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Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Partners

EpiscoCare hereby present our annual report 2011 and I am proud to announce that despite many challenges and difficulties we have been able to reach out to more than 18,000 families, helping and assisting in areas such as educational support, health improvement, economy sustainability, political awareness and empowerment.

No doubt that the development process in Egypt faces big challenges and that it will require a great effort in civil work. The need of our work increases more than ever as societal problems such as poverty, unemployment, under education, environmental and health issues and unsuitable housing continue to grow, particularly in marginalized areas such as where EpiscoCare works.

We are challenged, but we have been working very hard to achieve our goals and reach many accomplishments which we can now share with you. We are grateful for the cooperation of our partners, as well as all those, private persons, churches, official and popular bodies, which help and support our work, making it possible for us to continue our mission to serve the poor and needy people in our target areas.

I would like to give a special and sincere thanks to all EpiscoCare staff and our many volunteers, who give of themselves generously in many ways, enables us to develop plans and programs that works towards a brighter future for many thousand beneficiaries.

Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim Awad
Executive Director, EpiscoCare
Mission Statement

The Mission of EpiscoCare is to promote sustainable development in some of the poorest regions and communities of Egypt with a participatory approach and without any kind of discrimination with respect to sex or religion.

EpiscoCare reaches out to poor urban communities where we focus on enabling people to enhance their own standard of health and living through education and development support. We promote a culture of dialogue based on diverse democratic approaches and respect for human rights as well as religious and social enlightenment.

The principal and values in EpiscoCare’s work are based on Egyptian traditions and we encourage a culture in which freedom of expression, democratic decision-making and gender equity are valued and practiced. We are committed to justice and peace, and we follow the rules, customs and traditions of the people we work alongside showing deep respect for religion and human values. EpiscoCare is committed to preserving natural resources and our framework is based on love and acceptance for others.

EpiscoCare’s methodologies:

- Partnership and networking.
- Critical analysis and cooperative learning.
- Volunteerism.
- Experience exchange.
- Local resource mobilization.
- Capacity development of individuals and institutions.
- Advocacy and sustainable development.
Programme Introduction

EpiscoCare runs seven comprehensive development programmes in each of our target communities. The programmes cover the areas of Education, Childhood and Motherhood, Health and Environment, Economic Development, Social Care, Community Organization, and Training. Our programs are helping transforming the lives of those in need and are leading to improvements in the quality of life of our citizens.

EpiscoCare is committed to working alongside the people we serve. We have therefore established permanent development centres in each of our target communities running comprehensive development.

Currently EpiscoCare has six local Community Development Centres. Four of them are located in urban areas within Cairo; Boulaq, Ain Shams, El Salam City and Ezbet El Nakhl. One centre is located in Suez and one centre is in El Ras El Soda, a poor village 10km south of Alexandria. In addition to our Development Centres EpiscoCare is administrating two educational centres one in Cairo and one in Menouf City about 90 km north–west of Cairo. Also EpiscoCare is managing a school for kids with special needs, as well as six nursery schools.

EpiscoCare focus on partnership approach and therefore we do recruiting and training of volunteers and members of staff from amongst the local community as well as consulting families and community leaders. This means that objectives are designed and implemented to suit the specific needs of the community and the beneficiaries. EpiscoCare believes that development is a two–way process and therefore our work is designed so that we help the communities being able to carry on a strong sustainable development process long into the future.
**Education programme**

Education is a right guaranteed to every Egyptian child by the state. Unfortunately, many children do not have sufficient access to educational opportunities. In some instances, parents do not believe that children need to be educated. In other cases, the costs of the “free” education are beyond families’ resources and in yet other cases the quality of teaching is so bad that students are not able to make it to secondary school.

To this end EpiscoCare provides awareness seminars, public meetings and home visits for parents on the importance of education for their children. Also EpiscoCare supplies children with school equipment and offers contributions to pay school fees, as well as providing free extra tutorial classes and summer schools to support children in their studies and ensure they are keeping up with their school work.

In Egypt, a lack of understanding of developmental disabilities mean that children with special needs are often kept at home and their education is ignored. For families in rural areas of Egypt who have a child with a mental disability, there are few resources available to support them in the upbringing of their child. Special needs carries negative stigma, and the parents can feel isolated and unsure of what their child needs.

To address this problem EpiscoCare run a school in Menouf for children with special needs offering a safe and cheerful environment, providing teaching, physical therapy and vocational training for the students, as well as informing parents on how to care for their children in a good way.

Illiteracy among adults is a big problem in Egypt as it is the key obstacle to the development of a nation. According to a June 2011 report issued by the Council of Ministers’ Information and Decision Support Centre, nearly 27% of Egypt's 85 million citizens are illiterate, most of which are females. One of the highest illiteracy rates in Egypt is concentrated in Greater Cairo, particularly in the 15 to 35 age group.

The direct correlation between illiteracy and poverty is significant and therefore literacy classes, additional education and awareness seminars can help disadvantaged people to improve their living conditions and also help in the development of the whole society.
Overall Goals for the programme:

- Sustain the attendance of children in school.
- Care for children with special needs in the district of Menouf.
- Enable illiterate people to obtain knowledge and education which enable them to take an active and responsible role within the community.
- Support young people to receive additional skills and education to match the labour market and to help improve their job opportunities.

Activities and achievements

Working with adults

Literacy Classes
- EpiscoCare organized 11 literacy classes attended by a total of 167 beneficiaries. Each class was from 6 – 8 months.
- In cooperation with the Adult Education Organization, EpiscoCare organized 15 final exams which provided 157 adults with a certificate of literacy.
- The Adult Education Organization held an official exam which was attended by 88 adults, of which 67 received a certificate of literacy.

