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Introduction

EpiscoCare’s Vision is to reach out to poor urban communities to enable people to enhance their own standard of health and living through education and development support.

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’s focus is on:

- Cultural and social development of villages and marginalized communities.
- Comprehensive development programmes for women and children.
- Support and education for children with special needs and other disabilities.
- Combating unemployment and poverty.
- Building young peoples’ capacity to learn and advancing language and computer skills.
- Cooperation with partners in various fields.
- Promoting the rights of each beneficiary including the rights of the child.
- Healthcare and environment.
- Economic advocacy and political awareness.

Currently EpiscoCare has six local Community Development Centres. Four of them are located in urban areas within Cairo; Bulaq, Ain Shams, El Salam City and Ezbet El Nakhl. One centre is located in Menouf City about 90 km north-west of Cairo and one centre is in El Ras El Soda, a poor village 10km south of Alexandria.

EpiscoCare takes a partnership approach to the target groups recruiting and training volunteers and members of staff from amongst the local community and consulting families and community leaders. This means objectives are designed and implemented to suit the specific needs of that community. EpiscoCare believes that development is a two-way process and the development work is designed to leave behind the infrastructure for these communities to continue to develop long into the future.
EpiscoCare runs comprehensive development programmes in each of our target communities. The programmes cover the areas of Education, Childhood and Motherhood, Economic Development, Social Care, Health and Environment, Training and Community Organization, and they all follow the rules, customs and traditions of the beneficiaries showing deep respect for religious expression.

**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.

EpiscoCare’s **Values** are based upon Egyptian principles and traditions. The work is committed to justice, avoiding discrimination of any kind and the framework is based upon love and acceptance of others and a belief in managing our land with respect and care.
Education programme

Overall Goals:

- Sustain the attendance of children in school.
- Enable illiterate people to obtain knowledge and education which enable them to take an active and responsible role within the community.
- Care for children with special needs.

Introduction

In Egypt, a high percentage of children in poor communities do not complete their school education. This is caused by many different factors. Frequently is it because the parents are illiterate, very poor and are not aware of the value of an education. Also traditions and ways of living play a role in relation to education. According to UNDP Human Development program more than 47% of the problems in Egypt are caused by lack of education.

EpiscoCare runs a comprehensive education programme comprising of multiple projects with different focus areas.

EpiscoCare provides awareness seminars, public meetings and home visits for parents on the importance of education for their children as well as for themselves. This encourages parents to put an active effort into sustaining their children’s learning and to keep their children in school instead of keeping them at home or forcing them to work.

Because many parents simply cannot afford to send their children to school, EpiscoCare supplies children with school equipment and offers contributions to pay school fees. This compliments efforts to highlight the importance of education to the development of the community and the individuals in it.

Children often find it difficult to keep up and understand what they are taught in school. Extra-curricular tutorial classes are a financial impossibility for many families in poor areas. EpiscoCares local community development centres are providing free extra tutorial classes after school to support children in their studies and ensure they are keeping up with their school work. To complement tutorial classes, EpiscoCare runs summer schools in the target communities, which also has the dual effect of keeping the children off the streets during the three month summer holiday in Egypt.
Also, EpiscoCare runs a tutoring programme called My Dear Daughter, focusing on decreasing the percentage of girls dropping out of primary school. Private tutoring will strengthen the girls in their learning and therefore improve their chances of keeping up at school. Simultaneously, the girls will have a good role model in their tutor and receive moral and social support in different personal and family issues.

EpiscoCare runs adult education classes for illiterate or barely literate beneficiaries focusing on literacy. We believe that additional education can help disadvantaged people to obtain better paid jobs and so be able to improve, not only their own living conditions, but also in the development of the whole society. EpiscoCare offers low cost courses in English and computer skills, at the centre in Menouf and at Episcopal Training Centre in Cairo, to those who could not otherwise afford it. The aim is to encourage people to increase their life opportunities and prospects by raising their level of ability.

EpiscoCare has a school in Menouf for children with special needs offering a safe and cheerful environment for the children. While providing both teaching and physical therapy for the students, the Centre also works to inform the parents on how to care for their children and realise their full potential. The centre has around 50 pupils each year and the vision of the Menara Centre is to assist the children in becoming self-reliant.

