EpiscoCare

2015 Semi Annual Report

A Step Forward

Episcopal Care for Social Services in Egypt
EpiscoCare has experienced significant transitions in recent years. The organization has expanded to encompass unregistered development initiatives of the Anglican Diocese of Egypt, its head. This change came as a response to the national trend toward more thorough registration requirements for social service entities.

In light of this expansion, as well as the advent of new leadership in 2014, EpiscoCare has entered a process of re-evaluating and re-structuring its priorities and programmes. While these changes have created challenges, the strategic planning process has yielded a more unified mission and an organizational focus on capacity-building for EpiscoCare’s target communities.

Egypt, too, is currently in a time of transition, both politically and socially. These shifts have opened new opportunities for church-based, non-governmental organizations to engage Egyptian society and shape the future of the country. In this critical time, we are excited to both continue our work and to pursue new projects that will equip EpiscoCare and its beneficiaries to play an active role in a changing society. We are eager to see our beneficiaries claim their rights and push for the improvement of public services in the new Egypt.
EpiscoCare’s **Vision** is to provide better life opportunities for the poorest and most marginalized communities in Egypt.

EpiscoCare’s **Mission** is to work as the arm of the Good Samaritan to support target communities to obtain basic rights through quality development and educational programmes in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organisations in the community.

**Our Core Values:**

- **Love**: present social services without expectation of personal benefit.
- **Non-discrimination**: treat all people well without reference to religion, gender, social, and/or cultural status.
- **Respect**: accept the other regardless of social or cultural differences.
- **Fairness**: follow appropriate behaviour and professionalism while honouring the values and traditions of the society.
- **Transparency**: practice credibility and honesty with documents and information about the programmes, activities, and decisions made both inside and outside the organisation.
- **Collective Responsibility**: cooperate with all team members to achieve comprehensive performance and achieve organisational goals.

**EpiscoCare Strategic Directives for 2015–2017:**

- **Reorganization**: revise the institutional systems and organizational chart; clarify mission, vision, rules, and values; and develop human resources.
- **Development**: improve the organisation’s activities with systems of planning, monitoring, and evaluation in accordance with new quality standards and assessments of community needs.
- **Fundraising**: Increase the internal and external funding opportunities by improving systems of communication, documentation, marketing, and advertising.
Planning for the Future

Self-Assessment, December 2014- January 2015

Throughout December 2014 and January 2015, EpiscoCare carried out a comprehensive evaluation of its community development centres and programmes. To begin the evaluation process, the organisation directors engaged with each other using a discussion-based approach to evaluate EpiscoCare’s programmes and activities. Then, the directors implemented the same discussion-based approach with the centre coordinators and field staff, who in turn employed community needs assessment tools with our programme beneficiaries.

The data collected by the community needs assessment highlights the hard work performed by our committed field staff. At the same time, the assessment reveals a definitive need for field staff training in modern approaches of development practice. Building the capacity of our field staff is crucial to delivering the best quality programmes and to successfully engaging our target communities in participatory development. Thus, EpiscoCare is expanding its capacity building efforts so that our field staff will be enabled to empower our target beneficiaries and community stakeholders to advocate for their basic rights and mobilize local resources to improve the quality of public services.

Annual Planning Workshop, January 26- 28, 2015

With the participation of twenty staff members representing the community centre staff, EpiscoCare’s new programmes administration held an annual planning workshop at King Marriott in Alexandria. The activities of the three-day workshop primarily focused on involving the field coordinators in the process of planning for the future of the organization. Such active participation of the field coordinators improves organizational decision-making, increases responsiveness to community-specific needs, and employs the human resources of EpiscoCare.

The workshop’s goal was to set the organization’s course for the next three years, 2015 to 2017. At the workshop, we presented the results of the self-assessment and the community needs assessment, determined EpiscoCare’s new vision, mission, core values and strategic directives, restructured the education and development programmes, outlined the programme objectives and quality standards, and composed detailed plans for the programmes.
The Mission of the Education and Awareness Programme: to improve the awareness of the target communities about the importance of education and learning while providing better learning opportunities for children.

**Democracy is the Way — Funded by Embrace the Middle East**
- 2 workshops for 25 staff members about democratic concepts, including active participation, reducing discrimination, and renouncing violence.
- 4 days of activities for 50 children about reducing discrimination and renouncing violence.
- 2 awareness meetings for 50 literate adults about reducing discrimination and renouncing violence.
- 50 home visits promoting the concepts and procedures of reducing discrimination and renouncing violence.

