoming leaders: creation of working opportunities and sustainable economic development for Upper Egyptian women	MAIS	March 2017	05.11.2017	31.12.2017	Ongoing
Vocational training of arts and crafts for monuments restoration and cultural property promotion in the community	CIERA	October 2015	28.11.2016	-	Opening bank account
Rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Center of Siwa Oasis (Shali)	SCDECA	Pending	Pending	Pending	PIA under signature

Progress of the Initiatives: Egyptian NGOs

Tamkeen: Empowering Women – with focus on Female Heads of Household (FHHs) – and Youths in Fayoum Governorate



The project, now concluded, operated in the underserved community of El Adwa district in Fayoum Governorate and intended to contribute to local interventions on poverty alleviation and against social and economic exclusion. The project aimed to enhance women empowerment through capacity building activities, the creation of immediate employment, advocacy and the initiation of a sustainable development mechanism benefiting the area.

Overall Objective: To alleviate poverty among underserved community in Fayoum Governorate.

Specific Objective(s): To promote women empowerment in Fayoum El Adwa district by establishing development mechanisms and enhancing capacities.

Expected Results:

R1: At least 300 among disadvantaged Female Heads of Household, young women and men are economically empowered through capacity building and loans disbursement (Micro credit component)

R2: The legal status and conditions of 5136 women and adolescent girls is improved and their awareness on legal issues is increased (legal component)

R3: At least 540 women are socially empowered, thus women's participation in community public life has increased (self-confidence component)

R4: The sustainability of legal and social services is ensured in the long term by enhancing the capacities of 150 natural leaders, 15 government officials and 3 CDAs (Community Mobilization)

R5: The image of women in general and of poor FHHs in particular has improved among policy makers, media, and the community

Code: DS_III_03

Applicant:

Association for the
Development and
Enhancement of Women
(ADEW)

Implementing Agency(ies):

ADEW

Location:

Fayoum Governorate

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 5,000,000

PIA:

October 22, 2014

Start:

March 1st, 2015

End:

February 2nd, 2017

Status:

Concluded

Status of the Initiative

The project successfully concluded in June 2017, implementing all planned activities and making progress towards its main objective to alleviate poverty among the beneficiaries. In total, more than 3,000 individuals directly benefitted from the project, along with more than 16,000 indirect beneficiaries (families of beneficiaries as well as the communities where they live).



The project was relevant to the real needs of the beneficiaries, as the targeted villages, El Edwa and its surrounding small informal villages of Abu El Sa'od and Al Ameria, are among the most marginalized and poor rural communities in Fayoum Governorate, where most women are illiterate and households are of very low economic status. In addition, the targeted areas are culturally quite conservative, and widows find themselves in a critical situation due to the difficulty to find employment and/or starting a business. However, thanks to ADEW's

excellent work in involving the whole community (i.e. not only women but also community leaders, local government officials, Community Development Associations, etc.) the perception of women in these areas improved, and the beneficiaries were able to enjoy better living conditions in both the private and public sphere. In order to ensure sustainability and continuity, ADEW kept the office that was opened in Fayoum for the project for managing the revolving microcredit loans and future interventions.

Since its inception phase, the project adopted a strategy referred to as "integrated interventions" which proved highly successful. This entailed implementing activities that complemented each other and provided beneficiaries with empowerment tools in different levels, such as programs that aimed at increasing their self confidence and relations with their families, literacy programs for 180 women, legal services (including issuing 1,830 IDs and 751 birth certificates), community mobilization to include women to the public sphere life and decision-making at a community level, and microcredit loans for beneficiaries to start or improve their small businesses. In line with this approach, 85% of the women beneficiaries have received two or more types of services from the project, as needed, for a more rounded intervention aiming at enhancing their overall living conditions.

In addition, the participatory approach seemed effective; the involvement of local administrative authorities and government institutions from the beginning of the project contributed to the effectiveness of the Community Mobilization Component. The local management committees (street committees and district committees) that are composed by community leaders and/or women were able to create solid partnerships with concerned authorities and propose different local initiatives related to the public needs.

The educational package contributed to women social empowerment, by rising self-confidence through learning experience, health and nutrition knowledge, developing vocational and life skills, exposure to social activities and different environments outside women's localities. Most importantly, these activities encouraged women to participate in community public life.

Through the microcredit component, the project distributed loans to 690 women, for a total value of EGP 1,032,500 and a repayment rate of 100%. Thanks to these loans, women were able to sustain extra expenses needed for them or their families, while others used this money for their small business or open

new projects (i.e. groceries stores, poultry husbandry, etc.). Microcredit loans will continue revolving even upon completion, so that more women can benefit from it.

The project was also able to quickly adapt to the needs of the beneficiaries, and medical convoys were sent to the target areas in collaboration with the Governor of Fayoum and the Department of Health. In total, more than 2,300 women benefitted from the healthcare services provided (visits, provision of medications, etc.).

Many positive impressions were expressed by the beneficiaries:



"They taught me that women have rights, and educated me about how women can obtain their rights. I also obtained my personal ID card and birth certificate."

"Since I obtained the microcredit loan, I expanded my project, which improved the living conditions of myself and my kids."

"The loan helped me expand my project. Now, I can give my kids private lessons and gain enough money sufficient for our expenses."

Throughout the lifetime of the project, representatives from the Technical Support Unit conducted two monitoring visits (on October 26, 2016 and May 16, 2017) and attended the final closing event held in Fayoum City. During the visit, TSU representatives spoke with project staff and conducted interviews with the beneficiaries. Positive impact was seen on beneficiaries, and the TSU team observed that women developed a sense of self confidence by being socially and economically empowered.

The project closing event was held on August 28, 2017 in Fayoum. The event was very successful, a very good presentation was performed by the project team as well as the project's beneficiaries, who discussed their success stories and how the project activities have changed their life.

Reintegration and protection of the social, health and legal rights of young women and street children in Greater Cairo Governorate



The project, now concluded, operated in Imbaba area at Greater Cairo and intended to support a comprehensive program to enhance the quality, the effectiveness and the impact of services provided by NGOs to street children, as well as the quality of life and future opportunities for young street

mothers. The project aimed to facilitate the reintegration – when possible - of children into their families, by also providing micro-loans, and with local Government and NGOs to facilitate other services delivery (e.g. hospital referrals and literacy programs). In this respect, the project focused on capacity building, through the provision of diversified capacity building and training programs addressing HVS members, the improvement of social workers qualifications and creation of a more protective environment for children within the NGOs.

