EpiscoCare

Annual report 2013
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Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Partners

EpiscoCare is proud to present to you the Annual Report for 2013! This has been a year of continued instability and challenges. Our staff continued the work of EpiscoCare as people are more in need than ever of vocational training, political awareness, health awareness, educational support and economic sustainability.

We are renewed in our work as we look forward to 2014 knowing that as a result of the instability in the past three years, our work will continue to be necessary. We will continue to focus on giving people the skills and opportunities that they need to provide for their families.

Throughout the year we have appreciated the prayers and support that have come from many places all over the world. We would like to thank our partners and donors for your continued support and for helping us to reach those who face increasing difficulties. We would like to share with you the results of your prayers and support. Please rejoice with us as you read our annual report and the success stories.

I am very thankful to Bishop Mouneer, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, for his continuous support and prayers as well as the members of the Board of Trustees, and also I am very grateful for social committee members in all of our centres.

I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers of EpiscoCare for their hard work and for their time. I would also like to inform you that this annual report will be the last one to be sent by me, as I have chosen to leave after 6 years of hard work. It really has been a blessing and I have learnt a lot from working for EpiscoCare, it was like my child, we grew up together and now I know that EpiscoCare has grown to be an adult, so I decided to leave and I am satisfied with my decision. After starting many development programs, putting together a qualified team and developing a good network with GOs and NGOs. I hope more and more success for EpiscoCare I am sure it is in God’s Hands.

Thank you for your support of me and of EpiscoCare in these wonderful years.

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.
Program

Introduction

EpiscoCare runs seven comprehensive development programs in each of our target communities. The focus of our programs is to bring about change in the areas of Community Organization, Training, Economic Development, Childhood and Motherhood, Education and Health and Environment. These programs help transform and improve the lives of those in marginalized areas of Egypt by giving them better opportunities to increase their quality of life.

We have established six comprehensive community development centers in Egypt. Four of these are located in urban areas within Cairo: Boulaq, Ain Shams, El Salam City and Ezbet el Nakhl. The two centers located outside of Cairo are in El Ras El Soda, a poor village 10 kilometers south of Alexandria and the other is in Suez. Our goal of the programs is to build the capacity of the local community to eventually take over the centers themselves.

Education is very important to EpiscoCare, as it is the vital to a better life. Thus, we administer one special needs school in Menouf, an education center also in Menouf and one education center in Cairo. We also run seven nurseries as well as a large number of adult education and literacy classes in order to give the community as a whole the best opportunity to improve the quality of their lives.

EpiscoCare believes that a partnership approach is very important to beneficiaries so that they take responsibility for their livelihoods. Therefore, we recruit and train volunteers and staff from the local community and consult with the families and community leaders about programs and decisions. Our objectives are designed to meet the needs of the community through the input of the beneficiaries in order to develop a two-way process to help the communities build their capacity to carry on their own sustainable development process as a long-term goal.
Education program

Program description
At EpiscoCare we understand the significance of education, and how it can enable people to increase their well-being and standard of living, but also how education affects not only the individual but also communities at large. Through our programs we support and encourage education of children coming from poor and underprivileged families, children with special needs and developmental disabilities, and illiterate adults.

Education is guaranteed in Egypt, and every Egyptian child has the right to go to school. This however does not mean that every child has the opportunity and possibility to do so. In order to remove the barriers preventing Egyptian children from going to school EpiscoCare arranges awareness seminars and public meetings at our community centers, and conducts home visits in order to teach parents the importance of education, and provide them with tools to support their children. Additionally the most disadvantaged students are supplied with school equipment and help to pay the tuition fee to the extent possible. These efforts are supplemented with tutoring, summer sessions and mentoring with mentors from the local community, thereby not only providing support for the children within their own family, but also in the community at large.

There exists a lack of awareness of the opportunities of children with developmental disabilities or special needs amongst the most vulnerable group in the Egyptian society: the poor. This is mostly due to lack of knowledge about the particular need to this group of children. Our school in Menouf is for children with special needs and provides a caring and secure environment where children are educated based on their individual needs ensuring the empowerment of these children, whilst at the same time offering physical therapy and family counseling.

Illiteracy is a key issue in Egypt. 2012 estimates from The World Bank suggested that an estimated 26 pct. of Egyptians above the age of 15 were illiterate. The majority of these belong to the most vulnerable group in the Egyptian society: women and the poor. To combat illiteracy in these areas, EpiscoCare has introduced strategically placed programs, which provides seminars and classes about illiteracy and community development.