Social Activities
- The teachers of the literacy classes organized 12 competitions to help students practice in an engaging way. These were attended by 140 beneficiaries.
- 8 parties for graduations were held, attended by 277 beneficiaries.
- Episcocare staff organized an Iftar (Ramadan) meal which was attended by 40 beneficiaries.
- 12 cultural trips were arranged to educate beneficiaries about Egypt. These were attended by a total of 150 beneficiaries.

Working with parents and students who are in school
- EpiscoCare organized 16 public meetings which were attended by 426 parents.
- 6 seminars attended by 274 parents were held to educate parents on the value of education.
- 151 home visits were conducted to follow up on the condition of the children’s education, to invite parents to participate in literacy classes and to remind them of the value of education.

Supply Children with Educational Materials
- 241 children were supplied with books, school materials, school fees and uniforms.

Annual Report 2011
In one of EpiscoCare’s centres we offer additional school materials at half price for the neediest families. This year **200 children and their families** benefitted from this project.

EpiscoCare staff visited **3 local government schools** to speak with the school teachers on the behalf of the children, to pay school fees and to pick up school books for the children.

### Tutorial classes and School Groups

- Academic tutoring through extra classes was offered to **131 students** to enable the students to sustain attendance.
- **490 students** were supported through paying their school group fees (tutorial classes held in the school).
- In one of the centres **79 students** were given monthly gifts for maintaining attendance and completing school work.
- Free English and Arabic tutorial lessons were attended by **40 students** at Ain Shams community centre.

### My Dear Daughter

EpiscoCare offer a special program called **My Dear Daughter**. The idea behind the program is to engages young girls (high school or college students) as volunteers to tutor and support vulnerable girls in primary schools to prevent an early drop out. Part of the project is also to engage families in a dialogue on education and to promote a culture of voluntarism in the target communities.

- Basic training for 3 months attended by **81 girls age 16 to 20**, to build their skills in the fields of communication, educational methods and facilitation.
- **81 girls** in primary school were aided in tutoring through My Dear Daughter.

### I am not alone classes

These classes are targeting students between 9 – 13 who have dropped out of school and are not able to reenroll. EpiscoCare offers these children courses to prepare them for literacy courses, vocational training and life in general. EpiscoCare also works to keep these children off of the street.

- **12 girls** at Ain Shams community centre have joined this program.

### Educational Committee Meeting

- **3 meetings** of the educational committee were held at Ain Shams community centre, attended by **15 participants**.

### Episcopal Training Centre (ETC) the Arabic Department

- In 2011 ETC taught **5,000 hours to 240 different students**.
- ETC opened a new location in Zamalek in February 2011. It has performed well and ETC hopes to build on that initial success.

### Episcopal Training Centre (ETC) English Department

- In 2011 ETC provided English courses to **600 students**. At least half of these students took two or more levels.
The Community Service Centre in Menouf (CSC)
- English courses of varying levels, attended by 166 students.
- Computer courses, attended by 36 students.
- English conversation courses, attended by 21 students.
- Children’s conversation courses, attended by 42 children which were followed by a celebration with their parents.
- Art courses, attended by 53 children. Their work has been used to decorate the center.
- German course, attended by 3 students.
- Mother’s day was celebrated in cooperation with Biblelight association to give mothers presents and certificates.
- Movie Discussion was held where a group of young people watched the movie “Black”. This had a positive effect on the young people and taught them how to work with others and encouraged them to visit the Cancer and Children’s Ward of a hospital.

Menara centre for children with special needs
- In 2011 the Menara centre served more than 50 handicapped children, focusing on activities that help these children to become self-reliant.
- Academic education was offered to 40 of the children.
- Activities and practical tasks were obtainable to the children daily to help them develop their abilities and potential skills.
- Gym physical therapy was offered daily to the children to focus on the children’s physical training and development.
- Mother’s day was celebrated with the children and their mothers. Presents were given to all the mothers.
- End of the school year were celebrated with a party for children and their parents. Parents were encouraged to speak about the improvements that have experienced with their children during the year.
- Monthly parent meetings were held.
- In cooperation with Ecumenical Alliance for Human rights and Development a vocational training session were held to train teachers and children in making candles. Also a small candlelight workshop was established.
- A training workshop was held focused on working individually with children and dealing with Autistic children.
- A training workshop was held focused on setting up annual plans and monitoring files for each child.
- A training workshop was held focused on how to set a weekly schedule.
- A three days training workshop was held focusing on giving IQ tests. The teachers followed up the training by practicing on their classes.
- Monthly training workshop were held focused on a variety training needs.
- Exchange experience visits with other centres that work in the same field was organized.
- In 2011 the Harper Hospital and the Episcopal School in Menouf both hosted a bazaar. The profits from the bazaars went toward buying the students at El Menara centre gifts at the end of the year.
- A monthly bazaar was held at the Menara centre. The profits went to purchasing educational.
Partnerships and networking
- BLESS
- Adult Education organization
- Art and Development association
- Danmission
- Operation Blessing International
- BibleLands
- Ecumenical Alliance for Human Rights and Development
- MCC
- OASIS
- Maadi British International School
- German Embassy
- LMF Denmark
- The Jerusalem Trust
- Woburn Benefice of Churches in Bedfordshire

Success story

Mostafa is one of the students in El Menara centre for children with special needs. He was born with a mild physical handicap and therefore when he turned 6 years old he was refused in the governmental school since his ability to speak is very weak. His mother then tried to put him in a deaf school, but they also refused. Therefore she came to El Menara centre.