Activities and achievements

Working with parents
- In 2010 EpiscoCare organized **28 public meetings** and **11 seminars** to inform parents about the value of education for their children. In total **1337 parents** attended these meetings.
- EpiscoCare staff carried out **250 home visits** to follow up on children’s educational status.

Supplying children with school equipment
- In 2010 EpiscoCare supplied **1681 children** with books, school supplies or contributions toward school fees and school uniforms.

Tutorial classes
- Through tutorial support EpiscoCare helped **948 students** (boys and girls) academically, enabling them to remain in school.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged 3 read and write classes during summer for children attended by **194**.
**My dear daughter classes**
- EpiscoCare arranged a three months training course attended by **20 volunteers**. During the training the volunteers (all girls) were receiving skills and tools to assist and tutor young girls in primary school, supporting them academically as well as personally.
- **20 girls** in primary school had private tutoring classes **twice a week** during the academic school year 2010.

**Training workshop**
- In 2010, EpiscoCare ran a two day training workshop to expand the abilities of adult education teachers within the development centres. This was attended by **15 teachers**.
- EpiscoCare arranged 12 adult education classes. Each class ran for 6–8 months depending on the level. In total the classes were attended by **143 students**.
- EpiscoCare in cooperation with adult education organisation organized 8 examinations for students to get the governmental certification. These examine were attended by **85 students**.
- EpiscoCare held 3 courses in reading and writing attended by **194 students**. The duration of each course was 3 months.
- EpiscoCare held a 3 months English language course attended by **20 young women**.

**Episcopal Training Centre (ETC)**
- The ETC ran 6 English courses in 2010 with a total of **450 individual students**. At least half of these took two or more Levels.
- The ETC taught **4,200 hours of Arabic** lessons to 225 different foreign students.

**“Menouf” Community Social Centre (CSC)**
- In 2010 CSC ran English conversation courses in five levels attended by **55 students**.
- CSC ran English courses in different level attended by **282 students**.
- In 2010 a computer course was held attended by **250 students**.
- CSC offered a 20 hours art and musician course for **17 children**.
- In 2010 CSC offered a 20 hours intensive conversation course for children to develop their abilities in English Language. The course was attended by **29 children**.
- A German language course attended by **3 students**.
- Concert celebration of mothers, attended by **70 mothers**.
- Concert Encouragement for students attended by **17 people**.

**Menara centre for children with special needs**
- In 2010 the Menara centre for served **50 children and their parents**. The children, age 3 to 20, are provided with education and special care, and parents are supported in how to care for children with mental or physical disabilities.
Success story

I learned to read and write and got myself a sister
My name is Folla and although I am now 69 years old I am still ready to meet new challenges in life.

I have all my life been illiterate, never learned to read and write. Therefore when I heard about the literacy classes offered at EpiscoCares local community centre in El Salam, I found that this was my chance to improve my life skills. I started to attend the classes and one day I felt encouraged to turn to my Muslim neighbor Fawzia, whom I have never before had anything to do with, to invite her to join the classes with me. I was so happy about her positive reaction and that she wanted to come with me. Now we are devoted to attend the class and we encourage and help each other to study.

Not only has the literacy classes given me the ability to finally being able to read and fill out my own papers, also I have met the love from the people at the local centre and my neighbor is now my friend.
Childhood and motherhood programme

Overall goals:

- To enable children aged 2–6 years old to grow up in a healthy environment.
- Enable parents to be aware of children’s rights.

Introduction

Many children in Egypt are brought up without parental care, suffering from malnutrition, and a lack of education. In the communities which EpiscoCare operates in, parents are often lacking the knowledge of how to care for their children which means that many children are left to fend for themselves at home or playing in the streets, being vulnerable victims of abuse and violence.

The children of today are the future of tomorrow. EpiscoCare realises the significance of a good beginning in life and we believe 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.

To this end, EpiscoCare runs five nurseries where children from underprivileged families are offered educational play to provide them with skills to help them in further academic education and in life in general. Most of the children are provided with breakfast each morning, as well as other balanced meals during the day, and the poorest are also given school uniforms. All of the teachers at the nurseries are trained on the Psychology of the Child and the International Convention on Child Rights to enable them to treat the children with dignity and respect.

EpiscoCare also arranges for the children’s vaccinations and offers regular medical checkups. EpiscoCare’s staffs follow up on the children’s wellbeing through home visits, where they also offer encouragement and advice to parents.