Goals:
• Give illiterate people the chance to take an active and responsible role in community by providing them with opportunities through education and literacy programs.
• Keep children in school programs
• Provide opportunities for disabled children in Menouf.
• Support young people with additional skills and education to match the labor market needs and to help improve their job opportunities.

Activities and achievements

Literacy Classes
• EpiscoCare held 23 seminars to build the awareness of adults related the importance of education attended by 850 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare held 11 literacy classes, 6 – 8 months in duration, which were attended by 124 total beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare in cooperation with the Adult Education Organization organized 39 practice exams for the beneficiaries.
• In cooperation with the Adult Education Organization, EpiscoCare gave an exam, which tested 30 adults for literacy certificates. The Adult Education Organization apologized that they were not able to do more exams because of the political situation.
• 100 home visits were conducted to follow up with the beneficiaries.

Training and Building Capacity
• 2 training workshops to build the capacity of teachers, which were attended by 11 teachers each time.

Working with Parents
• 12 public meetings and 11 seminars were attended by 476 parents on the importance of education.
• 256 home visits were conducted to follow up the seminars and public meetings and to invite parents to participate in literacy classes.

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

Tutorial classes and School Groups
• EpiscoCare held tutorial classes for 377 children to reduce the drop out rate.
• 378 children who have difficulty in school attended Read and Write classes which held during summer time
• 300 home visits to follow up with the children and measure the feedback.

My Dear Daughter
EpiscoCare offer a special program called My Dear Daughter. The idea behind the program is to engage 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 dialogue on education and to promote a culture of volunteerism in the target communities.
• Basic training for 3 months attended by 66 girls age 16 to 20, to build their skills in the fields of communication, educational methods and facilitation.
• 66 pairs attended the program 3 times a week to conduct tutoring.
• **80 home visits** to follow up with the young girls and measure the feedback.
• **3 culture trips** were conducted for the beneficiaries to build their awareness as well as have fun.

**I am Not Alone classes**
These classes are targeting students between the ages of 8 and 13 who have dropped out of school and are not able to reenroll. EpiscoCare offers these children literacy course preparation, vocational training and life skills courses in order to keep them off the street.

• EpiscoCare held 2 classes for 22 girls through out the year.
• EpiscoCare staff organized 2 culture trips and 2 parties to build the self esteem of the girls and to help them to create relationships.

**Episcopal Training Center (ETC)**
• In 2013 the ETC had to move to a new building in Maadi. We are now located a few streets from the Metro but in the same area.

**Arabic Department**
• ETC taught **7000 hours of Arabic** to students of many different nationalities.

**English Department**
• ETC provided English classes to **450 students**.

**The Community Service Center in Menouf (CSC)**
• English courses for adults attended by **238 students**.
• Conversation courses attended by **32 students**.
• English courses for children attended by **76 children**.
• Computer courses attended by 16 students.
• Art courses attended by **26 students (10 adults and 16 children)**.
• Graphic Design course attended by **12 students**.
• German course attended by **3 students**.
• Human resource and development course attended by **27 students**.

**Menara Center for children with special needs**
• In 2013, the Menara Center served more than **36 handicapped children**, focusing on activities to help the children to become self–reliant.
• A test was given at the beginning and end of this year to test student’s education and abilities.
• This test showed a **60% improvement** in students ability to speak and in student’s pronunciation.

**Menara Activities**
• Activities and practical tasks were taught to help develop abilities and potential skills.
• Gym and physical therapy was offered daily focusing on the children’s physical training and development.

**Menara Training**
• Menara held **3 trainings** for parents attended by **25 parents** each time to build their awareness related to how they should deal with their children and how they can continue to help their children improve at home.
• Weekly trainings were held for the teachers in house and were attended by **12 teachers** each time.
**Education Local Committee Meeting**
- EpiscoCare held 12 committee meetings in each center attended by 16 volunteers each time.

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**Success Story**

Now I have begun to reach my goal

My name is Samia Ramses and I am 40 years old. I am married with three children in different education stages. I am working in a local school, but I cannot read and write so I decided to join the literacy classes at Ain Shams Community Development Centre. I have the determination that it is necessary to learn how to read and write well. I was very committed to attending the classes. I passed the exam successfully, and I insisted to continue my education to the highest level. I know how to organize my time between classes and house duties. I now work at the school and all my colleagues are willing to help me, as they know my story. They can see my determination in completing my education. Now I am working, studying and taking care of my family members, and I feel so happy to be able to achieve my goals.
Economic program

Program description
EpiscoCare believes that poor and unprivileged people have skills that are unutilized, and that these people with incentive and resources can increase their income by starting their own income-generating project.