El Menara centre welcomed Mostafa. They put him under observation for 2 weeks to measure his level of cognitive, movement, linguistic, social and self-care and after an evaluation they placed him in the pre academic class. In this class he learned colours, letters, numbers, and meaning. Because his verbal communication was very poor the centre placed him in the pronounce and language program where he learned to talk and write.

Once he was able to talk and write, he started the academic class and in addition to reading and writing he also learned mathematic and geometry skills. At El Menara centre he also learned some vocational skills like making women accessories, printing, and making candles.

Mostafas mother tells that she is amazed by the improvements she has experienced with her son. She say "when the governmental school refused my child I felt very sad because I have a handicapped son, but now with these results I felt that my child is like any other child, only he was in need of special care. When he got this care he responded positively and I am sure that he will complete his education and I will be very proud of him".
Motherhood and Childhood programme

Programme description
EpiscoCare realises the significance of a good beginning in life and believes in the importance of building parents’ awareness about the rights of the child and how they can be effective parents and give good life skills to their children.

EpiscoCare works through the Motherhood and Childhood programme to build parents’ awareness about the rights of the child and how they can be effective parents.

Currently EpiscoCare is running six nurseries established in poor communities, all suffer from lack of basic services, infrastructure and good educational institutions. Four of the nurseries are located in urban areas within Cairo, one in Sadat City and one in Ras El Soda a subarea of Alexandria. These nurseries are directed to children from economically disadvantaged families, who cannot afford the governmental nurseries and the families only pay a very small amount for the participation of their children.

The nurseries provide educational play for the children to help them build their intellectual and social capacity. All the nursery teachers are trained in teaching and caretaking as well as on the psychology of children and the international convention on child rights to enable them to treat the children with dignity and respect.

EpiscoCare also arranges for vaccinations and offers regular medical checkups for children at EpiscoCare’s clinics as well as parenting counselling and home visits to do family counselling. Parents’ meetings are held for parents to share their experiences of having children and to express their worries and concerns. EpiscoCare tries to foster an honest and free environment where parents can share and grow in their knowledge of how to raise happy and healthy children. This is supported by seminars and workshops for parents on the topic of children’s rights, to encourage a culture of parents respecting their children.

To nurture family relationships and to give families the chance to spent a great time together EpiscoCare arranges parties, social activities and cultural excursions for parents and children.

Overall goals for the programme:
- To enable children aged 2–6 years old to grow up in a healthy environment.
- Enable parents to be aware with children’s rights.
Activities

Nurseries
- EpiscoCare is running 6 nurseries:
  - All Saints Cathedral Nursery in Zamalek
  - Saints Nursery in Giza
  - House of Smiling Nursery in Ain Shams
  - House of Happiness Nursery in Madent El Salam
  - Joy Nursery in Sadat City
  - Ras el Soda Nursery

- In 2011 the nurseries was serving more than 180 children.
- A basic training workshop was held for 22 teachers.
- The playing areas in all of the nurseries were upgraded with new toys.
- 180 children were supplied with a uniform.

Helping children to a better health
- Medical checkup was provided for 854 children.
- Balance diet meal was provided for 5,894 children.

Building awareness sessions for parents
- 26 seminars were held focusing on child psychology and children's rights, attended by 4,049 participants.
- EpiscoCare organized 22 parents’ meetings which were attended by 424 parents to discuss different family issues and problems in the home.
- Nursery staff conducted 345 home visits to follow up on each child’s condition at home.

Campaigns
- After the revolution a week long course was held called “The future of our children after the revolution” attended by 300 children to teach them about democracy.
- A course was held called “Our children are valuable” and was attended by 226 children.

Social activities
- EpiscoCare organized 41 parties which were attended by a total of 4,619 children and their parents.
- EpiscoCare staff organized 9 trips for 914 children and their parents.
- A summer club in Ras el Soda was held for 20 children.
- 246 children were given certificates for good behavior and work.
- A Ramadan breakfast was arranged for 35 children and their parents.

Partnerships and networking
- The Holy Bible House
- Ministry of Solidarity
- Misr Elbarak Association
- Board international hospital
Success story

The happiness knows its way to my family
Mohammed's mother speaks about the changes she has experienced after her son began in EpiscoCare’s nursery, which is established in the local development center in Madent El Salam.

She smiles and says; "After I have participated in seminars and meetings about upbringing, child rights and family related issues I am much more aware about my role as a mother and how I can influence on my son’s behavior and help to give him a good start in life".

"Before I did not understand why Mohammed was always behaving so badly and rudely, but now I realize that it was because he was always left alone with no adult to take care of him and teach him what was right and wrong. When he started to attend the nursery he began to behave differently, and I quickly noticed improvement in his behavior and attitude. I'm almost embarrassed to admit it, but it actually surprised me".

"I went to the teachers in the nursery and told them about the improvement I saw in Mohammed’s behavior, that he was becoming more calm and polite. They told me that Mohammed is a very good boy, but that I also had to learn how to help him. They invited me to come and participate in monthly parent meetings, and told me that I would learn more about my child, his characteristics, needs and his abilities".

"I attended all the monthly meetings and seminars, and I quickly noticed that they were very helpful for me. I began to treat, not only my child, but also my husband, in a different way, which has resulted in a change for the better in the way that we treat and respect each other. I am so proud that I have learned to act in a way that is better for my family's wellbeing".

