Our Vision

Our vision is to reach out to the poorest communities in Egypt, to enable them to enhance their own standard of health and living through education and development support.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide development services for everyone in our targeted communities. This covers the fields of health, education, economy and environment. Our approach is participatory, and without any kind of discrimination with respect to sex or religion.

We facilitate our Mission through the following programs

Education program page 3
Childhood and motherhood program page 5
Health program page 6
Economic program page 9
Community organization program page 10
Social care program page 12
Education program

In Egypt a high percentage of children in poor communities do not complete their school education. This is caused by many aspects. Frequently the parents are illiterate and have no idea of the value of an education. They are likely to have a family income of less than 2US $ per day. This does not enable them to buy books, uniforms, additional tutoring, payment for lunch or any of the commitments which make school attendance easy.

Goals:

Sustain the attendance of children in school
Enable the illiterate people to obtain knowledge and education to allow them to take an active and responsible role within the community

Achieved through the following activities:

• By helping children at preschool age to enroll at elementary school.
• By running a number of support programs to help those who have learning disabilities to sustain class attendance.
• By stressing the importance of education to children and parents alike.

Working with parents

• In 2009 we organized 17 public meetings and 4 seminars to inform parents about the value of education for their children. These were attended by 854 parents.
• We did home visits to 294 families to follow up their children’s education at home.

Supplying children with school equipment

• We have supplied 1058 children with books, school supplies and contributions toward school fees.
My dear daughter classes

- Enroll university and high-school girls as volunteers to care for children in primary education. These children may have difficulties managing to succeed in the education system.
- These volunteers become responsible for promoting confidence and success in the young dependent.
- We trained 22 volunteers at a time through workshops, which last through the three summer months, to equip them to aid the young dependents when the school year starts.

Tutorial classes

- It is difficult for children to succeed in school without extra-curricular support and tutoring. For all of the children attending school in our target areas this is a financial impossibility. To rectify this we run support tutorial groups at our centers which helped 1102 students in 2009.

Training workshop

- In 2009 we ran a training workshop, Active learning, to expand the abilities of adult education teachers within our development centers. This was attended by 15 teachers.
- This year we ran 11 adult education classes for 156 adult students.
- 122 students have already reached the level of governmental certificate.

Teaching English in the Episcopal Training Center

- ETC ran 6 English language classes in 2009 which enrolled 685 students.
- ETC ran 3456 hours in Arabic lessons to 194 foreign students.

Teaching English and computer in the Community Social Center “Menouf”

- CSC ran conversation courses for five levels attended by 53 students.
- CSC ran different English courses for different level attended by 119 students.
Helping and caring for those with special needs
- In 2009 the El Menara School for special needs in Menouf looked after **40 students**.
- The El Menara School provides meals for the children, who are generally very poor.

**Childhood and motherhood program**

We recognize that the child of today is the man/woman of tomorrow and therefore we try to help them to fulfill their potential and develop their skills to ensure that they will be the generation to break the cycle of poverty.

**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

**Achieved through the following activities:**

**Training teachers**
- The same **20 teachers** attend a refresher course in teaching methods, each month.

**Helping children to a better health**
- Provided a balanced meal to **130 children 20 times each month**.
- Regular medical checkup for **447 children** to detect any diseases.
- Vaccines are provided when necessary.

**Socializing children’s life**
- Social activities (Birthday Parties, trips, and festivals) for **2287 children and parents**.
- Supplied **75 children** with School uniforms.
- We upgrade nurseries and their outside spaces with new games, grass and equipment.

### Childhood and children rights
- **32 meetings** with parental groups to encourage them to be aware of the rights of children, attended by **814 people**.
- We ran **20 seminars**, open to the general Public, addressing the rights of children, this was attended by **517 people**.
- **161 home visits** to follow up the children at their home.

### Health and environment program
Health is a broad subject which comprises of many facets. We particularly aim to improve health provisions for individuals.

#### Goals:
- Enable the targeted community to obtain better health care
- Upgrade the field workers and volunteers capacity
- Improving reproductive health
- Enable people to live in healthier environment

#### Achieved through the following activities:
- Raise health awareness in the target communities.
- Providing medical and health care services to the beneficiaries.
- Providing medical care for pregnant women in the targeted communities.
- Raising awareness around the importance of using family planning methods.
- Providing education on the prevention of AIDS, through “Together to Combat AIDS”, classes.
Health awareness
- Home visits to **1271 families**.
- Health education classes for **250 beneficiaries**.