Through our micro credit program EpiscoCare offers micro loans targeting the poor and specifically women, giving them a chance to start their own income-generating project, thereby helping them improve their income and standard of living. The goal is for people to generate a sufficient surplus from their business or work, they will be able to repay the credit and reinvest the remainder.

To receive such a loan the beneficiary have to partake in vocational training, and seminar in support in business management, accounting and financial accountability, and will receive help to produce feasibility studies. All of these programs combined are designed to specifically help the beneficiaries establish their projects and businesses.

Goals:
• Build a culture of financial accountability in private businesses.
• Improve the economic standards for poor individuals and families.
• Give people the opportunity to learn various practical and creative skills to help them find jobs.

Activities

Vocational Training
• EpiscoCare held 9 vocational training courses to train beneficiaries in different skills including sewing, hairdressing, handicraft making and computer usage. The courses were attended by a total of 127 beneficiaries.

Capacity Building
• EpiscoCare held 5 capacity building workshops, which were attended by 85 beneficiaries.

Building Awareness Seminar
• EpiscoCare held 40 seminars attended by 1,101 beneficiaries focusing on feasibility studies, marketing, project management, career development and developing projects.
• 23 seminars were held to encourage private sector work and initiative approach were attended by 591 beneficiaries

Income Generating Projects
• EpiscoCare gave out 940 micro loans to establish income-generating projects to help people ensure a better life for their families in the future.
• EpiscoCare staff conducted 1066 follow-ups on the on going projects that have begun in the last year.
• Our micro loans have a 98% repayment rate.

Assist people in finding jobs
• EpiscoCare helped 79 beneficiaries to obtain decent employment.

Local committee
• 28 committee meetings were attended by 74 members.

Success Story

The impossible come true
I am Nabil Fathy and I am 37 years old. I am married with two young kids. I live in Madent Al Salam, and I was working in a paint factory for a very low salary. I started to have health problems in spite of my young age, because of the poor work conditions. So I thought about starting a private business making soaps and detergents, but it was just a dream. I didn't have the money to start the business.
During this time I heard from my neighbor, Gamila Gergis that she takes loans from Al Salam Community Development Centre. She told me how kind and helpful they are. I went and applied for a micro loan and attended many work shops related to the project I want to start, as well as I attended the economic seminars. These seminars helped me in my business. Then I received the loan
I was so committed in paying the installments, so I received larger loans, and now my business is growing. My life became so much better. I started to save money for the future, which was impossible in the past.
Motherhood and Childhood program

Program description
Giving children a good start in life is imperative to their well being later in life, and their ability to contribute to society. EpiscoCare understands the importance of building parent’s awareness about the rights of their children and the tools to give them the best start to life.

To this extent EpiscoCare has established nurseries in the poorest and most needy communities, which lack basic services and educational institutions. Five of the nurseries are located in urban areas within Cairo, one in Sadat City, one in Suez and one in Ras El Soda a subarea of Alexandria. The main objective of the nurseries is to create a caring and secure environment where the children can develop intellectually and socially through play and teaching activities. All the teachers are specifically trained in caretaking and teaching activities. In addition EpiscoCare offers vaccinations, and provides regular medical check-ups for the children. EpiscoCare arranges seminars and workshops on topics such as the child’s rights, and how to respectfully raise a child. This is supplemented with public meetings where parents can share knowledge and experiences. Finally we conduct home visits and family counseling.

Goals:
- 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 currently running 8 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
  - Suez nursery
The Good Shepherd in Tawabek – Giza

**Academic education and building skills**
- All nurseries use the Maria Montessori approach daily.
- 8 teachers attended training on Maria Montessori approach.
- Refresher training was conducted for 12 teachers.
- Upgraded some of the nurseries and provided them with Montessori equipment.
- 70 children were provided with uniforms

**Helping children to have a better health**
- Medical checkup was provided for 176 children each month.
- Balanced diet meal was provided for 200 children each month.
- Vaccination and health care as needed by the children.

**Building awareness sessions for parents**
- EpiscoCare held 41 seminars on building awareness of child rights and development, which were attended by 436 parents.
- EpiscoCare conducted 404 home visits to follow up with the children at home and to see the impact of the seminars on the parents.