"It is as if happiness has found its way into my family and I would like to thank all the staff at Madent El Salem development center for giving me this opportunity"
Health and Environment program

Health care is widely available in Egypt, yet quality services are by no means assured for all citizens. Particular people living in rural and poor suburban areas lack access to proper health care. The health issues affecting poor Egyptian citizens are many and varied, ranging from malnutrition and water-borne illnesses to physical disabilities and gender-specific ailments. Women and children are as often the most vulnerable, since males’ health is often prioritized over those of females.

Through EpiscoCare’s health and environment programme we aim to improve basic sanitation and preventive and curative health care in poor and needy communities in which none or insufficient health services are provided. Further, EpiscoCare has increased awareness of issues surrounding reproductive health and family planning.

At the local centres, EpiscoCare offers health education classes, seminars and public meetings to build awareness and combat harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, sexual abuse and diseases such as HIV and hepatitis.

Through the programme Way of Life, EpiscoCare is addressing the problems created by drug abuse.

Overall goals for the programme:

- Raising awareness and enabling people to get better primary health care.
- Enabling people to live in a healthy environment.
- Improving reproductive health in the target communities.
- Upgrade field workers and community volunteers’ skills.
Activities

Health awareness
- EpiscoCare staff conducted 504 home visits to talk about health and hygiene. The fieldworkers were trained in how to raise health awareness, to detect needs and to find solutions for improvements.
- EpiscoCare organized 463 classes for health awareness and 29 public seminars which were attended by a total of 960 beneficiaries. Traditions and customs, FGM, cancer, hygiene, first aid, addiction, reproductive health, and children’s nutrition were among the topics.
- In cooperation with the Health Ministry a mobile clinic was operated from Madent El Salem Centre in to help 125 beneficiaries.
- 102 beneficiaries received medicines or were aided in obtaining medical procedures.
- EpiscoCare organized classes and seminars focusing on Hepatitis attended by 110 beneficiaries.

The Clinics
- 380 patients received checkups from an internal medicine doctor.
- 258 patients received treatment at the dental clinic.
- 460 children received treatment at the children’s clinic.
- 245 patients received physical therapy.
- 31 patients received treatment at the osteoem clinic.
- Maintenance was conducted on medical tools including an autoclave and dental equipment.

Reproductive Health
- Antenatal classes were held at Madent El Salam and Ain Shams Centres, attended by 27 women.
- 4 classes for family planning attended by 171 women were held at Madent El Salem Centre.
- The family planning clinic at Ain Shams centre assisted 1,235 women and the clinic at Madent El Salam centre helped 108 women.
- FGM classes were held and attended by 100 women and girls.
- Seminars on FGM were held, attended by 277 beneficiaries.
- Classes and seminars about HIV were held, attended by 263 beneficiaries.

Improvement in Living Conditions
- EpiscoCare helped improve 53 homes through supplying furniture, beds, and household appliances.
- EpiscoCare helped repair of 30 homes by providing new tar for roofs and upgrading bathrooms.
- 10 Seminars about the environment were held, attended by 417 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare staff organized 4 cleaning campaigns where 42 women participated in cleaning and planting trees in public areas.
Way of Life Program

- In 2011 EpiscoCare supported the Way of Life program in organizing 20 awareness seminars on how to deal with and help people in addiction. These seminars reached around 900 beneficiaries and were held in many locations in Egypt.
- Way of Life arranged four conferences (in Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez) and trained a total of 140 leaders.
- Way of Life trained 80 doctors, social workers and psychologists about treatment for addiction. This was done in cooperation with the Doctors Corporation of Alexandria.
- Four pamphlets about addiction and recovery approaches were published and distributed.
- 130 counseling sessions for addicts and their families were held.
- 30 people were helped into rehabilitation centres to complete treatment.
- 12 people were supported financially to complete a treatment on addiction.

Partnerships and networking

- The Governmental health Unit sends doctors to do checkups and to run seminars and public meetings focusing on health.
- Egyptian Democratic Social Party supported in the mobile clinic and offered specialists to speak at awareness meetings and seminars.
- El Salem Hospital provided doctors to do checkups and patients were sent to specialists, X-rays and labs investigations for free.
- Abandon life Association supported in the mobile clinic.
- Ministry of Environment send specialist to organize and speak at seminars about the environment. Also they provided the centres with publications and posters to help explain environmental issues.
- El Salem District Governmental unit helped obtains official papers for beneficiaries.
- The Coalition of FGM offered a training workshop for fieldworkers associated the health programme.
- Shepherd Association supported in the mobile clinic.
- El Zahraa Medical Centre supported in the medical checkups.
- Youth Association for Development in Alexandria provided medicine.
- Caritas Association arranged a training workshop for fieldworkers associated the health programme.
- Friends of Life Association arranged a training workshop for fieldworkers associated the health programme.
- Unitarian Association arranged a training workshop for fieldworkers associated the health programme.
- St Mary Hospital (Al Asaffra Alex) supported in medical checkups, lab investigation and X-ray examinations.
- St Mary Hospital (Safe St. Alex) supported in medical checkups, lab investigation and X-ray examinations.
- BibleLands.
Success story

I decided not to have my daughter circumcise

"My name is Abeer Ahmed Hassan, I am 34 years old, I am married and I live in El Ras Soda in Alexandria. My husband is working a small workshop. We have three children, Hadeer 16, Nada 14 and Kareen 4 months".

"My husband and I are both from Upper Egypt, where Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is an incorporated part of the culture and costumes. We were taught and believed that this practice was very important to keep girls from making any mistakes and to keep them virgins before marriage. Our oldest daughter Hadeer was circumcised before she turned 15 and it was my intention to have our daughter Nada circumcised as well. But then after I attended a three months health education class at El Ras El Soda development center, where we learned about many different issues related health, among others FGM I suddenly understood the harm FGM does to the young girl. I realized that FGM it is not what makes my daughters honorable, it depends on how I raise them, the values I teach them, my love as a parent and their relations to God".