Overall Objective: To contribute improving the quality of life and future prospects of young street mothers and girls, as well as reducing the street children phenomenon in Giza Governorate.

Specific Objective(s): Promoting young street mothers' and girls' empowerment within their families and communities in Giza by establishing and providing a supportive care environment and enhancing capacities.

Expected Results:

R1: Care services are provided to at least 1000 street children out of which 20 are trained as youth mentors on health issues (health check-up and basic medication, food counselling)

R2: The life condition of at least 500 young street mothers and girls is improved through social rehabilitation, family integration to at least 100 child, and awareness raising on health, rights and legal issues

R3: At least 320 street children/youth are economically empowered through vocational training, literacy programs and at least 200 loan disbursements.

R4: The sustainability of street children and children at risk social inclusion is ensured in the long term by enhancing the capacities of 10 community leaders, 20 street children and 4 NGOs/ CDAs (foster sustainability and reach out of the actions) whereas lessons are transferred to 100 community members

R5: Awareness is raised on the phenomenon of street children among policy makers, media and the community for collective support and providing solutions.

Code: DS_III_04

Applicant:

Hope Village Society (HVS)

Implementing Agency(ies):

Hope Village Society (HVS)

Location:

Greater Cairo

Budget:

EGP 4,610,155

Transferred:

EGP 4,610,155

PIA:

November 9, 2014

Start:

March 1, 2015

End:

February 28, 2018

Status:

Concluded

Status of the Initiative

The project successfully concluded in February 2018, implementing all planned activities and reaching out to more than 25,000 street girls, boys and mothers, plus more than 100 indirect beneficiaries (community leaders and community members as well as the communities where they live). Hope Village Society provided the street children with social and family care by emphasizing social values and behaviors based on the principles of cooperation and self-dependence, an approach that they use in all their projects and daily work. It should also be noted that HVS uses a specific model to outreach to children, which has also been adopted by the relevant authorities at a national level. According to this model, children are first approached by mobile units, to gain their trust and interest, and they are then invited to the reception centers, where they can spend the day and receive services or join activities. The next step are short-term shelters, that host those children who could be reincluded into their families. For those without any other prospect, long-term shelters are available until 18 years of age.

The project was relevant to the real needs of the beneficiaries, as the targeted area of Imbaba is among the most marginalized and poor communities in Greater Cairo Governorate, with a high number of street children living in the area. In addition, as reported by the NGO, children enjoy poor rights and are often victim of violence, early marriage and abuse, with poor support from their families. There, HVS established a fully equipped 3-floor daycare center, which provided street girls, boys and mothers a caring and supportive environment with access to services such as medical examinations, hospital referrals, counselling, and literacy classes or vocational training opportunities; the center also distributes meals and clothes. In average, the center received an average of 36 children per day, for a total of more than 24,500 children participating to the center's leisure activities and outdoor trips during project implementation. The center also registered more than 1,200 new cases. The center also organized literacy programs for more than 1,400 children and 30 women. Vocational trainings were also organized for a total of 60 women and girls in soap making and other skills. In line with their model of operation, they also developed a mobile unit to outreach to children living in the streets surrounding the center, which provided services to more than 1,400 children.



For a more comprehensive approach, the project also involved the families of the children to facilitate their reintegration into the familiar nucleus, and to improve their economic conditions as a way to reduce the chance of exposing children to life in the streets. In line with this, the project also facilitated the reintegration of the children into the families, examining each case to understand the causes for children's runaway. In total, the project managed to reintegrate 117 children. In addition, the project worked with girls and mothers by organizing weekly awareness sessions on topics such as personal hygiene, pregnancy, and how to deal with children. Thanks to these sessions, the mothers saw improvements in the relationship with their children, enrolled them back to schools, and they got encouraged in applying for requesting microcredit loans from HVS.

The project included a microcredit component as way to improve the livelihoods of the families of street children or children at risk. In total, 489 women received microcredit loans, for a total of EGP 1,917,000, with a repayment rate at almost 100%. The funds will continue to revolve, and the money collected from interests (set at 1.5%) will ensure compensation for the officer managing the fund.

“Since I obtained the microcredit loan, I started my own project selling cleaning tools and products; my husband helps me in selling the products, and this small business improved the living conditions of our family.”



The project also selected 20 girls from the beneficiaries and trained them to become mentors to other children living in the street. The training covered topics such as first aid, awareness, how to deal with other street children, as well as the services provided by the center. This will also ensure the sustainability of project's outputs, as the mentors will continue their work also now that IEDS financial contribution concluded.

“When I became a mentor, they taught me how to help other street children on health issues, mainly first aid, and how to encourage them to visit the center to benefit from HVS's services.”

In order to have an impact at the institutional level, the project implemented 20 rounds of training for social workers and psychologists, in order to build their capacity and equip them with the needed knowledge to work with street mothers and girls during their permanence in the center or while in the streets.

Throughout the lifetime of the project, representatives from the Technical Support Unit conducted two monitoring visits, on May 2016 and December 2017, during which they met the project beneficiaries and conducted interviews with them. Positive impact was seen on boys and girls, and especially the youth mentors. The TSU team also observed that women who attended training and/or received microcredit loans developed a sense of self confidence by being socially and economically empowered, and all the women who received microcredit loans were satisfied with the amount, which allowed them to improve their business, and with the interest rate, which they deemed fair and could easily pay back the loan. The TSU also attended the final closing event of the project, which was organized as a conference, with main stakeholders discussing topics related to street children, and presenting not only the achievements of the projects but also interesting case studies from other countries and projects.

“Protection and Empowerment of Children at Risk in Greater Cairo Social Care Institutions”



The project aimed at protecting and empowering children in difficult situations and at risk hosted in four Juvenile Care Homes in Greater Cairo, managed by the Department of Social Defence of the Ministry of Social Solidarity. The initiative contributed to the institutional strengthening of those Social Care Institutions (SCI) by improving their operating systems and facilities, as well as developing the capacities of their staff members. Consequently, a safer environment, better services and new opportunities will be given to children.