EpiscoCare arranges seminars and workshops for parents on the topic of children’s rights and to encourage a culture of parents respecting their children.

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.
To nurture family relationships EpiscoCare arranges parties and social activities for parents and children. Also we arrange trips to different places of interest for families to have a great time together and at the same time explore and learn about Egypt.

Activities

Nursery care
- EpiscoCare is running five nurseries. In 2010 the nurseries served more than 120 children.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged for additional training to 16 nursery teachers in the skills of child psychology and child rights.
- The same 16 teachers attended training course in teaching methods, each month.
- Nurseries and outside spaces were upgraded with new games, grass and equipment.
- 110 children in nursery were supplied with school uniforms.

Helping children to better health
- 200 children were provided a balanced meal 20 times each month.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged regular medical checkups for 1,119 children.
- Vaccines and extra health care were provided when necessary.

Awareness meetings
- In 2010 34 meetings for parental groups were held to raise awareness on child rights and upbringing. The meetings were attended by 713 people.
- EpiscoCare ran 32 seminars open to the general public addressing child rights and children role in society. These seminars were attended by 610 people.
- As many children are left to fend for themselves, EpiscoCare’s staff carried out 178 home visits to follow up on children’s conditions in their home.
- One building awareness course was arranged for parents focusing on childhood attended by 23.
- 8 meetings for the childhood and motherhood committee members.

Social events
- Social activities (birthday parties, trips, and festivals) for 1,056 children and parents.
- Misr El Baraka organised a national nursery competition
- 103 children from Ain Shams and El Salam nursery have been part of a national nursery evaluation arranged by Misr El Baraka organisation. The children from these two nurseries archived the highest overall score.
Success story

Abanob started to socialise
I am Abanob’s mother and we live in Ain Shams. Abanob was a very naughty and aggressive boy and I didn’t know how to care for him in a good way. I wanted to join him in a good nursery therefore I enrolled him in Smiling nursery in Ain Shams local community centre.

The teachers in the nursery gave him special teaching, love and care and they always encouraging him and complimenting his efforts and improvements. I was invited to participate in parents meetings where we were informed and learned about parenting and how to deal with our children in a good way, how to support them and improve their attitude to life.

Within 3 months I began to feel the difference in Abanob’s behaviour, he had more confidence, was happier and more polite and his behaved toward other children were welcoming and less aggressive. Also my changed in the way I was dealing with my children, not only affecting Abanob but also his brothers.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff at Smiling nursery.
Health and environment program

Overall goals:
- 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.

Introduction
Health is widely recognised as a cornerstone of human development. Health is essential to human security, since survival and protection from illness are at the core of any concept of people’s wellbeing. Good health enables human choice, freedom and progress.

Egypt has seen striking progress in health care provision, as evidenced by rising life expectancy and falling infant mortality rates (Egypt Human Development Report 2010). Yet health is by no means assured for all citizens in Egypt: In particular the people living in rural and poor suburban areas lack access to proper health care.

The most common health problems in Egypt relate to malnutrition, bad environment, reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV), substance abuse, and domestic violence. Further health problems arise from social and cultural pressure such as early marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM), non-communicable diseases, some prevalent infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and hepatitis, and food borne diseases that are often a result of poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation facilities. Faulty childcare practices among young mothers can cause repeated diarrheal episodes and malnutrition.

Through the health and environment programme, EpiscoCare aims to improve general health services and awareness in poor and needy communities in which none or insufficient health services are provided. The focus is on the beneficiaries’ needs in the area of health and environmental awareness.

EpiscoCare is providing primary healthcare at the local community centres’ clinics as well as through a travelling clinic.

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.

Also marriage preparation classes, antenatal classes and parenting classes are offered at the centres to improve provision for family planning and reproductive health.

EpiscoCare helps in improving the internal and external environment in the local communities through house renovations, improving bathrooms and kitchens as well as having street cleaning and planting campaigns.

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

In relation to the Health Programme, EpiscoCare trains local health workers, volunteers and health committee members, nominating them as health and environment ambassadors to become role models in their communities and to pass on their knowledge and insight to others in the community from a standpoint which they can understand and relate to.