"I spoke with my husband about what I had learned at the centre about FGM and we decided not to have Nada circumcise. I blame myself for having Hadeer circumcised and I apologized to her and hope that she can one day forgive me. I only did it because of my ignorance, but now I know better. I also want others to know, so that they will not make the same mistake as I did toward Hadeer. Therefore I encourage all my friends and neighbors to join health classes and participate in meetings at the local centre. I would like to thanks all the staff for passing on their valuable knowledge and information."
Economic program

Programme description
Poor and unprivileged people might have tremendous capacity to help themselves—if only they get the chance to do so.

The availability of vocational training, support in business management, accounting and financial accountability as well as access to cheap credit can show very fruitful. If people can generate sufficient surplus from their work or small businesses, they can repay the credit and reinvest the remainder.

Through experience EpiscoCare has learned that micro credit programme targeted specifically for the poor—and especially for women—can have a marked effect on improving the incomes and living standards of poor people.

EpiscoCare wishes to raise awareness about the capacity of the private sector and entrepreneurship to better the lives of people in our target communities. We therefore supports people to start their own income generating projects by helping produce feasibility studies, arranging seminars in financial accountability, business management and accounting, as well as offering micro loans, helping the beneficiaries financially in the establishment of their project or business.

Overall goals:
- Improve the economic standard for poor individuals and families.
- Build a culture of financial accountability and private business.
- Provide people with various practical and creative skills to facilitate the possibility of getting work.
Activities

Vocational Training
- EpiscoCare held 9 vocational training courses to train beneficiaries in different skills. This included hairdressing, handicraft and computer skills. The courses were attended by a total of 79 beneficiaries.
- Exams focusing on sewing skills were attended by 8 women.
- Follow up of the vocational trainings were conducted through attendance and evaluation sheets.
- 23 trainees were able to get jobs as a result of the vocational training they received.
- In partnership with Ministry of culture vocational training sessions were arranged to benefit poor and uneducated women. Training took place in Ain Shams, Boulaq and El Salam and a total of 70 women participated to learn handicraft skills.

Capacity Building
- EpiscoCare held 3 training workshop focusing on marketing, feasibility studies, and running an income generating project. These workshops were attended by a total of 51 beneficiaries.
- 12 meetings of the economic committee were held. Each meeting were attended by 5 volunteers.

Building Awareness Seminar
- EpiscoCare held 2 seminars in each centre focusing on saving and feasibility studies. The seminars were attended by 55 beneficiaries in El Salem and Ras el Soda and 40 beneficiaries at Ain Shams.

Income Generating Projects
- EpiscoCare gave out 2,227 micro loans to establish income generating projects to help people ensure a better life for their families in the future.
- EpiscoCare staff conducted 7,896 follow ups on projects that had begun in the last 2 years.
- 88 home visits were conducted to follow up on beneficiaries who were not able to repay the loan timely.

Assist people in finding jobs
- Ras el Soda Community Centre helped 50 beneficiaries to find a decent job.

Partnerships and networking
- Shepard Association
- Culture Balaz
- Egyptian Democratic Social Party
- CEOSS
- An Semone Association
- Catholic Relief Association
- Environmental Friends Association
Success story

Now I feel that I am an adult partner
"My name is Badry Gamal. I’m married and have 2 children and I live in Ain Shams community with my family”.

“My father is a vegetable seller at the local market and for many years I was working with him selling fruits and vegetables. As we shared the income my salary was always low and I found it very difficult to support my family in a good and decent way”.

“I knew from my friends about EpiscoCare’s local development center in my community and that they are offer help to poor and needy people in finding jobs, developing skills and even in financial issues. Because of my bad financial situation, one day I went to the center and asked them to help me by giving me a small loan because I wanted to be a partner in my father’s shop. The centre’s staff welcomed me and was very encouraging. They visited me at home and they also visited the place where I work with my father. After I had participated in some of the awareness seminars at the centre, where they taught about feasibly study, private sector self generated projects and financial accountability, the centre staff agreed to give me a loan”.

“My father and I are now partners and we have expanded our business. We now have more to sell and are therefore also earning more money. I have already repaid my first loan and I even got a new loan to expand our business further.
I would like to thank God for His help and for my increased income. Also I would like to thank all the staff in Ain Shams community centre for believing in me and supporting me”.

Community organization program

Programme description
Organising communities is about empowering community members, with the end goal of distributing power more equally throughout society. When people unite and get involved in community organisation, they develop confidence and also boundaries for discrimination breaks down.

EpiscoCare aims to ensure sustainability and increasing development, in the communities in which we serve. The community organization program is designed to encourage a culture of awareness, capacity building and volunteerism to promote a culture of participation and responsibility to enable people to lead the development projects. Therefore this programme is an integrated part of all the other programmes under EpiscoCare.

EpiscoCare is cooperating and sharing know–how with other civil society organisations through training and capacity building.

Overall goal for the programme:

- Empower target communities to become self reliant which ensure the sustainability of the development process.
Activities

Capacity Building
- EpiscoCare held 24 public meetings focusing on volunteerism and how beneficiaries can cooperate in the development process. The meetings were attended by a total of 793 beneficiaries.
- Seminars were organized to encourage volunteerism culture, attended by 333 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare held 8 classes for political awareness which was attended by 395 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare held 14 monthly lectures attended by 135 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare helped 262 beneficiaries to obtain ID or voter registration.