Medical and health care services
- Financial support for **5 people** to have urgent operations
- We gave monthly food supplies to **91 families**.
- Upgrade dental-, optical- and pediatrics clinics.
- Medical checkups for **1376 beneficiaries**.
- A traveling medical service was provided in cooperation with the ministry of health, helping **76 patients** and providing medicine for **1172 people**.

Reproductive health and family planning
- Weekly antenatal classes giving medical advice and treatment to **35 pregnant women**. This includes ultrasound x-rays and lab investigations.
- Postnatal classes which provide advice and information to mothers for one year after the birth of their child.
- Helping **2219 women** to use family planning methods.
- Health awareness was raised with **2004 women** through specialized seminars.
- “Together to Combat AIDS” classes”
- Seminars (attended by 600 each month in each community) to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and how to protect children to **21600 beneficiaries**.
- Constant upgrading of our educational staff to ensure the smooth running of our classes, seminars, public meetings and objectives attended by **15 trainees**.

Improvement of internal environment
- Improving the internal environment of **26 homes**.
- Repairing toilet and shower facilities to improve levels of hygiene and cleanliness for **7 families**.

![Before and After Images]
• Providing access to sewage systems.
• Repairing 26 roofs to help prevent illness which occurs from the damp and cold.

[Images of before and after roofs]

• Supply **280 households** with furniture, cooking and other domestic equipment.

**Enhance the local health committees**

• **475 volunteers** participated in **5 cleaning and planting programs** to clean up the streets of Cairo and Alexandria.

**Economic program**

Economic development is the cornerstone of our development work, raising the living standards of poor families and allowing them to take responsibility for their own needs. It is our top priority. The problem of poverty is a very difficult issue to face and has meant the destruction of many development programmes in the past; therefore we try to ensure we make best use of our natural and existing human and environment resources to ensure the sustainability of our work.

**Goals:**

Improving the standards of the poor families

Building the culture of private business
Achieved through the following activities:

Building local leaders capacity
- Specialized training on marketing skills **40 beneficiaries**.
- Specialized training on how to establish an Economic development program **40 beneficiaries**.
- Seminars to build economic awareness attended by **120 participants**.

Vocational training
- Build up skills in order to improve job opportunities or to enable them to start their own project.
- We delivered **48 professional training courses to 574 students** in the skills:
  - Professional hairdressing courses
  - Designing and making women's accessories
  - A three-month sewing course
  - Handicrafts
  - Technical training on How to use computers
  - Taught how to make liquid Soaps

Income generating projects
- We implemented Income generating projects for **237 beneficiaries** to increase their income and to ensure a better life for their families
- Start up loans to encourage people to open their own businesses such as:
  - Furniture and home ware shops
  - Grocery stores
  - Spice businesses
  - Selling vegetables, cheese and butter
• We started the *Thursday Market* in which all participants of the scheme could display and sell their products to members of the public.

**Promote a culture of entrepreneurship**

• We held **20 seminars** to promote a culture of entrepreneurship for **678 beneficiaries**.
• Networking with local employers to ensure that jobs and training are linked to the available workers.
• Follow up support once people are employed to ensure satisfaction both for the workers and employers.
• We helped **206 obtain** a decent job

**Community organization program**

To ensure sustainable and increasing development in the communities we build the capacity of local leaders to encourage self-reliance.

**Goal:**

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

**Achieved through the following activities:**

• Mobilizing the community to participate in the development process by forming Development Committees.
• These are comprised of volunteers from the community. We also help members of the community to obtain official documents of identification and election cards. This allows them to claim their political rights and will empower them to act on behalf of their community.
Development Committees
- Forming Development Committees according to the different programs i.e. Health Committee, Education Committee, Motherhood and Childhood Committee, Economic Committee and the Community Organization Committee.
- We organized **21 meetings** of the Development Committees. These were attended by a total of **169 members**.
- We organized **9 motivational campaigns** which reached **257 beneficiaries**.
- We also did **458 home visits** to involve other people in the community.