Overall objective: To contribute to improving social, health, educational and psychological conditions of children at risk in Social Care Institutions in Greater Cairo Governorates.

Specific objective: To empower 400 children at risk by rehabilitating 4 SCIs through establishing supportive safe environment, enhancing capacities and integration with local community in Greater Cairo.

Expected Results

R1: Care services are provided, and protection of rights is ensured for children at risk;

R2: Safe living environment for children is provided and sustained by developing the capacities of at least 80 staff members in management, children's rights, child treatment methods and related technical skills;

R3: At least 400 children are empowered to participate in and communicate with local community through raising the awareness on children's rights;

R4: The mental and physical health conditions of at least 60% of children in the selected SCIs are improved through provision of direct care services.

Code: DS_III_05

Applicant:

Masr El Mahrousa Baladi
Association (MMBA)

**Implementing
Agency(ies):**

MMBA

Location:

Greater Cairo

Budget:

EGP 3,400,000

Transferred:

EGP 3,400,000

PIA:

November 18, 2014

Start:

April 1st, 2015

End:

December 31st, 2017

Status:

Concluded

Status of the Initiative

Concluded in December 2017, the project has effectively contributed to improving four Social Care Institutions (SCIs) in Greater Cairo. These SCIs were selected by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and accommodate a total of 400 children of both sexes.

The targeted institutions are all classified as “*open social care institutions*”, meaning they are secured by civilian staff rather than regular police security. Children may leave the institution upon permission requested by one of their parent/guardian after signing a statement indicating that they are responsible for returning the child to the institution in due time as mentioned in the permission form, and/or children return to their parents after reaching the age of 18. The children are either transferred to the institutions through the police security or the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS), other SCIs, and/or Mobile Units. The Department of Social Defense at the MOSS is responsible, for general inspection and administrative, technical and financial supervision of these juvenile care homes.

In order to address the needs of SCIs and children, the project adopted a strategy of four integrated modules: institutional development component; capacity building and on-job training component; development of awareness and self-confidence component; and medical, educational, social and psychological services component. All of these modules have put emphasis on: a) strengthening the institutions structure to enhance the performance by improving the operating organization’s systems (including child rights’ policies, activating internal rules, regulations, policies & protection systems), and the physical condition of the institution (refurbishing works and provision of needed facilities/equipment to improve the activities and quality of living environment); b) capacity building to SCI staff members and management, as well as awareness raising, practical and theoretical programs on “child’s rights & treatment methods”; and c) empowerment of children (girls and boys) by means of designed awareness, arts and vocational training programs for enablement and self-confidence.

On the level of SCIs/institutions, the project succeeded in strengthening the institutional structures of the targeted SCIs and was able to create an applicable management model that endorsed organization management and administrative systems implemented by the SCIs staff (82 members, social workers, psychologists), who had been reinforced through the provision of on-job training, operational guidance and continuous interaction and follow-up by the project team. The model included regulations and policies, children’s rights and methods for child treatment, as well as formats for tracking children’s portfolio and history “Child File”. Printed guidelines and related materials were also provided for future references, not only for targeted SCIs but also for other SCIs’ staff and those working in related fields such as social workers, psychiatrists, officials from MOSS and the Department of Civil Defense (160 participants: 109 females and 51 males-participated in the training programs including 111 social workers and 49 psychologists).

What was most effective about the capacity building programs, as explained by the SCIs’ managers, was:

“beside the theoretical information that was given, the delivery of the on-job training and the TOT training that practically developed the knowledge, technical and professional skills of the staff, supervisors and managers especially in areas of psychology, how to deal with, manage, and solve child-problems”.

The renovation of the targeted SCIs, where infrastructure underwent repair and maintenance, will secure a sustainable safer environment and healthy living conditions for the accommodated children, considering that rehabilitated works will be sustained by the targeted SCIs.



On the level of the children at risk, the project contributed to developing children's sense of independence (to a certain extent), and self-confidence through the awareness, education, psychological and social activities.

The children have benefited from the development and enhancement of their host institutions, both in terms of in terms of equipment and infrastructure, as well as services provided (medical services, psychological treatment, educational services). In total, 400 children have benefited from the child protection policies, medical care, psychological, educational and special activities (as sports, theatre, arts, etc.). They also became aware of their rights and obligations as well as acquainted with prevention of infectious diseases. 60 children have successfully passed the literacy stages tests of the Adult Education Authority, and 12 children (8 girls and 4 boys) have been formally enrolled in formal education preparatory school in year 2018.

The special activities (theatre, sports, scout, computer, etc.), training on arts and vocational works (carpentry, hand-woven wool carpets, bakery/cooking, and knitting) have supported the development of children's technical skills, helped in team building and self-impression, and ultimately minimized the aggressive behavior and negative attitude between them. Hands-on evidence on skills formation and development of self-confidence took place during one of TSU's team visits (a total of five monitoring visits were performed throughout the project) to one of the workshops at a male institution, where they spoke to the beneficiaries about their acquisition of skills, which seemed promising for future income-generating activities. However, more efforts must be directed to the vocational and handcraft works to strengthen the children's self-reliance and future economic independence. As stated by one of the SCIs' managers:



"these activities had greatly affected their attitude and behavior, it helped make them socialize and feel confident especially that they chose what kind of activity they want to join in according to their preference and desire."

To support marketing the children's products, the project designed a marketing plan, which involves attending local fairs and a YouTube channel².

In order to sustain the activities of the project, two of the SCIs (Al-Horreya and Dar Al Aman) designed a plan for the transfer of children's experiences, so that trained children could become leaders in music, scouts and sports activities, and continue activities with the other children. Additionally, this further helped build the capacity and self confidence of the children.

² The channel can be visited at this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceIAjdHFvtw

Other girls were also trained by social workers as leaders on how to deal with newly comers and youngsters and solve basic problems. This is considered very beneficial because it can solve the problem that SCIs face in recruiting qualified social workers who may not accept the salary offered, which is low. The same was also applied in the boys' institutions.

On the community level, the project raised awareness among the different stakeholders including the MOSS/Department of Social Defense and SCIs managers on child's right, particularly for those residing in juvenile care institutions, and enhancing their cooperation in towards impacting the local community. However, intensive additional efforts are needed to drive the society's attention towards juvenile children care institutions, e.g. have the private and public sectors get involved in supporting children's empowerment and strengthen the SCIs' financial resources.