**Academic Tutoring—Funded by Embrace the Middle East and Tearfund**
Jan-May 2015. Ain Shams, Medinet el Salam, Ezbet el Nakhl (Cairo). Ras el Soda.
- About 160 students continued participating in 10 tutoring classes, supporting their academic progress on formal education standards in primary, preparatory, and secondary school.

**Literacy Classes—Funded by Embrace the Middle East and Tearfund**
Jan-Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Medinet el Salam, Ezbet el Nakhl. Ras el Soda. Tawabek (Giza).
- About 100 beneficiaries learned to read and write in 11 classes.

**Menara Centre for Children with Special Needs**
- 50 children continued participating in academic and life-skills classes.
- One parent meeting was held to discuss the children’s progress.
- About 40 children participated in speech therapy sessions.

**Menouf Community Service Centre**
- About 88 adults passed English courses.
- About 125 children passed English courses.
- About 20 children passed computer courses.
Early Childhood Education

The Mission of the Early Childhood Programme: to prepare children, aged two to six years-old, with the skills they need to succeed in formal school.

Our Nurseries: Early Childhood Development Activities

- About 220 children, aged 3 to 6 years old, participated in Montessori classes to build a strong academic foundation.
- About 90 children received medical check-ups and were vaccinated against polio.
- Children participated in 4 field trips to the public club of Ain Shams and the agricultural museum.
- Children received daily food and participated in monthly birthday parties.

Upgrading Our Nurseries — Funded by the Women’s Association of Cairo

- Equipped the Tawabek Nursery with educational aids, toys, and tools.
- Provided the Tawabek Nursery with an electric generator and water tank.

Upgrading Our Nurseries — Funded by Women’s World Day of Prayer

- Conducted maintenance and equipped the nurseries with educational tools and materials.
- Renovated the playground of Zamalek Nursery.
- Provided Ain Shams with a water pump and renovated the nursery gate.
Economic Development

The Mission of the Economic Development Programme: to improve the income and material resources of the poorest families in our target communities.

Economic & Educational Development — Embrace the Middle East & Tearfund
Jan–Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, Tawabek, and Ras el Soda.

- **482 beneficiaries** received loans to start and expand micro-business projects.
- Our beneficiaries achieved a **100% loan repayment rate**.
- Over 100 people participated in **2 business planning and management workshops**.
- 11 beneficiaries attended a **4-day vocational training course** on jewellery-making.
- 17 women participated in a **literacy course**, learning to read and write. They also gained knowledge about hygiene, nutrition, and human rights through life-skills lessons.

Women & Motherhood

The Mission of the Women & Motherhood Programme: to support and build the knowledge and abilities of women in the target communities to assist their families.

Mother’s Day Campaign — Funded by the Canadian Embassy in Cairo
Mar-Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, and Ras el Soda.

- 4 Mother’s Day parties for **717 mothers and women** were held throughout March 2015 with the participation of children and local authorities from our target communities.
- **325 women** participated in **8 awareness meetings** regarding sexual harassment, hygiene, nutrition, reproductive health, and pre- and post-natal development.
- About **250 home visits** were conducted to follow up with awareness session participants.
The Mission of the Healthcare Programme: to improve health services available in the target communities while teaching and promoting healthy practices

Mother’s Day Campaign — Funded by the Canadian Embassy in Cairo
Mar-Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, and Ras el Soda.
- 325 women learned about pre-, neo-, and post-natal health through 8 awareness sessions.
- About 46 medical check-ups and follow-ups for pregnant women were conducted.

Health Programme — Funded by Anglican Board of Mission
Jan-Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, Tawabek, and Ras el Soda.
- 449 people attended 15 awareness meetings on topics such as liver disease, female genital mutilation, HIV, and breast cancer.
- 416 beneficiaries received check-ups.
- 33 women participated in natal health awareness sessions about nutritious eating, pre- and post-natal reproductive health, and breast-feeding.
- About 28 medical check-ups and follow-ups for pregnant women were conducted.
- 25 pregnant women received weekly nutritious meals during pregnancy.

Enabling People to Live in a Healthy Environment — Funded by Interserve
Jan-Jun 2015. Ras el Soda.
- 45 children received medical check-ups and blood tests.
- 65 children received treatment and follow-ups for anaemia.
**Environment**

The Mission of the Environment Programme: to achieve healthier environments in the homes and public spaces of our beneficiary communities by increasing people’s capacity to employ healthy environmental practices.

**Health Programme — Funded by Anglican Board of Mission**  
Jan-Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, Tawabek, and Ras el Soda.