**Campaigns**
- EpiscoCare held 2 child right campaigns, which were attended by 58 parents and 58 children focusing on the child’s right to play, get the right information and improve his or her skills.

**Social activities**
- Parties and trips for the children. Occasional social events attended by 576 children and their parents.

**Local committee**
- 8 committee meetings were attended by 20 members each time.

**Success Story**

*Now I have a beautiful girl with good manners*

I am Hager Mahmud’s mother. I had a big problem with my daughter, who refused to go to any nursery. I tried many times but she was always screaming and crying and beating the other children. Finally I heard about Beet El Farah nursery that belongs to Medinat El Salam Community Development Centre. I enrolled my daughter there, and they accepted her although I told them about her problem. In the beginning she acted the same as before, but with the teachers love and patience, she changed a lot, and now she loves going to the nursery. She cries during the weekend because she wants to go and to see her friends and teachers.
Health and Environment program

Program description
Health care service is available in Egypt for most people, but the quality of this service is not guaranteed. Especially for people living in poor urban areas or rural areas, which are often more prone to malnutrition and waterborne illnesses, do not have access to good and honest health care. Women and children are especially vulnerable, as men’s health is prioritized over women and children in most cases.

EpiscoCare aims to improve basic sanitation and offers preventive and curative health care in poor communities. Through our health and environment program we offer a variety of seminars and health education classes, and arrange public meetings to increase awareness about issues such as reproductive health and family planning, and harmful issues such as Female Genital Mutilation, sexual abuse, HIV and hepatitis.

Goals:
• Teaching people and enabling them to get better primary health care.
• Enable people to live in a healthy environment through education and provision of services.
• Improving and educating people on reproductive health in the target communities.
• Improve the field worker and community members’ skills to help run clinics and programs. Enabling people to live in a healthy environment.

Activities
Health awareness
• EpiscoCare staff conducted 796 home visits for 1,491 men and women in order to build their awareness in the fields of personal cleaning, nutrition, and family planning and to follow up with pregnant women. This also helps us get feedback about the classes and to observe the homes in order to improve the interior environment of those who are the most in need.
• EpiscoCare held 9 general health education classes, which were attended by 171 beneficiaries.
• 6 Hepatitis C classes were attended by 140 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare held 16 seminars focusing on FGM, which were attended by 765 beneficiaries.
• 1714 beneficiaries attended 54 seminars focusing on general health.
• EpiscoCare held 40 specialized seminars on various health topics were attended by 1368 beneficiaries.
• 16 celebrations in cooperation with National Council of Women and FGM Coalition were attended by 1008 Christian, Muslim and local leaders focusing on FGM from health, tradition and Muslim and Christian religious views and also sexual abuse, family planning, nutrition and martial stress child development.

Better Health
• Medical check ups were conducted for 1877 beneficiaries.
• 5 mobile clinics visited our clinics in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. These mobile clinics helped 352 beneficiaries.
• 555 patients were helped in purchasing medicine.
• Support 2 people in eyes’ surgeries
• In 2013 we upgrade the clinic in Ain Shams development center.

Reproductive Health
• 29 pregnant women attended 3 anti-natal courses for 3 months.
  These included weekly building awareness class, ultrasound and a lab investigation.
• EpiscoCare held 3 post-natal classes attended by 53 women.
• 656 women were taught about and used contraceptives.
• Celebration with FGM day attended by 53 religious and local leaders.

Improvement in Living Conditions
• EpiscoCare helped to improve 34 homes through supplying furniture, beds, and household appliances.
• EpiscoCare helped renovate 5 homes by upgrading bathrooms and roofs.
• EpiscoCare staff organized 3 cleaning and planting campaigns held in cooperation with local groups, which were attended by the community.
  o EpiscoCare provided meals, tools and cleaning materials for the participants.
• EpiscoCare installed streetlights and paved local roads with the aid of local government leaders.

Building Capacity
• 15 volunteers attended 3 workshops to improve their level of performance.