Activities

Health awareness
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged health education classes for 348 beneficiaries. Each class had a duration of 3 months.
- EpiscoCare carried out 775 home visits to check up on health, hygiene and living conditions.
- EpiscoCare held 2 classes focusing on identifying Hepatitis, prevention, and treatment attended by 30 people. Each class had four sessions.
- EpiscoCare held information seminars on female genital mutilation attended by 40 people.
- Several meetings about public health were held. In total 181 people attended these meetings.
- The general health awareness has been raised for 1,444 women through specialized seminars.

Medical support and health care
- In 2010 EpiscoCare granted financial support for 570 people to have urgent operations
- EpiscoCare arranged monthly food supplies to 197 families.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare upgraded the dental clinic in El Ras El Soda.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare upgraded the family planning clinic in Ain Shams.
- Medical checkups were given to 333 beneficiaries.
• A travelling medical service, helping 124 patients, was provided in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.
• Financial support for medical treatment was granted to 633 people.

Reproductive health
• In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged weekly antenatal classes for 53 pregnant women teaching them in hygiene, diet and health and giving medical advice and treatment, including ultrasound x-rays and lab investigations.
• Postnatal classes which provide advice and information to 53 mothers for one year after the birth of their child.
• In 2010 1,615 women have been informed and taught how to use family planning methods.
• The general health awareness has been raised for 1,444 women through specialized seminars.

Improvement in living conditions
• In 2010 EpiscoCare helped improving the internal environment of 30 homes.
• EpiscoCare gave financial support to 23 families to improve and repair toilet and shower facilities to raise the level of hygiene and cleanliness.

Way of life
• In 2010 EpiscoCare supported the Way of life program to organise 16 awareness seminars on how to deal with and help people in addiction.
  4 seminars targeted families attended by 180 participants.
  8 seminars targeted youths attended by 219 participants.
  2 seminars targeted women attended by 155 participants.
  2 seminars target church leaders attended by 58 participants.
• In 2010 a 3 days leadership training was held to train youth leaders in counselling for addicts and their families as well as dealing with issues raised due to addiction. The conference was attended by 26 young church leaders.
• In 2010 two pamphlets in Arabic about drug addiction and a Christian brochure approach to addressing addiction was published and distributed.
• 50 counselling interviews for addicts were held.
• 32 people were helped into rehabilitation centres to have complete treatment, and 8 of them were supported financially.
• 34 mothers/wives were helped in family counseling approach.

Capacity building
• Constant upgrading of our educational staff to ensure the smooth running of our classes, seminars, public meetings and objectives.

Success story

I am so grateful
My name is Amal Halim and I live with my family in El Ras El soda village in Alexandria. The village is very poor and lack health services, waste renovation, sewage and pure water and the majority of the houses in the village have no proper internal facilities such as sanitation and good roof construction. My house was like that, in a very bad condition and not really suitable for a healthy living. The roof was made of wood and it was leaky. Therefore it was always cold inside, we had a lot of insects and when it rained everything was soaked. All these conditions affected especially my children, who were always sick and had a lot of skin infections.

I dreamed about living in a healthy environment and in a good house. Therefore, when I got to know about El Ras El soda community centre from my neighbors, I began to attend the health education classes to learn how to keep my family healthy and the importance of living in a healthy environment. I learned many good and useable things and when I found out that the centre also support and helps in improving the internal environment I applied for support the get a new roof.

The team from the centre come and visited my house and after that they approved to build a cement roof. Now my house is improved and also my children’s health has improved and I try to follow the advice, I got from the centre. I am so grateful for what I have received and learned and that I can now protect my children from disease. Thank God for everything.
Economic program

Overall goals:

- Improve the economic standard for poor individuals and families.
- Build a culture of financial accountability and private business.

Introduction
Poverty presents a major hurdle to sustainable development and to economic growth. It poses a threat to security, as well as to political and social stability. The living standards for many Egyptian’s are low compared to international standards. According to United Nation’s figures, 20 to 30 percent of the population lives below the poverty line and another 20 percent live close to the poverty line.

Economic development is one of the cornerstone of EpiscoCare’s development work. Helping to raise the living standards for poor families, allowing them to take responsibility for their own needs is one of our top priorities.

Poverty is a difficult cycle to break and to ensure the sustainability of our work and to facilitate the output we try to make the best use of our natural, human and environmental resources.

Through the economic programme, EpiscoCare aims to improve the economies of poor families by offering vocational training to develop people’s skills and help them to obtain decent work. We assist empowering women by teaching them various practical and creative skills so they can produce handcrafts to sell in order to contribute to their family’s income. The ability to earn money empowers them to integrate into their community and to be self reliant.