Representatives from the TSU of the Programme and from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation conducted five monitoring visits throughout project implementation. During these visits, it was apparent that the participatory approach employed by the project from the very beginning and during implementation of activities has developed a sense of partnership and ownership of actions; moreover, it promoted networking among the managers and staff of similar institutions. Additionally, the engagement of officials from the Social Defense Department of the Ministry of Social Solidarity empowered readiness to endorsement of protection systems and reinforced the child's right policies.

At the end, the project's results have raised the attention to the importance of focusing on the empowerment of children through the development of their vocational and technical skills to ensure self-reliance, and guarantee self-employment after they leave the SCIs. At the same time, the SCIs should be developed as a productive center, that equip the children with real skills that can improve their future livelihoods and economic conditions. More efforts are required for renovating and equipping the vocational workshops already available in the institutions for maximizing financial resources.

Employ some to feed many



The project focuses on job creation through vocational trainings for youth in organic agriculture field to achieve food security in the New Valley Governorate. The project aims to enhance youth capacities to help them to find jobs and increase

their income through vocational trainings. Furthermore, the project supports young people to start their own small business to generate job opportunities not only for them but also for others. Developing youth skills in organic agriculture will increase land productivity, refresh the agricultural sector and promote the idea of food safety in the New Valley.

Overall Objective: To contribute to the concept of reverse migration by supporting the socio-economic enhancement of New Valley through the establishment of a sustainable development mechanism and the promotion of an organic agricultural life-style.

Specific Objective(s): To promote the social-economic development of Balat community in El Dakhla Oasis in New Valley Governorate through jobs creation in the field of organic agriculture and handcrafts, capacity building programmes, business start-up and raising awareness activities.

Expected Results:

R1. At least 90% of 350 trained youth is able to get jobs in organic agriculture field and their income is increased.

R2. At least 90% of employed small farmers is able to expand the size of agricultural land in order to ensure the availability of food in the community.

R3. At least 60% of the trained women is able to enhance its socio-economic status by obtaining job opportunities.

R4. At least 80% of the trained youth is qualified to successfully manage its own small project

R5. 3 trained local NGOs have their own local initiatives which support employment theme.

R6. Community members are able to adopt an organic lifestyle and modern agricultural practices.

R7. 250 young businessmen start their own small projects and stay at their family place in the New Valley, contributing to the achievement of the reverse migration concept.

Code: DS_III_09

Applicant:

New Horizon Association
for Social Development
(NHASD)

Implementing Agency(ies):

NHASD

Location:

El Dakhla Oasis, New
Valley Governorate

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 5,000,000

PIA:

April 21, 2016

Start:

September 1st, 2016

End:

August 31st, 2018

Status:

In progress

Status of the Initiative

The intervention contributes to alleviate poverty, social and economic exclusion in the El Dakhla Oasis in New Valley Governorate, with emphasis on local community development. Activities to achieve such aim include creating job opportunities for youth and women, and promoting of agro-food production. The project intends to link youth with the business community in order to facilitate their employment and create job opportunities. In addition, the project will work on enhancing and developing their abilities and skills in preparation for establishing their own private projects. Results are achieved through the sub-grants that some of the beneficiaries will obtain to start SMEs; those who will not be able to receive the sub-grants will be supported by the project in cooperation with government officials (governorate and Ministry of Agriculture), and/or will be connected to the business sector. The targeted total direct beneficiaries are at least 1630 among youth, women, small farmers, community members, and local NGOs' representatives.

The project mainly tackles two main problems that affect the New Valley population: first, the lack of food security caused by the negligence of the agriculture sector which lead the people to import daily needs of vegetables and fruits from Assiut Governorate (350 km away), and second, the lack of job opportunities which forced unemployed youth to migrate either to other governorates or outside Egypt.

To address these problems, the initiative applies an integrated strategy that puts emphasis on different sets of activities: theoretical and practical vocational training for employment in the field of organic agriculture; on-job training for small farmers on project's reclaimed land or/and the farmers' lands; women economic empowerment; supporting local NGOs through building their capacities; develop SMEs for project beneficiaries; collaboration with governmental institutions; and raise community awareness on new organic cultivation and irrigation systems for securing beneficiaries' own food needs.

In general, activities are detailed and designed to reach positive results; a range of activities pursued in encouraging job creation in organic agriculture field and income generation addressed to youth, farmers and women for the creation of small enterprises. Awareness raising campaigns had been delivered targeting 700 youth on topics such as food security, organic food, water management, environmental sustainability and gender equity.

Activities related to capacity building and sub-grants for NGOs are funded by other donor organizations, namely the Social Fund for Development and Ford Foundation, that are collaborating with New Horizon in implementation for increasing employment opportunities and capacities of youth.

In attainment of R1, the project has implemented vocational trainings aimed at developing the skills of 350 youths of both sexes on organic agriculture field enabling them to increase their income. Some of the participants succeeded in starting their own business even before the vocational training was concluded, as reported by the project. The trainings are implemented in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture, which has made available qualified certified trainees. As reported by the project, "the rate of participation and interaction during the training was very high and positive, and it helped the youth to change their



mentality towards agriculture-related professions. Additionally, the governor of New Valley has visited the project and encouraged the youth to take part to the project by facilitating the acquisition of land to them, for starting their cultivations". The trainings are conducted according to different topics such as organic agriculture techniques, organic compost techniques, green house management, and irrigation systems and water management.

In attainment of R2, the project intended to help Small farmers (120 men and women) to claim and cultivate 50 fadden from the new reclaimed lands, to be prepared for horizontal cultivation by the project that supported the establishment of the irrigation networks connection, leveling and flattening. On-Job training are in progress to train the small farmers on preparing and cultivating new land using laser techniques, better agricultural practices, and the production of different crops.



As for women economic empowerment, the project has developed a set of tailored vocational trainings aimed at developing the capacity of 150 women skills on traditional and innovative products. The trainings focus on dairy cheese products, carpets and rugs, and tree recycling into wood products.

One of the success story, as reported by the project, is that by the end of the training in rugs and carpets making conducted by the Local Community Development Association of Beshendi (LCDA), the women have been hired by this same association to work in their workshop and produce goods for the market.