Political awareness
- We raised political awareness through a Political Participation program, which were held as a **3 month course**. **440 people** benefited from these classes.
- We obtained **50 national ID cards** and **23 ballot cards** for the participants.

Volunteerism
- We ran **28 public meetings** which focused on the importance of volunteerism. This was attended by **1293 people**.
- We held Motivational seminars to encourage a culture of volunteerism in the communities. **204 people** attended these seminars.

Workshops
- Training workshops attended by **66 trainees**, with focused on:
  - The Participatory Research Approach (PRA)
  - Volunteerism
  - How to write a project proposal for funding and ensure the financial sustainability of community projects
Social care program

This programme involves working with widows and marginalized women who have no one to care for them as well as the recently married and those who will marry in the near future. We aim to empower them socially, culturally and economically.

Goal:

Improve the life of widows and marginalized women.

Achieved through the following activities:

- Caring for widows and marginalized women

Meetings and Seminars

- 13 Social meetings attended by 185 each time.
- Seaside conference for 4 day attended by 15 families (81 persons).
- 12 Public meetings attended by 233 women.
- 12 seminars attended by 235 women.

Guidance

- Home visits to 144 families.
- Family counseling for 43 cases.

Financial support

- Monthly financial support for 276 poor women.
- Financials support for processing 3 brides.
- Financial support for 3 poor women for the cost of childbirth.
- Financial support for 3 families who have suffered bereavement.
Social activities
- New Year celebration attended by 140 women.
- Christmas Eve celebration attended by 185 women.
- One picnic attended by 126 women who are very poor.
- One seaside trip for the poorest families attended by 101 families.

Success stories

“Amal Salah combats (FGM)”

My name is Amal Salah and I am from Upper Egypt. I have 2 daughters and one son. My husband did not have a job in Upper Egypt and we were suffering from poverty. We decided to come to Cairo and start again. Finally my husband did find a job in Cairo, and I developed good relationships with my new neighbors. They told me about the Episcopal development center in Madent El Salam.

My neighbors invited me to go with them to attend The Health Education Class. I went with them and I spent three months on that course. I learnt about many topics, one of them was on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and it had a very big impact on me. I learnt that this practice has a negative psychological, social and physical impact on our daughters.

I decided that I will not practice FGM on my daughters. Also I talked to my husband and convinced him that we do not need to. It is more important to teach them values. I spoke to him about the harmful effects of this practice and he finally agreed that we have to combat this bad habit. We will start with our daughters.
“Ayman Zaki became a business man”

My name is Ayman Zaki and I live in Ain Shams. My wife is a student in the Health Education Class, and she discovered that Ain Sham Development Center was providing loans to poor people to start up businesses.

I was working as a fish peddler in the streets (Roaming seller of fish). It was not an easy life and did not pay well. I applied for loan from the Ain Sham Development Center and I got it. I started my own business by renting a small shop and buying goods to sell. It was a take-away sea food shop.

I always thank God and all the staff in Ain Shams center for this and I am proud of myself for what I have achieved.

“Samia’s new business was only for men”

My name is Samia. I am 36 years old. I am married and have 3 sons, one in Nursery, one in primary and one in elementary school. The first job I got was to work in a nursery as a cleaner, then in a factory for clothing, and then I came back to the nursery for 4 years. After that I started to work with my brother-in- Law, in a small shop designing forms of gypsum for household decoration. He helped me learning all the techniques of this profession, and I found that I could even start this type of business myself.

I started to design my own forms but I had financial problems. So I decided to go to the Medent El Salm development center to try and get a loan. They were very welcoming and they trained me on how to produce a Feasibility Study, taught me marketing skills and they supported me financially with 1000 LE.

My project expanded and I quickly felt the fruits of my hard work in my monthly income. I am very happy and although this kind of work is traditionally only for men I feel my project took a lot of initiative and it paid off. I encourage all my neighbors to get loans and start income generating projects.
“Mariam William was a very aggressive child”

I am housewife and my husband works as a driver. Our daughter Miriam is 5 years old. Miriam was very aggressive, had social problems and did not enjoy anything related to education. I decided to send her to the nursery in the Development Center in Madent El Salam, where they acknowledged the problem and dealt with her effectively.

The teacher gave her special care, spent a lot of time with her individually and after few months I started to note a change in her behavior. She has developed to have many friends at the nursery and is now doing really well.