EpiscoCare 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 assistanting in the establishment of the businesses.

EpiscoCare wishes to raise awareness about the capacity of the private sector and entrepreneurship to better the lives of people in the community and the country as a whole.

Also, EpiscoCare offers micro loans with only a small interest rate, helping the beneficiaries financially in the establishment of their project or business. The micro loan programme also ensures financial sustainability in the development centres, since the centres benefit from the interest. In the long term, this enables the centres to help more and more people.
In each of EpiscoCare’s local centres, we have a job office supporting people by helping them preparing their CVs and increasing their job interview skills. EpiscoCare has established good relations and networks with local employers and businessmen. We aim to assist people in finding jobs by identifying their skills and then trying to match them with local job opportunities.

Activities

Vocational training
- In 2010 EpiscoCare organised 23 professional training courses in various skills such as hairdressing, sowing and embroidery, design and computer use. In total 135 students participated in the courses.

Income generating projects
- In 2010, EpiscoCare assisted the implementation of income generating projects for 1580 beneficiaries to help increase their income and to ensure a better life for their families.
- EpiscoCare runs "Thursday Market" in which for the beneficiaries to sell their products to members of the public.
- During Thursday market also second hand items are sold very cheap to beneficiaries, allowing marginalized people to buy things they otherwise would not have been able to buy. At the same time, the money earned on second-hand sales, is used in EpiscoCare’s programs and thereby supporting our work.

Awareness seminars
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged 18 seminars to promote a culture of entrepreneurship for 523 beneficiaries.

Employment
- Networking with local employers to ensure that jobs and training are linked to the available workers.
- EpiscoCare assisted 88 people to obtain a decent job.
- EpiscoCare did 33 home and company visits to follow up on employment to ensure satisfaction both for the workers and the employers.
- EpiscoCare arranged 8 committee meetings attended by 35 members.

Capacity building
- Constant upgrading of our educational staff to ensure the smooth running of our classes, seminars, public meetings and objectives.
Success story

I am no longer anxious about the future
My name is Nashat and I live in Ras El Soda. I was working in a very small shop selling milk products. My salary was low and the shop owner refused to give me my rights in insurance. I was not happy and always worried about the future. What would happen with me if I got sick and what about when getting older no longer being able to work, how should I manage as I would not receive any governmental pension because I had no kind of insurance.

I knew from someone that El Ras El Soda local development centre is helping people to get decent work. I went to the centre and met with the staff asking them to help me to get a good job with good work condition and insurance policy.

Based on my skills and through their network and relationships the centre linked me with a good factory making electrical tools. The factory accepted me, and now I have a fixed monthly salary on 500 L.E (90 USD) in addition to bonus and insurance.

I am now happy with my work, I feel successful and am no longer as anxious about the future since I know my rights to have pension.
Community organization program

Overall goal:

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

Introduction

Many Egyptians living in poor areas have no legal identification, are uneducated and unaware of political and human rights. This makes them powerless to participate in public life and obtain the rights as Egyptian Citizen. In these areas there is no culture of civil society and therefore the local people are not able to manage the development process and ensure sustainability for the community.

To ensure sustainable and increasing development in the communities EpiscoCare is working to promote community organisation and help locals to enhance their citizenship. The fundamental aspect of the community organizations is the principle of "Co-operative spirit" which promotes people to unite and address common issues concerning the general condition of the community and to create involvement based on democratic values and principles.

Organising communities is about empowering community members, with the end goal of distributing power more equally throughout society. When people unite, barring ending all discrimination, and get involved in community organisation, they develop confidence. This empowerment comes when people learn skills to help themselves and others. This collective action helps in community building for common welfare.

Community organization is a continuous process in which adjustments are made and remade to keep pace with the changing conditions of community life.

EpiscoCare aims to ensure sustainable and increasing development, in the communities which are served, through capacity building of local leaders and volunteers to enable them to lead development projects.

The program is designed to promote a culture of awareness, entrepreneurship and volunteerism and through public meetings; we motivate volunteers and encourage citizens in the community to participate in betterment of the community. Also we arrange political awareness meetings to address different political issues.