In order to enable the youth to improve their business skills in starting up projects and ensure sustainability in managing their business activities, as well as developing good financial and communications strategies, the project is delivering capacity building programs that entail skills development in marketing, communication, management and monitoring.

Empowering Women in Fayoum Rural Areas (EWFRA)



The project operates in Biahmo, Demshqueen, Abheet, Menshat Demo and Kahk villages at Fayoum and intends to enhance the socio- economic status of Egyptian rural families and promoting local women empowerment by fostering a sustainable development of poultry husbandry of the indigenous Fayoumi breed in Fayoum Governorate and building the capacity of partner CDAs in local rural areas. The project will play a significant role towards the achievements of women's economic development by targeting unemployed household women and girls, as beneficiaries, to upgrade their skills and provide them with micro finance actions, and possibilities to access market resources.

Overall Objective: To enhance the socio-economic status of Egyptian rural families and to promote local women empowerment by fostering a sustainable development of poultry husbandry in Fayoum Governorate.

Specific Objective(s): To enhance the socio-economic status of rural families and women in the communities of Fayoum, Yousef el Sediqe and Senouris districts in the Governorate of Fayoum, by building the capacity of partner CDAs in rural areas and fostering poultry husbandry of the indigenous Fayoumi breed.

Expected Results:

R1: 5 partner CDAs have their institutional capacity and human resources developed (Capacity building to local CDAs component),

R2: Cadre of the neighbourhood have been prepared to play their active roles in the targeted villages,

R3: Targeted poor families have increased their income by an average of 15%,

R4: Targeted poor families that received small poultry units have contributed to the revival of the indigenous poultry breed,

R5: 5 marketing committees are established in 5 targeted villages and 5 business plans are developed.

Code: DS_III_10

Applicant:

Fayoum Agro Organic
Development Association
(FAODA)

Implementing Agency(ies):

FAODA

Location:

Fayoum Governorate

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 3,590,140

PIA:

November 28, 2016

Start:

February 1st, 2017

End:

January 31st, 2020

Status:

In progress

Status of the Initiative

The project is currently in the 3rd semester of implementation; so far, most activities are going according to what has been planned.

The targeted geographical areas are among the poorest rural communities in Fayoum Governorate, hence this initiative is well needed to improve the living conditions of the beneficiaries. In addition, the initiative works not only with the women beneficiaries, but also with the communities and local civil society in order to ensure sustainability and continuity of results.

During the inception phase, the project selected 5 Community Development Associations (CDAs), one per targeted village (Beahmo, Abheet El-Hagar, Demo, Damshqeen, and Kahk), and conducted a needs assessment on which the consequent training was based. Moreover, 5 marketing committees have been formulated in the targeted CDAs. These committees are responsible to develop business plans and assist the beneficiaries in selling both eggs and poultry.

17 neighborhood volunteers have also been selected from the targeted villages, and they were trained by professionals in the field of veterinary. Upon completion of their training, they started to provide awareness sessions for the beneficiaries and other women on topics such as good practices in raising poultry, basic healthcare for poultry, biosecurity, etc. It is important to notice that not only direct beneficiaries of the project participated in these training, in order to promote healthier raising practice and avoid the spreading of diseases.

"I am satisfied with the information provided by the neighborhood volunteers. All the sessions are very useful and help us to better raise our poultry. For example, before I used to give any amount of food all the time to the chicken, but after awareness session learnt to put them food in certain amounts at a specific time only"

At the moment of writing, 114 women (29 in Beahmo, 20 in Abheet El-Hagar, 22 in Demo, 22 in Damshqeen, and 21 in Kahk) out of 250 planned already received poultry, feed, and custom-made hen cages studied according to their needs. Depending on what was already available in their houses and gardens, the women received full cages, or the project adapted the spaces already available to properly raise the chicken according to quality and hygiene standards.

Representatives from the TSU conducted two field visits to the project. The first took place during the initial phases of the project, where representatives from Slow Food International also participated to seek synergies between their activities and the project. When the second visit was performed, on May 9, 2018, activities had already started. The TSU attended one of the classes in good practices in raising poultry, delivered by the volunteers to the women of the villages, and visited several beneficiaries who received poultry from the project. The outcome of the visit was positive, as it was noted that the women learnt the basics of raising poultry during the sessions given by the volunteers, and they are satisfied with the hen cages and animals received.



Healthy Artistic Recovery for Mental and Other Needs Disability (HARMONY)

The project aims at improving the social and work opportunities for people with mental disorders and with hearing and speaking impairment in the Alexandria and Behera governorates, through the use of art as a mean of self-expression capable to generate money. Self-sufficiency, autonomy and dignity, denied rights for these people, belonging to low socio-economic background, will be encouraged by the creation of a social enterprise producing handcrafts, which will be managed by the beneficiaries themselves, previously trained. Moreover, the functioning of the social enterprise will ensure income generation and exploit the market opportunities of fair-trade and small handcraft.

Overall Objective: To contribute to the poverty alleviation in the Behera and Alexandria governorates, through social inclusion and work placement of people with mental disorders and people with hearing and speaking impairment.

Specific Objective(s): To contribute to the poverty alleviation in the Behera and Alexandria governorates, through social inclusion and work placement of people with mental disorders and people with hearing and speaking impairment.

Expected Results:

R1: Group leading abilities of people who have previously undergone pre-vocational training fostered

R2: Artistic competencies of people with mental disorders and people with hearing and speaking impairments encouraged and/or strengthened

R3: Skills in the creation and management of a social enterprise acquired

R4: Handcraft social enterprise created and run

R5: Participation in national markets (including fair-trade) granted

R6: Awareness in the community against stigma and discrimination raised.

Code: DS_III_16

Applicant:

Alex Work Shop Center
(AWSC)

Implementing Agency(ies):

AWSC in partnership with
Asdaa' Association for
Serving the Hearing
Impaired, Association 180
Amici Puglia, Italy
Association Mediterraneo

Location:

Alexandria and Beheira
Governorates

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 2,608,364

PIA:

May 25, 2018

Start:

March 1st, 2018

End:

February 28, 2021

Status:

Launching, no activities
yet

Rehabilitation and preservation of the historic Center of Siwa Oasis (Shali)

Siwa is a unique Berber cultural spot in Egypt, its old citadel in the old City “Shali” was registered by UNESCO in 2001 as one of the world heritage. The building of “Shali” is deteriorating due to lack of maintenance. The proposed intervention intends to enhance the socio-economic condition of the local population and promote culture tourism through preserving the cultural unique heritage of the old city “Shali”; specifically, the rehabilitation of nine houses forming part of the second level of “Shali”. The project also aims to raise the awareness of the local population, in particularly the youth, the school students and local associations, regarding the importance of the old City cultural heritage.