Building Awareness
- EpiscoCare conducted 300 home visits to encourage people to participate in the community organization program.
- A study for the “Hope Chance” project was attended by 35 beneficiaries at Ras el Soda centre.

Local committees
- All of EpiscoCare’s centres has established a local committee for each of the running programmes. Each committee consist of 5 members, women and men, who represent the local community (local volunteers, religious leaders, business people and employers).
- 13 meetings were held for the local committees, attended by 108 volunteers.

Partnerships and networking
- The local development association
- Egyptian Democratic Party
- Supportive association for social development
- Ministry of environment
- Cultural balas
- Shiffert association
- El Salam Hospital
- El Salam Medical Unit
- Art and Development association
- Egyptian association for family health
- Mrsa El Bark
- Adult education association
- Think and do association
- El Salam governmental unit
- Hope association
- Board international hospital
- Friends of environment association
- Human right program Caritas
- CAS, Alexandria
Success story

Suddenly I was the “teacher” and they were the “students”.

“My name is Mona Marco and I live in El Salem City. The first time I heard about El Salem Development Centre was through my neighbours, as they were attending and participating in different activities. It was at the centre that I learned about volunteerism, the participation approach and my own role in the development of our local community”.

“Because I had attended all of the classes related to the issues of HIV, Hepatitis and general health education and all of the meetings related to reproductive health, I felt that I had received a lot of useful information. As I knew that many of my relatives and neighbours were very much in need of this knowledge too, I felt that I had a responsibility to explain and hand over the information which I had received. Therefore I decided to become a volunteer at the centre in order to help others”.

“Before becoming a volunteer at the centre I took literacy classes and learnt to read and write, and I attended a presentation skills workshop. I am now assisting as a facilitator for the health education classes, and serving as a member of the local health committee”.

“I am so encouraged when I can pass on some of my knowledge and experience and through that help others. For example, one day when I was at my children’s school I heard two of the female teachers discussing FGM because they wanted to circumcise their daughters. At first I didn’t dare to join their discussion, but then I couldn’t help it, as I wanted to communicate what I had learned about FGM and to explain the harmful result of this practice.

In the beginning they were surprised, as they knew that I am not educated. But after some time I was suddenly the “teacher” and they were the “students”. By the end of the discussion they said that they had learned a lot from me and that they would consider very carefully not having their girls circumcised”.

“It is experiences like that which give me confidence and encourages me and shows that even I can help in making a different in people’s life. This is the first step towards change and development”.

Family planning association, Alexandria
El Kasr El Inv
The medical unit in Ain Shams
Office of general honest for the Catholic school
El Gisr centre for training
Social care programme

Programme description
Despite many international agreements affirming gender balance and women’s role in society, women in Egypt are still much more likely than men to be poor, illiterate and victims of domestic violence. Widows and divorced women are especially vulnerable, often being left alone with the financial responsibility of the family’s well-being.

Through the Social Care programme, EpiscoCare supports widows and marginalized women, helps to empower them economically, socially and culturally, offers financial support as well as food and households supplies. EpiscoCare carries out home visits checking on the women's wellbeing, offering family counselling and also arranges seminars to build up a general awareness related to health, education, social and cultural issues. In special cases financial contributions are provided for childbirth or bereavement expenses or to set up a new home after marriage.

Also through the programme EpiscoCare arrange social events and parties for the beneficiaries, giving them the opportunity to celebrate special events and have fun.

Overall goal for the programme:

- Improve the life of widows and marginalized women.

Activities

Awareness Meetings and Seminars
- EpiscoCare held 20 spiritual meetings attended by 2,095 women.
- EpiscoCare conducted 307 home visits for the poorest families in Boulaq.
- EpiscoCare held 3 public meetings to build social and spiritual awareness for 222 women.
- 4 seminars on social and spiritual awareness were held, attended by 426 women.
- Family counselling for 112 families were conducted with support and help from professionals and priests.
- Sunday school was held serving 405 children.
- EpiscoCare was a part of a 5 days service conference which was attended by 39 beneficiaries.
Financial Support
- EpiscoCare gave financial support to 518 poor women.
- 6 brides were supported in buying the things that they needed before their wedding.
- 2 poor women were supported in childbirth.
- 7 families received financial support after a family member had died.
- 86 elderly women were provided with readymade meals.

Social Activities
- 4 parties were organized and attended by a total of 789 women.
- Food distributions for the neediest families were performed at Easter and Christmas.
- EpiscoCare organized trips for 140 women.
- An employment exhibition for used clothes and carpet making was conducted to help the poorest women.

Education activities through social care program
- EpiscoCare provided private lesson for 50 students.
- Public meetings was held to build awareness about the value of education and respecting others, attended by 163 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare provided school fees and school materials for 228 students.
- EpiscoCare established a store for low income people to sell school materials at a reduced price.

Health activities through social care program
- 283 home visits were conducted for a reassessment on health status.
- General seminars were run for 580 women.
- 97 patients were supplied with medicines.
- EpiscoCare provided surgery for 4 beneficiaries and lab investigations for 4 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare held 1 class on FGM attended by 8 women.
- EpiscoCare held 1 class on HIV attended by 13 women.
- EpiscoCare provided furniture, beds and household appliances for 29 homes and repaired 5 other homes.
- Seminars were held focused on cleanliness, attended by 143 women.
- EpiscoCare distributed more than 500 bags of food for the women who suffered from the revolution.
- EpiscoCare helped to pay the utilities and rent of 30 homes.