EpiscoCare holds seminars to encourage people in the community to apply for official documents, such as ID and birth certificates to ensure they are
in legal existence, entitled to political participation and can become involved in the democratic process. We make sure to keep a good relationship with the relevant government departments to facilitate the process of applications and we assist people to obtain legal documentation papers and help to file lawsuits if needed.

To assist in planning and organising EpiscoCares development programmes, we put together local committees for each programme, consisting of members from the community.

The Community organization 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.

Activities

Capacity building
- In 2010 EpiscoCare ran 67 public meetings focusing on volunteerism and the importance of participation in the development of the community. In total this meetings were attended by 1650 people.
- EpiscoCare held seminars to motivate and encourage a culture of volunteerism. 84 people attended these seminars.

Political awareness
- EpiscoCare arranged a 3 months political participation programme to raise political awareness. 177 people benefited from these classes.
- In 2010 124 people were assisted in obtaining national ID cards and ballot cards.

Local Committees
- In each of the local community development centres, EpiscoCare formed local committee representing each of the programmes. The committee members are a mix of local key people, religious representatives, workers and employers, men, women, young and old.
- In 2010 EpiscoCare organised 14 meetings for the development committees. These meetings were attended by a total of 109 members.

Building awareness
- EpiscoCare organised 9 public meetings which reached 257 beneficiaries.
- To get more people involved in community organisation and civil society EpiscoCare staff carried out 74 home visits.
Re assessment

- EpiscoCare conducted a Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) field study in El Ras El Soda Village to upgrade need assessment. The study was carried out in cooperation with Community Development association of El Minya.

Success story

Fatheja got her legal existence

My name is Fatheja I come from Upper Egypt but now I live in Ain shams. During all my life I have been learned that women don't have any role, only they have to stay at home to take care of the household, their children and their husband. They have no right to go out and participate in anything. My knowledge was really poor related to political participation and legal existence and therefore I was satisfied with my life the way it was.

One day I heard about Ain shams development centre and all the activities they are offering. I found out that they were helping people to get their official papers and ensure their legal existence. I went and attended a public meeting focusing on the position of women in development. This was the first time for me to be faced with these issues and it was like a changing point in my life. After this meeting I decided to take active part in the development of my community. The centre manager helped me to get my official papers. I asked the centre to accept me as a volunteer thereby having role and responsibility and helping others to know about legal rights and take part in community organisation.

I am happy now because I'm no longer a passive citizen, but an effective and active women standing up to my rights.
Social care programme

Overall goal:

- Improve the life of widows and marginalized women.

Introduction
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. They usually have less access than men to medical care, property ownership, credit, training and employment.

According to the World Bank Gender Assessment an estimated 19 percent of women in Egypt are unemployed compared to 5 percent of men. On average, women are paid only 76 percent of men’s wages in the private sector and 86 percent in the public sector.

Egyptian law has been criticized by Human Rights Watch for its discrimination against women in relation to political rights, divorce issues, for denying the woman property rights in the marital home unless she has a specific legal title, and for the “obedience law” which conditions alimony on obedience to the ex-husband.

Egypt’s Social Aid programme mainly benefits men who are considered as rights-bearers and customers who have paid for their services, whereas widows, divorcees, and abandoned women fall under the non-contributory system.

Through its Social Care programme, EpiscoCare is supporting widows and marginalized women helping to empower them economically, socially and culturally. We arrange seminars to build up a general awareness related to health, education, social and cultural issues. We carry out home visits check on the women’s wellbeing and we offer family counselling.

Widows and divorced women are often left alone with the financial responsibility of the family’s well-being. Through this programme, EpiscoCare offers financial support to the most needy as well as food and households supplies. In special cases, EpiscoCare provides financial contributions to childbirth or bereavement expenses or to set up a new home after marriage.

As a part of the programme we arrange social events and parties for the beneficiaries giving them the opportunity to celebrate special events and have fun.
Activities

Awareness meetings and Seminars
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged and held 40 Social meetings attended by 1,560 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare held 13 Public meetings attended by 912 women.
- 6 seminars were held attended by 647 women.
- EpiscoCare staff did 144 home visits.
- Family counselling was provided in 65 cases.

Financial support
- In 2010 monthly financial support were offered to 570 poor women.
- EpiscoCare provided financial contributions for processing 5 brides.
- Financial support was provided to 3 poor women for childbirth.
- Financial support for 6 families who have suffered bereavement.