Overall Objective: Preserve and Rehabilitate the local cultural heritage of Siwa Oasis.

Specific Objective(s): Conserve and Rehabilitate part of the second level of the historic center of Siwa “Shali” to help enhance the socio-economic status of local population, youth in particular, and promote cultural tourism.

Expected Results:

R1. Part of the second level of the historic heritage of Shali has been rehabilitated and conserved;

R2. Awareness of SIWA population regarding conservation and best management of the historic heritage has been raised and consolidated.

R3. New income resources and job opportunities have been generated for the local population particularly youth, and the socio-economic situation of Siwa population is improved.

Code: n/a

Applicant:

Siwa Community
Development and
Environment
Conservation Association
(SCDECA)

Implementing Agency(ies):

SCDECA

Location:

Governorate of Matrouh

Budget:

EGP 700,000

Transferred:

-

PIA:

-

Start:

-

End:

-

Status:

PIA under signature

Progress of the Initiatives: Italian NGOs

Safer Environment for Children – Phase II



The project is a continuation of “Safer Environment for Children- Phase I”. The Applicant extended its successful interventions to four new districts in Cairo and Alexandria Governorates, aiming to improve the living conditions of children at risk and their families in the most marginalized areas and to strengthen the protection system for children at risk in Egypt. It provided a comprehensive package that reduced families’ poverty through capacity building and microloans, to enable them to better support and protect their children. It also strengthened the capacities of civil society organizations and improve their services for children at risk and their families.

Overall Objective: Children’s rights in Cairo and Alexandria are better. The social inclusion of marginalized children and families in Cairo and Alexandria is enhanced.

Specific Objective(s): Children at risk in Cairo and Alexandria are supported to achieve their rights through a strengthened protection system

Expected Results:

R1. Families of children-at-risk in 4 districts in Cairo and Alexandria are economically empowered to protect their children's rights through improved access to financial services.

R2. Civil Society Organizations in Cairo and Alexandria are empowered to play a stronger role in the national child protection system and to provide improved services to children at risk and their families.

R3. Children, their families and communities at large in Cairo and Alexandria have increased awareness of children's rights and children-at-risk's living conditions.

R4: The National Child Protection System is strengthened through the activation of three new District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) in Cairo Governorate.

Code: DS_III_01

Applicant:

Save the Children Italia

**Implementing
Agency(ies):**

Save the Children
International

Location:

Cairo and Alexandria
Governorate

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 5,000,000

PIA:

August 28, 2014

Start:

November 1, 2014

End:

November 31, 2016

Status:

Concluded

Status of the Initiative

Despite some initial delays, the project managed to implement all planned activities with the achievement of positive results.

The two specific objectives of the projects were to improve the economic conditions of families of children at risk, to enable them to support their children and reducing the exposure to street life, and to improve the capacity of institutions working with children at risk to enhance the minors' living conditions. To achieve these objectives, the project acted at the family, community, and institutional levels.



At the family level, the project first worked on raising the awareness of the children at risk's parents in topics related to children's rights and how to deal with them. In Alexandria, the local partner, the NGO Horreya, organized an event in collaboration with the Child Protection Committee (CPC) about the 2008 Child Law, which saw the participation of 260 individuals (among them mothers of children at risk who live in the shelters, and other members of the community). In

Cairo, the local NGO, Hope Village Society, organized a number of meetings in the areas of Ezbet el Haggana and Mokattam with children at risk and their families on topics such as children rights, personal hygiene, healthcare, and behavioral issues. Moreover, the female members of families of children at risk benefitted from microcredit loans, implemented through Alexandria Business Association in Alexandria, and Hope Village Society in Cairo. In total, EGP 1,446,000 have been disbursed to 1834 beneficiaries, with an average repayment rate of 99%. Children at risk, main beneficiaries of the project, have also been directly involved and 100 minors participated in a training of three months in theatre, mosaic, drawing, and other artistic expressions. Throughout the training, the children also learned about their rights, and the right channels to ask for help when needed.

"Drawing on the wall is completely different from drawing on paper; graffiti has its own expression. When I started I felt I would not be able to draw on the wall, but when I learned I was able to express what I feel through graffiti."

At the community level, the project aimed at improving the image of children at risk within the society, and raising the awareness on children rights. Thanks to a partnership with six youth organizations, 30 graduates have been selected by the project and trained in children rights, who helped to spread awareness about this topic within the community reaching a total of 850 individuals. 15 artists have also been selected and trained in pedagogic techniques that helped them convey information about children's rights through artistic and creative activities. As outcome of this training, an event has been organized in Alexandria for 400 members of the community and 200 children, during which a number of workshops took place in theatre, storytelling, drawing, and other artistic expressions. During the final event, art has again been used as a way to convey a message on children rights



and awareness about the conditions of children at risk. 300 individuals participated to this event, and awareness printed materials were also distributed.

“Acting had a positive effect on me as I was shy at first but now I've learned how to be confident in front of people.”

Finally, at the institutional level the project built the capacity of the partner NGOs by means of training programs for 30 members of staff on child safeguarding, and the case management system provided by Save the Children. The project also reinforced the collaboration between the partner NGOs and the CPCs. These activities resulted in a clear improvement of services offered to more than 1000 children at the two partner NGOs in Cairo and Alexandria. 21 members of CPCs in Cairo and Alexandria have also been trained, and a network has been created among the CPCs and other entities working with minors for the exchange of experiences. Moreover, a number of meetings have been organized with the Unit of Defense of the Ministry of Social Solidarity to improve the case management system for the minors in adoption or in conflict with the law, focusing on the role of the Ministry within the CPCs as main stakeholder aiming at protecting minors in adoption.