I went to the nursery and I thanked the teacher. I told them that my daughter now has leadership skills, is smart and enthusiastic.

“Fayza Ayob beats poverty”

My name is Fayza Ayob and although I am 63 years old I have beaten poverty. I am widow and I have 7 children; 6 of them are married and one daughter is engaged. I used to live in Upper Egypt and was work milling wheat where I only got paid 10LE for each sack. When I came to Medant El Salam, I decided I would like to start a new kind of job. However, I am illiterate and I have no skills other than the ability to make a paste which repels cockroaches.

I am a participant in Medant El Salam development center. After I had produced a feasibility study I applied for loan and was awarded it and they welcomed me into the project. Now I am making many things which are: Cockroach powder, cockroach paste, fly powder, shower gel, conditioner and face masks. I am selling my products to pharmacies, homes, and in the market, also.

Due to my experiences I encouraged my children to start their own business. In the beginning I lent them some money for start-up expenses. They have achieved a lot from this. My son Maged has a business selling cosmetics. My son Medhat has a project selling used car parts. My Daughter Magda is selling products from the “My Way Company”. My other daughter Mary has a small sewing workshop and she is selling her products to pharmacies, churches, neighbors and she carries her products round with her wherever she goes. Now I have a business family who are self reliant.
“Mary Samir was struggling”

My name is Mary Samir and I am married and have one child. My husband is working in a governmental Heath Center in Madent El Salam. His salary is very low which means we have been battling with poverty. I used to attend all the activities in Madent El Salam development center including education-, health-, economic- and community programs and childhood and motherhood activities. There I learnt a lot.

One day, when we were celebrating the end on Health education class, they gave me bed sheet as a present. This gave me the idea to start a business making bed sheets to sell. I borrowed some money from my mother, and then I try if I could make good quality bed sheets and to see if there was a market. I bought 60 meters of cotton cloth to work with, made the sheets and took them to the Thursday Market in the development center to sell them. They encouraged me to get loan from the center and expand my project and helped me to produce a Feasibility Study.

I am so happy and have now bought three sewing machines to produce sheets with different designs and colors. I have employed some girls for my business and have expanded my line of products to include blankets, house wares, trousers, quilts and bedspreads. I also acquired some evening dresses which I rent out at a reasonable price.

I try to expand my business as much as possible and in turn help those in poverty coming from the same kind of situations as I was in. It gives me pleasure to be able to help others by employing them in a safe environment and by giving them a decent wage. I know how difficult poverty can be.

I was very poor but now I am a business woman
Lessons learnt

We discovered that if we start with the local leaders we can save a lot of time as they know the real needs of the communities they live in.

Forming committees (related to our programs) of local leaders and volunteers helped us to achieve more by forming entry points to the communities. This also makes our work more efficient as these people will in turn work more directly with their communities.

We found that when we held seminars and public meetings regularly which focused on certain issues, for example; managing money and voluntarism, it helped us to implement our plans more effectively helping people to understand our goals and involving them in our activities.

Good advertisement proved to be necessary to involve large numbers of people from the communities.

Networking with NGOs and GOs helped us to achieve more and enabled us to provide a more effective service; for example the government provided us with doctors to provide education on healthcare. We worked with the Health Ministry, Adult Education Governmental Organization and more than 20 NGOs.

Home visits give us updated feedback on our activities which enabled us to correct ourselves or to feel that we are on track.
Achievements

Besides the aforementioned activities, meetings, seminars, etc., in 2010 we have:

- Opened a new multipurpose hall in Ain Shams Development center
- Provided a new kitchen in El Menara center in Menouf
- The Coptic Orphans organization judged the 22 trained university students in “My Dear Daughter project” in Ain Shams Development Center to have produced the most success in the whole of Egypt
- Upgraded the nurseries in our developments centers with new games, grass and equipment

Challenges

We are grateful for all what we have been able to achieve in the year 2010 and for all the progress that we have seen in our work, but still we are facing challenges such as:

- Shortage of financial resourced
- Shortage in human resources, i.e. full-time staff
- We need more specialized people to work in the head office that can coordinate planning, monitoring & evaluation of our projects. We also need people to work in the field as “coordinators”.
Thanks

We would like to thank all donors who help and support us to achieve our goals to help the poorest of the poor in Egypt.

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