Social activities
- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged New Year celebration attended by 147 women and Christmas Eve celebration attended by 150 women.
- EpiscoCare arranged a picnic trip attended by 73 very poor women.
- 2 seaside conferences were held attended by 81 families (243 persons).
Success story

The heart of caring for those left alone

Fatma is one of the old ladies from the Boulaq area who is being supported and helped through EpiscoCare’s community development centres.

When Fatma’s children grew up and moved away from home she was left alone. In the beginning she was able to take care of herself, but as she became older she lost her eyesight and she found it harder to clean, cook and manage personal hygiene. She was embarrassed and she therefore never left her house, and became lonely and unhappy.

One day, a couple of years ago, when the staff from the Boulaq community development centre were in the area visiting widows and disadvantaged women they heard about Fatma. From that day, the ladies from the Boulaq centre started to visit Fatma regularly, helping her with cleaning and cooking and supporting her financially. They encouraged her to sit outside to meet with her neighbours to socialise and make relationships.

Fatma’s life has changed because of the support from the Boulaq centre. Today when visiting her, the staffs from the centre are most likely to find her sitting at the doorstep happily chatting with her neighbours.

“I might still be blind, but I can see the beauty in the heart of the people who care for others. Like the staff of the Boulaq centre and the people who give money to support someone like me. I received a gift from the centre for Mother’s Day, a beautiful galabeya (a traditional Egyptian dress) that I can wear for my daughter’s wedding”.

The story of Fatma is just one out of many stories of the women we meet in Boulaq and in other poor areas of Egypt. EpiscoCare is pleased to be able to help and care for those who nobody else is taking care of.
Training programme

Overall goals
- Build the capacity and the skills of employees and volunteers to improve their performance.

Introduction
Capacity Building improves the ability of an organisation to develop its structures, systems, people and skills in order to deliver effective and realistic strategies.

Capacity building is the elements that give fluidity, flexibility and functionality of a program/organization to adapt to changing needs of the population that is served. But capacity building is much more than training, it improves the ability of an organisation to develop its structures, systems, people and skills in order to deliver effective and realistic strategies.

As EpiscoCare is having 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.

EpiscoCare find it very essential to design the objectives to suit the specific needs of the community, and we believe this is done best if involving community people in the process, thereby giving our beneficiaries the opportunity to influence and take part in the work being done. We uses the Participatory Research Approach (PRA) which means that the local community development centres under EpiscoCare call for public meetings to inform the local population about EpiscoCare’s work and to give details about our mission, vision and values. Meetings are held with different groups in the community, according to different needs eg. women, children, young people, men, and the elderly to discuss the problems and needs of the community. Priorities are set and basic training is organised for local field staff to qualify them for managing the development process and for locals to participate in committees.

In this way when establishing a project, EpiscoCare makes sure that it fits the community according to the specific needs of the local people. All planning and implementation is done cooperatively with regard to the locals and financial resources, making plans realistic and achievable.
Activities

- In 2010 EpiscoCare arranged workshops for fieldworkers, staff members and volunteers focusing on:
  - The skills of dealing with others attended by 25 trainees
  - Learning disabilities in adults attended by 27 trainees
  - Strategic Planning attended by 36 trainees
  - Microfinance attended by 20 trainees
  - Feasibility study attended by 24 trainees
  - Training of trainee’s attended by 36 trainees
  - Participatory Research Approach (PRA) training attended by 19 trainees
  - 3 training sessions focusing on Health education attended by 39 trainees.

Success story

Interview with Mrs. Sana Ezat a participant in Training of Trainers (TOT)

- What were your expectations before the training session and what did you receive from attending?

"My expectations were to receive useful tools and learn about communication and presentation skills.

The training was excellent and I learned in a practical way how to present different topics in an interesting and informative way. I really benefited from the training both practical and theoretical but also on a more personal level. I learned different methodologies and skills of presentation and participation. Especially I liked the lectures about verbal and nonverbal communication skills. On the personal level I gained a lot of self esteem and confidence, also it helped me to get rid of embarrassment.

I realized that the goal of the training is to build our capacity as trainers to coach and guide others and influence them positively”.

- What is your dream after the TOT training?

"My dream is to implement all the methods which I have learnt and to practice full TOT training from A to Z in my daily work as a trainer".
Achievements

In 2010 EpiscoCare moved into new premises in the building of the Diocesan/Headquarters, as a first step towards an expansion, being able to serve more poor and needy people. By gathering all head office staff we hope to be able to focus and streamline our work for the benefit for many beneficiaries.