Actions for marginalized groups in Greater Cairo



The project aims to support marginalized groups (children, youth and women) and low-income families in marginalized areas on different levels. In particular, the action intends to enhance the socio-economic condition of marginalized groups and increase families' incomes in Greater Cairo through Stimulating employment and providing income generating activities, integrating children education standards with creative and participatory approaches and finally raising awareness and disseminating the project results. The support to families' income in target areas of Ezbet El Haggana and Ezbet El-Khirallah will be pursued in several ways: through saving and loans program, microcredit, vocational trainings, business skills development and installation of professional workshops.

Overall Objective: To contribute alleviating poverty among and empowering vulnerable families, as well as diminishing the social exclusion of marginalize groups in Greater Cairo.

Specific Objective(s): To enhance the socio-economic conditions of marginalized groups (youth, children and women) and increase the income of families in Ezbet El Haggana and Ezbet el-Khirallah through an integrated strategy, including promotion of employment, children participation and awareness raising.

Expected Results:

R1. Job creation is promoted and income-generating activities for women, youth and small enterprises are facilitated through access to services.

R2. Children education standards towards more creative and participatory approaches are enhanced.

R3. Family-friendly environment is promoted in target areas.

Code: DS_III_07

Applicant:

Ricerca e Cooperazione
(RC)

Implementing Agency(ies):

RC, New Horizon
Association for Social
Development, Al-Shebab
Institution for
Comprehensive
Development

Location:

Greater Cairo

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

EGP 5,000,000

PIA:

August 9, 2015

Start:

October 1st, 2015

End:

May 31st, 2018

Status:

Concluded

Status of the Initiative

The project addressed the social and economic empowerment of families in two of the demoted areas in Greater Cairo: Ezbet el Haggana (in partnership with Al-Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development) and Ezbet El Kheirallah (in partnership with New Horizon Association for Social Development). There, it tackled the problem of unemployment and the lack of job opportunities that women and youth (male and female) specifically face in disadvantage areas. The action, through an integrated strategy, worked on three interrelated levels: economic empowerment, capacity building and professional skills improvement, and reinforcement of community development initiatives.

In order to encourage job creation and income-generating activities, big part of the project focused on capacity building. In total, at least 200 youths of both sexes were trained in different trades: hairdressing, aluminium industry, food production, and sewing. They also all attend awareness sessions on safety in the work environment. Upon completion of the trainings, some beneficiaries were financially supported by the project to start their businesses, through the provision of microcredit loans.



In the area of Ezbet El-Kheirallah, two workshops were equipped, one for hairdressing and one for the aluminium. For the hairdresser vocational training, the 50 trainees were trained and certified by one of the specialized academy, named Sameh Plaza Hairdresser Academy, and each has received a hairdressing equipment kit to start their business. As for the aluminium vocational training, it was led by trainers from the Ministry of Housing's training center, and 50 young males received hands-on training and certification. A business plan was presented by the partner NGO New Horizon Association for Social Development, that will maximize the impact of the project intervention and ensure sustainability of the aluminium workshop and employability of the trained young men, as well as financial sustainability.

In Ezbet El Haggana, with the support of partner NGO El Shehab, two workshops were created and equipped, one for cooking and one for sewing. In these workshops, 50 women were trained in cooking skills and certified by the Ministry of Manpower, and 50 in sewing.



In both areas, financial loans were disbursed. In Ezbet El-Kheirallah, the microcredit revolving fund reached 142 beneficiaries for a total of EGP 570,375 for individual loans, and 700 group loans for a total of EGP 1,391,025. In Ezbet El-Haggana, group loans were disbursed using the model of Voluntary Saving Loan Association (VSLA), and around 200 groups started the second cycle of VSLA, with at least 3612 beneficiaries for EGP 221,313.

The VSLA had positive impact on the families of the beneficiaries, and it was reported that the children of beneficiaries are also participating and organized their own groups. According to women beneficiaries, the loans thought them and their children

“to learn how to save money, make calculations and work as a team.”



That is with no doubt an important added value to the loans system. Beneficiaries participating to the VLSA were trained on how to manage the system, how to make simple calculations, and each group selected a group leader and supervisor of the savings. Many successful stories were reported by the beneficiaries, to the extent that other areas outside the target location are keen to apply this saving system. By the end of the project the groups of women will be capable of managing their own group savings and enlarge the saving amounts, as confirmed by beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the project worked on establishing community and families' gardens in Ezbet El Haggana, which promoted better use of private spaces, family-friendly environment, creating awareness on cleaning and quality food coming from own productions. The gardens can be either part of self-sufficiency or a way to generate income by selling the produce. The project established 50 garden, and around 50 people were trained on rooftop garden techniques by one of the specialized firms in this field, Nawaya Consultancy. As a success story, one of the local schools in the area had requested the establishment of a community garden in the school that the teachers and children will look after and guarantee its sustainability.



Finally, capacity building programmes were designed and delivered to strengthen institutions and foster organizational capacities of the partners NGOs and Local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), as well as maintain sustainability of achieved results in targeted communities. The trainings focused on soft skills, basics for project management cycle, advocacy skills, women's right, child rights as well as financial and legal procedures to manage NGOs as per Egyptian Laws.

During the project lifetime, three monitor field visits were carried out by the TSU technical team to assess the progress of activities and their outcomes on targeted beneficiaries: two field visits to Ezbet El Haggana and one field visit to Ezbet El Kheirallah, hosted by the respective local partner NGO. All visits recorded a positive impact of the project's activities on the beneficiaries, with whom interviews were conducted.

Handicraft and Organic Agriculture Producers' Empowerment (HOPE)

The project will support the efficiency and sustainability of Ayadi Masreya Foundation as national platform for small-scale agro and handicraft producers in Egypt; improve the livelihood and working conditions of small-scale producers through tailored and affordable social services; better access to national and international markets through value added products, access to finance and business development services; promotion of Fair Trade and Ethical Business principles.

Overall Objective: To contribute to the poverty alleviation of small-scale producers in target regions through a strengthened national representative organization.

Specific Objective(s): To support small-scale agro and handicraft producers properly and affordably access socio-economic services at local and national levels through strengthened AMF.

Expected Results:

R1: Increased and boosted economic opportunities for small scale producers;

R2: Improved the livelihood safety conditions and measurements for small scale producers;

R3: Empowered and enhanced capacities of AMF to act as a national representative structure with clear and sustained strategies.