- **298 beneficiaries** gained knowledge about hygiene, water purification, and garbage disposal and separation through 17 environmental awareness meetings.
- **226 people** participated in 5 public cleaning and tree planting campaigns.

**Family Support**

The Mission of the Family Support Programme: to provide moral and material support for the poorest families of the target communities to meet basic needs.

**Health Programme — Funded by Anglican Board of Mission**  
Jan–Jun 2015. Ain Shams, Boulaq, Medinet el Salam, Tawabek, and Ras el Soda.

- **64 women** who were suffering from life-threatening diseases received financial support for **urgent medical treatment**.

**Home Renovations — Funded by Egyptian donors and Interserve**  
Jan-Jun 2015. Ain Shams and Ras el Soda.

- **13 families’ homes** were renovated with toilets, cement roofs, walls, electrical wiring, gas pumps, and bathroom renovations.
- **5 families’ homes** were equipped with basic furniture and appliances.
The Mission of Refuge Egypt: to serve refugees by providing humanitarian assistance, spiritual guidance, and encouragement to help build self-sufficiency and self-respect in preparation for repatriation, resettlement, or local integration into Egyptian society.

**Family Support**
- Between January and May 2015, **1,171 refugees were registered**.
- 2,258 food parcels, over 1,200 clothing items, and 200 blankets were distributed.
- **454 youth reached** through activities, workshops, counselling, and worship.
- 43 youth participated in a **business and entrepreneurship workshop**.
- 46 Sudanese students, Christian and Muslim, attended **Happy Child Preschool**.

**Capacity and Livelihoods**
- 235 adults participated in **English classes**.
- 151 beneficiaries passed **15 cleaning courses**.
- 181 refugees acquired **job placements**, primarily in domestic help and cleaning.

**Medical Assistance**
- **15,575 patient consultations** in healthcare were provided by medical doctors.
- **4,467 pregnant women** received ante-, neo-, and post-natal care.
- Over **1,400 beneficiaries attended health awareness sessions** about disease prevention, hygiene, FGM, HIV/AIDs, and TB.
- **700 people** were tested and counselled for HIV.
- **85 people** with TB were diagnosed and started on treatment regime.
The Mission of the Arkan Cultural Centre: to build bridges of understanding and acceptance between different groups in society through art and cultural activities.

- **Weekly workshops** led by volunteers on acting, Photoshop, journalism, drawing, singing, poetry, script writing, and TV production, attended by an average of 10 students each.

Building Bridges Through Art — Funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative of the U.S. Embassy

- About **60 students** attended the **Talent Discovery event**, which tested screen writing skills of exceptional students from Arkan workshops and others from the city.
- Over **100 students** participated in **For the City**, an event exploring Alexandria’s rich, multicultural history, including Greek, Coptic, Islamic, and Pharaonic influences.
- **20 artists travelled** with Arkan for **art exhibitions** in Cairo, Port Said, and Rasheed, with hundreds attending the events.
- **160 students** were awarded certificates of excellence at the **commencement ceremony**.
Partnerships

Since the beginning of 2015, EpiscoCare has witnessed dynamic growth as it deepens collaboration between the EpiscoCare administration and the organization’s internal and external partners.

EpiscoCare staff participated in the following events and workshops in the first half of the year:

- Two Tearfund, organizational-assessment workshops in January and February for determining Tearfund’s capacity building plans for its partners in Egypt.
- Tearfund workshop in March about financial management.
- Danmission workshop in March at Ain Sokna, for partners in Africa and Asia, about Danmission’s future strategies and policies.
- Interact and Tearfund workshop in April about gender policy.
- Tearfund workshop in April about self-help groups (SHGs) in Ethiopia.

In addition to these workshops, the EpiscoCare directors engaged with partners through regular donor visits, and they invested in staff and programs through visits to our centres and meetings with our administration team. We thank all our partners for the generous support which enables us to serve communities in need.

New Projects and Funds

These activities gave rise to new agreements and projects for the next two years, which will help EpiscoCare improve the outcomes of its programmes. The following upcoming projects were approved between January and June 2015:

- Economic and Educational Development for EpiscoCare Centres (Tearfund).
- Community Participation – Shaping the New Egypt (Danmission).
- Capacity Building For EpiscoCare Staff (Embrace the Middle East).
Dr. Maged Moussa Yanny
General Director
magedyanny@gmail.com

Ibrahim Nagy
Programmes Director
ibrahemnagy@yahoo.com

Karin Oxenham
Development Assistant
episococare@gmail.com

Episcopal Care
for Social Services in Egypt
5 Michel Lotfallah Street
Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt 11211