Boulaq Handicraft
- 27 new designs were created for breadbaskets, table cloths and guest towels.
- 70 new designs were created for white towels and bags.
- 60 new designs created for small bags.
- 8 clergy robes made.
- 5 bed sheets were ordered.
- 48 bags were special ordered.
- 2 loans were given to very needy women.
- 2 training sessions for handicrafts were held.
- 3 women were supported through the payment of a year back rent.
- 1 woman was helped by supplying the funds for a surgery on her eye.
Partnerships and networking

- OASIS
- Private donations
- CSA
- American Embassy
- American School
- Community church in Maadi
- German school
- Gezwet
- All Saint
- Shell club
- Woman Association
- Episcopal church Saint Michael
- Episcopal church Jesus is the light of the world
- AAW New Zealand

Success story

How Magda lost her home and got it back

After the revolution and the following bad economic situation, many small workshop owners were forced to close their business.

Magda's husband was one of those who were affected. He lost his job as a carpenter, the family lost their income and they were no longer able to pay their rent. The family tried to convince their landlord to let them stay in their apartment and that they would pay the rent as soon as they had some money. But he did not let them stay, and they were left to live on the street.

During the day Magda stayed in the streets with the kids while her husband was trying to find work. At night the family stayed with neighbors. With two small kids this situation was very difficult and after a few days they were exhausted.

Then Magda decided to go to the Boulaq development centre to ask for support. The centre staff negotiated with the landlord and they pre-paid one month's rent so the family could move back into their old apartment. They also provided the family with some basic food. Fortunately Magda's husband found a simple job soon after, and is now able to pay the rent and take care of the family.

Magda is very grateful for the help they received from the centre. She continues to come to the centre and participate in the different activities.
Training programme

Programme description
EpiscoCare aims to build the capacity and improve the skills of employees and volunteers engaged in our work. We find that it is very important to challenge and educate our staff as it improves the ability to develop EpiscoCares structures, systems, people and skills in order to deliver effective and realistic strategies.

As EpiscoCare is taking a participatory approach towards the communities in which we serve, we are obligated to build the capacity within the local communities. We do this by recruiting and training field workers, local leaders and people participating in the local committees, thereby being able to leave behind experienced and trained local staff for these communities to ensure the sustainability in the future.

Through the training programme we prepare new staff members and volunteers to work in the development field providing them with tools and skills. Also we arrange for refresher training courses for staff throughout their employment to keep them updated.

Overall goal for the programme:
- Build the capacity and the skills of employees and volunteers to improve their performance.
Activities

Training workshops planned by EpiscoCare

- Economic program
  - Feasibility training workshop attended by 5 trainees.
  - What is the meaning of income generating project attended by 10 trainees.

- Motherhood and Childhood Program
  - Discussing the plan of the program attended by 14 trainees.
  - Childhood and its new vision attended by 12 trainees.
  - The value of time attended by 13 trainees.
  - Improving the skills of a child attended by 12 trainees.
  - Drawing and handicraft and its importance for children attended by 15 trainees.
  - Family counselling attended by 13 trainees.
  - The folk building approach workshop which was done by a foreign trainer, attended by 36 trainees.

- Education program
  - How to start a class attended by 10 trainees.
  - The dialogue and the pronouns of the letters attended by 15 trainees.
  - The teaching skills attended by 19 trainees.
  - For better education attended by 20 trainees.

- Health Program
  - The indicators and the activities and reproductive health attended by 13 trainees.
  - The teenager stage and skin diseases attended by 11 trainees.

- Community organisation
  - Conflict resolution attended by 21 trainees.
  - How to write report attended by 21 trainees.

Training Workshops in Cooperation with NGOs

- El Gesser Centre – “Dialogue with Others” and “Citizens for General Good”.
- The Art Association for Development – “Democracy for Children”.
- National Centre for Motherhood and Childhood – “Family Counselling”.
- CEOSS – “The Civil Education” and “Political Awareness”.
- The Supportive Development Centre – “The New Media”, “Issues of Social and Political Reform”, “Digital Safety” and “How to Design Website”.
- Cairo Association for Family Planning: “Basic Training for Political Awareness”.
- Egyptian Association for Family Health: “Youth and Teenager Health Conference” (3 days).
Success story

Mrs. Nadia Maezoz is responsible for the health programme at Ain Shams development centre. She describes below how she has benefitted from EpiscoCare’s training workshops.

“As a fieldworker in the development centre my most important task is to serve the people who are in need and who come to the centre to get help.

The way I receive and welcome the people who come to the centre is very important. I am grateful for the skills I learnt through one of EpiscoCare’s workshops about adult psychology. I learned how to communicate with people from different backgrounds and I use these skills on a daily basis.

I have also participated in a number of workshops about family counselling. These workshops were very useful, as I learned about listening to others, respecting them and accepting diversity. I learned how to deal with different problems and how to give good advice and counselling.

As I am responsible for the health programme I have participated in all of the training workshops related to health issues. Through the workshops I received practical tools and learned a lot about communication. Also I learned specialist knowledge which I can pass on to the beneficiaries. For example I learned about female circumcision (FGM), how this is not only a health problem, but also a social, physical and psychological problem for many girls. These are very important problems that should also be communicated to parents who are considering having their girls circumcised.

After participating in training workshops I feel much more equipped and prepared for my work. I have more tools and skills to be able to help people and to advise them in how to take care of their problems”.

Annual Report 2011
Achievements

As shown under each of our programs, we have preformed a lot of activities and achieved much progress toward the goal of helping and assisting poor and needy people and to promote sustainable development in some of the poorest regions and communities of Egypt. In this session we would want to highlight some of our bigger achievements during 2011.

In February 2011 Episcopal Training Centre (ETC) had the opening of new class rooms and office in Zamalek, being able to welcome many more students.