Code: DS_III_11

Applicant:

COSPE (Cooperation for the Development of Emerging Countries)

Implementing Agency(ies):

COSPE

Location:

Governorates of Alexandria, Qena, Sohag, Assiut, Minia, Cairo, Giza, Sharkya, Beheira, Ismailia, Kafr el Sheikh, and Luxor.

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

-

PIA:

November 5, 2017

Start:

January 1st, 2018

End:

December 31st, 2019

Status:

Launching, no activities yet

Becoming leaders: creation of working opportunities and sustainable economic development for Upper Egyptian women

The project aims at enhancing and support productive activities of a group of artisans of the Governorate of Sohag, Upper Egypt, in order to improve economic and social conditions of local women and, indirectly, of other sectors of the population dwelling in the area.

The proposed strategy is based on the creation of a Handicraft Committee of women inside 5 local CDAs that will play an active role in the safeguard of the traditional handicrafts of the area. The Handicraft Committee and a group of local artisans will be supported through a series of technical and managerial trainings that will allow them to be more competitive in the market, contributing to the creation of new opportunities, both on the market of goods and labor.

The project will play a significant role towards the achievement of women's economic empowerment by targeting unemployed women and girls victims of violence, as beneficiaries of skills development and micro finance actions

Overall Objective: To contribute to the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the people, and in particular women, of Upper Egypt by enhancing their skills and bolstering their economic strategies.

Specific Objective(s): To reinforce market competitiveness of the new born group of crafts women "Banat el Sa3eed" and of local producers in Sohag by enhancing their economic and legal capacities and creating a wider network of local artisans.

Expected Results:

R1 A technical Handicraft Committee, constituted by a group of craftswomen from Banat el Sa3eed, and the 5 CD acquire the capacities to safeguard local handicrafts associations.

R2 "Banat el-Sa3eed" acquires the necessary technical, managerial and legal capabilities to be competitive within the market

R3 A network among the Handicraft Committee and the producers of the area of Sohag is created

R4 The Committee and the producers of the network are enhanced both at the economic and legal level

R5 A marketing plan is designed and operational to ensure economic sustainability to the Committee and producers' members of the network

Code: DS_III_12

Applicant:

MAIS (Movimento per
l'Autosviluppo,
l'Interscambio e la
Solidarietà)

Implementing Agency(ies):

MAIS

Location:

Governorate of Sohag

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

-

PIA:

November 5, 2017

Start:

January 1st, 2018

End:

December 31st, 2019

Status:

Launching, no activities
yet

Strengthening business environment for the eco-tourist development of New Valley Governorate

The project aims at strengthening the social and economic role of women and youth in New Valley by income generating activities strictly related to local needs and natural resources availability. The project aims at contributing to solve the structural weaknesses of local economy and the fragilities of the labor market in New Valley by providing literacy and vocational training for the promotion of a social inclusion policy and the implementation of a micro-small enterprises incubator for women and young people related to potential local eco-tourism's economic sectors and supporting them with a marketing and communication plan.

Overall Objective: Contribute to promote socio-economic development in New Valley Governorate harnessing local resources.

Specific Objective(s): Strengthening business environment for the eco-touristic development of New Valley Governorate.

Expected Results:

- R.1. Women and Youth supported in developing business activities (Micro and small enterprises);
- R.2. Improved territorial marketing in an eco-touristic perspective.
- R.3. Improved networking among key-actors for eco-touristic development in New Valley Oasis.

Code: DS_III_13

Applicant:

Cooperazione
Internazionale Sud Sud
(CISS)

**Implementing
Agency(ies):**

CISS

Location:

Governorate of New
Valley

Budget:

EGP 4,991,300

Transferred:

EGP 2,203,950

PIA:

November 28, 2016

Start:

March 1st, 2108

End:

February 29, 2021

Status:

Launching, no activities
yet

Vocational Training of arts and crafts for monuments restoration and Cultural Property promotion in the community

The project focuses on the Vocational Education and Training (VET) for arts and crafts in the field of restoration of buildings and monuments and on the activities aimed to enhance the social value of the Cultural Property, for the improvement of life in historical areas and for the improvement of work opportunities, according to Egyptian-Italian Memorandum of Understanding of 26/10/2008. In essence, the project intends to promote the awareness of the value of Cultural Property in any social level by means of the knowledge and the practice of methodologies and techniques proper to preservation, restoration, conservation and maintenance, and the sustainability of its continuity, in view of creating new work opportunities.

The project will develop in particular through:

- the professional training and specialization of workers already operating in the field, by means of theoretical-practical courses and specific training courses for students, craftsmen and professionals;
- the accomplishment of preservation/restoration and maintenance interventions within the activities of the work-site school;
- the diffusion and promotion of the awareness of the Culture Property on different levels, in the society, in the neighborhood and in the city, mainly in Hilmiyya - El Khalifa District, through workshops, meetings and cultural events.

Overall Objective: To contribute to the improvement of life quality and environment conditions in historic Cairo through restoration and conservation interventions.

Specific Objective(s): Promoting community's empowerment and social-cultural awareness on the value of Cultural Property in the historical district of Hilmiyya-El Khalifa by means of capacities enhancement and restoration & conservation interventions.

Expected Results:

R1. The sustainability of monuments' restoration and maintenance is ensured and the continuity of Vocational Education and Training (VET) is enabled on the long term by enhancing the capacities of 120 persons (among coordinators, students, artisans, restorers, NGOs etc.)

R2. Restoration and conservation intervention is accomplished by restoring Sunqur Sa'di minaret, establishing Mevlevi museum, and enhancing the archaeological and technological knowledge of 3 buildings of the area (Yashbak, Aqbardi and Mohamed Mevlevi palaces).

R3. Social awareness on the value of cultural and monuments' restoration, and respect to culture property are raised in the community through the involvement of experts, NGOs, official authorities and the citizens of the Hilmiyya-El Khalifa district.

Code: n/a

Applicant:

Italian-Egyptian Center for
Restoration and
Archaeology (CIERA)

Implementing Agency(ies):

CIERA

Location:

Cairo Governorate

Budget:

EGP 5,000,000

Transferred:

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PIA:

November 28, 2016

Start:

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End:

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Status:

Opening bank account