Local committee
• 9 committee meetings were attended by 15 members each time.
My name is Nabila Jacob and I am a widow. I am 35 years old and I have a son and daughter. I was working with my husband as a building guard, but I left this work after the death of my husband and began working as a maid. This way I could pay my children’s expenses. After a while my brother came from Upper Egypt to live with us, as is traditional in our culture. When I was invited to attend a seminar on sexual abuse of children, I realized that my brother was abusing my daughter, and he was insisted on performing circumcision on my daughter. I didn’t know what to do, I went to the centre to ask for advice and the staff invited me to attend a seminar on FGM. Finally I was able to make the right decision, and I kicked him out of my house, and I decided to say for myself that I am capable of protecting my family. Gaining knowledge was the light of my way.
Community organization program

Program description
The main objective of our community organization program is to distribute power more equally throughout society by empowering community members. By uniting and getting community members engaged in their local community, people build their confidence and break down barriers created by discrimination, whilst working for the betterment of their community.

EpiscoCare has created the community organization program to ensure sustainability and increased development in these communities. We want to encourage a culture of volunteerism, capacity building and awareness to enable people to partake in and lead development projects. This program is therefore an integral part of all other programs under EpiscoCare.

To create community awareness on a broader scale, EpiscoCare is cooperating and sharing knowledge and know-how with other civil society organizations through training and capacity building.

Goals:
• Empower target communities to become self-reliant which will ensure the sustainability of the development process
• Building the capacity of the local leaders to ensure the sustainability of the development process

Activities

Capacity building and building awareness
• EpiscoCare held 8 public meetings to enhance the volunteerism approach, which were attended by 340 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare offered 7 political participation classes, which were attended by 156 beneficiaries.
• Political participation classes for children attended by 73 parents and 30 children
• EpiscoCare helped 97 beneficiaries to get their ID
• Family counseling classes were attended by 80 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare held 34 seminars for building political awareness attended by 777 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare staff conducted 609 home visits,
• 2 training workshops were attended by 15 staff and volunteers each time

Social events
• EpiscoCare held a celebration for women’s day where 6 ideal mothers were awarded which was attended by 158 women.

Ensuring Legal Existence
• 97 beneficiaries were aided in getting their IDs.
• EpiscoCare aided 1 beneficiary in obtaining governmental health insurance.

Local committees
• All of EpiscoCare’s centers have established a local committee for each of the programs. Each committee consists of 5 members, women and men, who represent the local community (local volunteers, religious leaders, business people and employers).
• The average attendance is 53 from the local committees and volunteers in each centre.

Partnerships and networking
• Egyptian Democratic Party
• Ministry of Environment
• Cultural Palace
• Sheppard Association
• El Salam Hospital
• El Salam Medical Unit
• Egyptian Association for Family Health
• Adult Education Association
• El Salam Governmental Unit
• Family Planning Association, Alexandria
• The Medical Unit in Ain Shams
• Ruth Association
• Rahek el Azhar Association
• Nagad Fafez Office for Cleaning Alexandria
• Caritas Masr in Alexandria
• National Population Council
• National Council of Women
• Coptic Orphans
• Cairo Organization for Cleaning and Planting
• Delta Ministry
• Ministry of Culture
• Salam magazine
• Media House
• Ministry of Health
• Yella Business
• EAHRD
• GIZ
Social care program

Program description
Despite various international conventions and agreements promoting gender balance and affirming the importance of women’s role in society, women in Egyptian are more likely to be poor, illiterate and victims of domestic violence than men. The most vulnerable group is widows and divorced women, who are often left with the sole financial responsibility of the family.

EpiscoCare has created the Social Care program to serve this specific group. Our main objective is to empower the women economically, socially and culturally, providing basic supplies and financial support to allow them to sustain a household. In additional we carry out home visits to ensure the well-being of the women, offer family counselling and arrange seminars on health, education, social and cultural issues to increase the general awareness of these issues. In some cases financial support is given to cover the expenses of childbirth and marriage.

Activities

- EpiscoCare held 12 spiritual meetings, which were attended by 789 women.
- 20 home visits were conducted for 100 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare held 2 building awareness meetings attended by 123 beneficiaries.
- Family counseling was conducted for 32 beneficiaries.
- 150 beneficiaries attended a seaside trip.

Financial Support
- Monthly financial support for 184 widows and emergency support for 3 cases.
- Financial support for 2 brides and 1 newborn baby and mother.
- Financial support for two families who lost a family member.

Educational Activities
- 26 children were supported with school supplies through Sunday school.
- EpiscoCare offered 8 tutorial classes for children in primary school, which were attended by 74 children.
- Private lessons were offered for 26 children in primary school.
- Educational materials were offered at half price for 150 children.
- Educational books were provided for 120 students and bags for 4 students.
• School fees were paid for 7 students

Health and Environment Program
• EpiscoCare helped to supply medicine to 73 beneficiaries.
• 4 home visits were conducted to check the medical condition of beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare helped in 3 surgeries, 2 lab investigations and 1 ultrasound.
• Two people were aided in getting glasses with the help of Caritas.
• Food packages were given to 17 families each month.
• Ready-made meals were prepared for 8 elderly women twice a month.
• EpiscoCare supported 2 families with simple furniture.
• EpiscoCare staff distributed 250 blankets in Boulaq and 20 blankets at a local prison.