With financial support from the German Embassy the Menara Centre for children with special need were able to enlarge and upgraded the Gym hall in order to help the children to improve their physical state and their abilities in movement.

EpiscoCare have worked successfully and constructive with many of our trusty partners as well as signed partnerships protocols with new partners.

In 2011 EpiscoCare have arranged a lot of training workshops to educate and train staff members to build the capacity of the organisation and to qualify all our staff to do a great job.

In 2011 a nursery in Giza was established, the official opening will be in 2012.

In 2011 a new development centre was established in Suez to support a very poor local area called El Maemal village. The official opening of the centre will take place in 2012.

EpiscoCare bought a new promise to accommodate the local development centre in Ezbet El Nakhl. The building was renovated and is now ready to welcome many beneficiaries.

In 2011 a special appeal was send to friends and partners of the Diocese to ask for financial help in order to support some of the people who had been really badly affected due to the revolution and the following economic recession. In cooperation with the Diocese of Egypt and all the churches under the Diocese EpiscoCare was able hand out 9,617 food packages, assisting 2 families in rebuilding houses and 35 families in paying rent and utility bills, assisting 4,610 people in medical checkups, providing 40 children with new clothing and paying 500 students school fees, giving 166 micro-enterprise loans, supporting the renovate of the new Community Centre in Suez and the renovating of a building at the Ezbet el Nakhl Centre as well as the renovation of houses in Ras El Soda. Also one family was aided after the death of a parent.
In September 2011 EpiscoCare in cooperation with ministry of culture arranged a great art exhibition where products made by women who had participated in vocational training on art craft were shown. The exhibition was attended by many people and representatives from the ministry of culture. Also Egyptian TV, Egyptian Radio, and a lot of Journalists were represented to cover the event.

EpiscoCare signed a partnership protocol with Catholic Relief Service to train 300 poor women on how to use sewing machine and how to make bed sheets. The training will take place in the beginning of year 2012.

In 2011 the Executive director of EpiscoCare, Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim went to Canada to do an one month intensive training in Organizational Learning and Change at COADY International Institute– Canada.

Lessons learned

EpiscoCare continuously have to develop the working methods used and the approach towards the field of development, it is therefore important that we learn from our experiences and are always opened to new challenges.

In 2011 EpiscoCare experienced how:

- Networking and working in cooperation with other NGO’s and GO’s helped us to achieve more, save money and time, as well as giving good exchange experience and knowledge about new approach to the development field.
- Building our staffs’ capacity is one of the cornerstones to achieve our development goals.
- Training the staff in cooperation with specialists resulted in higher quality training workshops, which had a very positive effect on the trainees.
- Working in cooperation with the community is the best way to do development.
- Income generating projects are a suitable way to help people to overcome poverty and help them to be self reliant.
- Building awareness and involving people in current issues is a good way to motivate them to participate and play a role in their communities.
- Putting democracy into practice is not easy, and it takes a long time to understand.
- Working with all the sectors of the community (children, women, men, etc.) is very important since each of them play a different role and have a different view of the development process.
Challenges

EpiscoCare is most grateful for all the achievements and progress we have accomplished during the year 2011. However we are still facing many challenges:

- The revolution has affected the attendance of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries in the development centers negatively since they do not feel safe enough to move from their home to the office.
- The implementation of our plan was postponed because of the unstable political situation, especially due to the situation in January and February.
- EpiscoCare has suffered from a shortage of financial resources.
- In relation to our Economy program and the income generating projects we have previously had a payback rate of 99.9%. During 2011 the rate of non-repayment for the loans increased to 3% as a result of the very unstable economic situation for many of our beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare staff spent a great deal of time and effort to help people get their election card, but the government decided that they would only require ID to vote, this process took a long time and too much money.
- Because of the strong focus on political awareness and democracy many of our fieldworkers and volunteers centered their concern on these issues and put a lot of effort working in the community organization programme. This of course was great, but it also meant that the focus was taken from the other programs and therefore it was difficult to fulfill our strategy plan.
- The number of the beneficiaries in the classes (health, education, My Dear Daughter, pregnant, tutorial) decreased because of unsafe atmosphere during the revolution.
- The unemployment among our beneficiaries increased, especially among the day laborers. This burdened our budget, as we tried to help more people to establish their own projects and earn their living.
EpiscoCare is dedicated to combating poverty and social inequality in Egypt. Although 2011 was a challenging year with severe economic challenges it has still been a productive year.

Income 2011

EpiscoCare’s total income in 2011 was 2,077,049.55 L.E (344,663 USD)

Expenditure 2011

EpiscoCare’s total expenditure in 2011 was 1,873,897.25 L.E (310,952 USD)

Figure 1: EpiscoCares income 2011.

Figure 2: EpiscoCares expenses 2011. The salary part only includes the salary for the head office. Salaries for fieldworkers are included under programmes and activities.
EpiscoCare is looking ahead to 2012 with a positive and renewed mind and we are hoping to establish good partnerships and financial security for ongoing and new projects to the benefit for the Egyptian people.

Thanks

EpiscoCare is a non-profit organization and is therefore dependent upon donations and financial support. The help from our partners and supporters has made a world of difference for many people and we would like to express our gratitude for supporting our work towards a better life for poor and unprivileged people in Egypt.

Contact information

Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim
Executive Director, EpiscoCare
Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt
5 Michel Lutfalla, Zamalek, Cairo 11211 Egypt

Email: episcocare@gmail.com
Webpage: episcocare.org
Telephone: +20 (2) 2738 0821/3
Fax: +20 (2) 2735 8941
Mobile: +202 (0) 101 659 435
Webpage: http://episcocare.org