In November 2010 the All Saints Cathedral Nursery, located behind the Cathedral in Zamalek was opened. The nursery, part of EpiscoCares Childhood and Motherhood program, has a capacity of 40 children age 3 months to 6 year, and the teaching is based on the Montessori Method for educating and preparing the children for primary school.

In 2010 EpiscoCare hired good and qualified staff to coordinate our programmes.

Due to the great performance of the children from Ain shams and El Salam nurseries, taking part in the national nursery evaluation arranged by Misr El Baraka organisation, the nurseries have now become partners with the Misr El Baraka organisation.

In 2010 EpiscoCare renewed the partnership protocol with Adult Educational Organisation.

The Egyptian newspaper Watany wrote two articles in 2010 about EpiscoCare's work. The first article was about achievements in the field of comprehensive development helping poor people to improve all aspects of life, using EpiscoCare’s work as a good example.
The second article was about environmental awareness, telling about EpiscoCare's initiatives in the local communities referring to cleaning campaigns and awareness meeting and seminars.
Also the English written magazine Messenger wrote an article about EpiscoCare’s work focusing on Boulaq centre.

Ain Shams local community development centre could in the beginning of 2010 inaugurate a new multipurpose hall.

Episcopal Training Centre (ETC) enlarged in 2010 giving the possibility to study Arabic at Zamalek.
Lessons learned

The lessons we learn through our work is very important as it helps us to constantly improve our working methods and our approach towards the field of development.

- If having specialized devoted and qualified people in the staff, the quality of the work will be improved and more effective. This year, because we have specialized coordinators, the results and the impact of our work were great. So specialization and dedicated is very important.
- Making evaluations and follow-up on projects frequently and at short term intervals, helps us redress any mistake and make corrections to quickly get back on track.
- Getting the beneficiaries and local people involved in our work and initiatives helps us to detect the specific needs in the communities in which we serve and it is helpful when deciding on solutions.
- Working with comprehensive development approach helps to have good results in all the sides of beneficiaries’ life such as health, education, economic, etc.
- EpiscoCare realize the importance of having good relationship with other NGOs and GOs to update and exchange knowledge and experiences. In 2010 EpiscoCare was networking and cooperating with many different partners to make use of others know-how and to share information for the interest of the beneficiaries.
- Involving Muslims and Christians to work together in the same social activities helps them to be closer and it helps to break down barriers between religious groups.
Challenges

We are grateful for the achievements and for all the progress we have seen in our work during the year 2010. However we are still facing many challenges:

EpiscoCare is managing a lot of programs and activities in our centres, and we are always working hard to achieve our goals. We use a lot time collecting data, reporting and following up and to achieve this we need good time management skills.

As a result of lack of human resources, our centres face challenges with documentation and evaluation. We do not always manage to record and document all activities.

Learning by doing and on-the-job training is the most common form of training in Egypt. Therefore we always have to encourage the local leaders and the volunteers to attend the workshops and training sessions to build their knowledge and skills.

Income generating projects meet basic needs in the target communities, as it is one of the activities that helps the beneficiaries to be self reliant. However the budget allocated to this area is limited and therefore we have a long waiting list of beneficiaries who would like to get loans.

The needs of the people in EpiscoCare’s target communities are always greater than what lies within our capacity. Therefore EpiscoCare needs more resources to be able to complete more projects for the benefit of more people.

The revolution in Egypt has had a big impact on those who are most disadvantaged. Therefore EpiscoCare’s work in development, in particular the economic programme and community organization programme has become even more crucial.
EpiscoCare is dedicated to combating poverty and social inequality in Egypt. Although 2010 was a challenging year with severe economic challenges and difficulties raising money to support all of the ongoing projects, it has still been a productive year.

**Income 2010**

EpiscoCare’s total income in 2010 was **2,217,127 L.E (371,564 USD)**

**Expenditure 2010**

EpiscoCare’s total expenditure in 2010 was **2,228,546 L.E* (373,478 USD)**

* The deficit of the balance is taken from EpiscoCare’s equity capital.
EpiscoCare is looking ahead to 2011 with a positive and renewed mind and we are hoping to establish good partnerships and financial security for our projects to the advantage for more beneficiaries.

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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