Economic Program
• Follow up was completed on the recipients of 19 loans and providing one new loan for a hairdressing project.
• Three young people were aided in obtaining a decent job.
• A woman was helped to start a frozen food project in her home.
• A seminar focusing on handmade work and its relation to women.
• A seminar was held focusing on the importance of work and vocational training and was attended by 68 beneficiaries.
• EpiscoCare held a vocational training on embroidery, which was attended by 15 women in cooperation with GIZ, Maliaka and Caritas.
• Exchange experience with GOs and NGOs working in the same field.

Handcraft program
• 20 women cross-stitch on a regular basis from Zamalik and another 20 women produced from Medinat El Salaam.
• 24 women produce embroidery projects on a regular basis.
• 30 new cross-stitch designs and 10 new embroidery designs were created and produced.
• 2 women crocheted projects for the Boulaq Center
• 239 orders were made for cross-stitch items, 4 orders for lace work and 1019 orders were made for embroidery and sewing machine work.
• 15 new women tried to cross-stitch products for the center and 7 people joined the current work force.
• 29 robes for pastors were produced in different designs and stoles for the robes and 15 orders for other church appliances,
• 7 women finished the vocational training with Maliaka Linen.
• 2687 items were produced for the showroom.

Network & relations
• We have established a relationship with GIZ, and they have supported us in the training of women in embroidery who will be working for the company Maliaka Linen.
• A new relationship was established with a company, which places a monthly order for sewing.
• The Maadi Women's Guild has continued to support us through donations of a sewing machine, a washing machine, and an industrial
iron. They also forwarded some private donations for the purpose of buying an air conditioner.

• We have also established a relationship with the organization Eye on the Child and Madame Hannaa Samuel.

Achievements
• Rebranding was completed for the shop in the Boulaq Center which is now called the Touch of Egypt Handcraft Shop
Lessons learned

• Security is a necessity in our work so if it is absent we will not be able to work efficiently.
• Training by doing is a good tool to build the capacity of people.
• Teaching local people how to deal with government is a cornerstone in development because it enables them to overcome the boundaries between them and gain increasing benefits.
• If we set a strategic plan with goals and objectives, then an action plan, it helps us to know our tasks, to be aware of our duties, and to prepare the time to achieve them. This enables us to achieve success and helps us to measure the results and the real impact.
• Networking with GOs and NGOs helps us to achieve more work with the hands of others to save time, money and effort.
• Seminars, public meetings, and building awareness classes help in improving the level of awareness of beneficiaries, which affects their life positively.
• Training, workshops and capacity building sessions are made to improve the staff performance, and to have a strong impact on the targeted communities.
• Work in the field of development is a kind of training approach that helps the staff gains the needed personal skills.
• Work in the comprehensive development field teaches people how to work as a team, how to respect the skills of each person, how to remove the gaps between the staff, and to realized that each one is unique person.
• EpiscoCare adopts the voluntarism approach which ensures a second line of staff after the local leaders and works to build their self-esteem and their capacity, as well as to develop their sense of belonging.
• Working in different programs creates different skills and abilities, which strengthen our organization.
Challenges

- Lack of security was the biggest challenge in implementing the strategic plan, since we were compelled to postpone some activities, as the beneficiaries refused to come to the community development centers.
- Funding also decreased this year, as donors preferred supporting the programs that work to enhance and build civil awareness.

Finances

EpiscoCare is dedicated to combating poverty and social inequality in Egypt. Although 2013 was a challenging year with severe economic challenges it has still been a productive year.

Income 2013

EpiscoCare’s total income in 2013 was 2,245,569 L.E (320,796 USD)

![Figure 1: EpiscoCare’s income 2013.](image)
EpiscoCare’s total expenditure in 2013 was 1,930,666 L.E (275,809)USD. 

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Program and</td>
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<td>Activities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2: EpiscoCare’s expenses 2013. The salary part only includes the salary for the head office. Salaries for fieldworkers are included under programs and activities.

EpiscoCare is looking ahead to 2014 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.

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