<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Message from the Director</td>
<td>page 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>page 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Program Introduction</td>
<td>page 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Education program</td>
<td>page 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Economic program</td>
<td>page 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Social Care program</td>
<td>page 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Motherhood and Childhood program</td>
<td>page 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Health and Environment program</td>
<td>page 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Community Organization program</td>
<td>page 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Training program</td>
<td>page 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Success story</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Achievements and Lessons learned</td>
<td>page 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Challenges</td>
<td>page 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Finances</td>
<td>page 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Thanks and contact information</td>
<td>page 32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Message from the Director

Dear Friends and Partners

EpiscoCare hereby presents our 2012 annual report! Despite many challenges and difficulties in the economic and political situations of the country, we are proud to say that we have been able to reach out to more than 15,000 people; providing training on areas such as health improvement, political awareness and empowerment, educational support and economic sustainability to people who have little to no opportunity on their own.

The political and economic development processes in Egypt face vast challenges in the future and there is a great need for development in the civil and economic arenas in order to meet these challenges. We face an increasing number of problems related to poverty, unemployment, low educational standards and unsuitable housing as more people lose their jobs or are unable to afford the basic necessities required to live. For this reason, EpiscoCare has focused on many programs combating all of the problems based in some of the most marginalized areas of Egypt.

We have been blessed with support from a variety of donors, both local and international, and are proud to share some of our many accomplishments with you now. We are thankful for the cooperation and support which we have received from our partners and for their willingness to help us make it possible to continue in our mission of serving the poor and needy people of Egypt.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to the EpiscoCare staff and our volunteers who have selflessly given of their time and enable us as an organization to develop new plans and programs to work towards a brighter future for thousands of beneficiaries.

Mrs. Mariam Ibrahim Awad
Executive Director, EpiscoCare
Mission Statement

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

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

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

EpiscoCare’s methodologies:

• Partnership and networking.
• Critical analysis and cooperative learning.
• Volunteerism.
• Experience exchange.
• Local resource mobilization.
• Capacity development of individuals and institutions.
• Advocacy and sustainable development.
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 Social Care, 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 and 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 Nakhil. 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 most important 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 six 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

Though the government provides access to an education for all children in Egypt, everyone has not been able to receive access to a good education due to systemic flaws, cultural misconceptions and poverty. Parents often do not believe an education is important or necessary and they would rather their children stay at home and work. In other instances, the “free” education granted has hidden costs for uniforms and supplies, which far exceed family resources. Finally, teachers are paid very little in this system and thus have little incentive to impart a quality education not the students who then struggle to enter secondary school.

In order to create access to better education, EpiscoCare provides awareness seminars, public meetings and home visits for parents to teach parents about why education is important for their children to have better opportunities and lead fuller lives. We also try to supply children with school equipment and aid in payment of school fees. This is then supplemented by sessions with tutors and summer school to support studies and ensure that children are offered more opportunities than they would have if they stayed at home. Supplementing education through these programs not only increases the knowledge of the students, but in many cases provides them with mentors from their communities and keeps them from spending more time on the streets.

At our school in Menouf for the developmentally disabled, we are trying to combat the cultural idea that a child with special needs ought to be kept at home in order to empower the children and provide them with the opportunity to have their own job in the future and higher standards self-worth. The school in Menouf has been developed to provide education in a safe and welcoming environment where children with developmental disabilities have opportunities for physical therapy and family counseling.

Illiteracy due to lack of education is rampant in Egypt, especially among women and those who live in poor urban areas. The group most affected by high levels of illiteracy is those between the ages of 15 and 35. As of 2010, according to the CIA World Factbook, 28% of the population of Egypt is illiterate: over 23 million people.

Unfortunately, illiteracy and poverty have a very strong correlation, which means slums and poor areas where people have little access to resources have the highest rates of illiteracy. In order to combat illiteracy in these areas, EpiscoCare has strategically placed programs, which reach the highest number of people, providing seminars and classes about literacy and community development.
**Overall Goals for the program:**

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

**Activities**

**Literacy Classes**

- EpiscoCare organized 9 literacy classes attended by a total of 170 beneficiaries. Each class lasted 6–8 months.
- In cooperation with the Adult Education Organization, EpiscoCare gave 17 exams, which provided 156 adults with literacy certificates.
- The Adult Education Organization held an official exam, which was attended by 156 adults, and 56 whom received a certificate of literacy.

**Social Activities**

- The teachers of the literacy classes organized competitions – parties–cultural trips to help students practice in an engaging way, 77 beneficiaries attended these sessions.

**Working with Parents**

- 25 seminars attended by 695 parents were held to educate parents on the value of education.
- 375 home visits were conducted to follow up on the condition of the students education and to invite parents to participate in literacy classes.
- Monthly lectures about education attended by 60 beneficiaries.

**Supply students with Educational Materials**

- 769 students were supplied with books, materials, school fees and uniforms.
- In one of EpiscoCare’s centers, we offered additional school materials at half price for 117 students from the neediest families.
- EpiscoCare staff visited 3 local government schools to speak with the school teachers on the behalf of the students, to pay school fees and to pick up school books for the students.
Tutorial classes and School Groups
- Academic tutoring through extra classes was offered to 255 students to enable the students to sustain attendance.
- Review sessions were held for primary and middle school students to prepare for midterm exams.
- Graduation parties held for primary and middle stage graduates.

Episcopal Training Center (ETC)
Arabic Department
- ETC taught 200 hours of Arabic classes.

English Department
- ETC provided English courses to 88 students. At least half of these students took two or more levels.

Social Activities
- Birthday parties were held to increase communication and dissemination of a family atmosphere with the students.

The Community Service Center in Menouf (CSC)
- English courses of varying levels, attended by 176 students.
- Computer courses, attended by 74 students.
- English conversation courses, attended by 39 students.
- Children’s conversation courses, attended by 47 children, which were followed by a celebration with their parents.
- Art courses, attended by 4 children. Their work has been used to decorate the center.
- German course, attended by 10 students.
- Contracted with the Egyptian Gas Company so that a CSC Flyer is distributed monthly with the receipts from the gas company
- Made completion certificates to suit the levels of the students.
- Rev Farag, the Director of the Deaf Unit, visited the center with deaf students to strengthen relations and interaction between the schools.

My Dear Daughter
EpiscoCare offers 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 81 girls age 16 to 20, to build their skills in the fields of communication, educational methods and facilitation.
- 81 girls in primary school were aided in tutoring through My Dear Daughter.

I am Not Alone classes
These classes are targeting students between the ages of 9 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.
- 12 girls at Ain Shams and 10 girls at Ezebet El Nakhil community centers have joined this program.

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

**Menara center for children with special needs**
- In 2012, the Menara center served more than 50 handicapped children, focusing on activities to help the children to become self-reliant.
- Academic education was offered to 40 of the children.

**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.
- A monthly bazaar was held at the Menara center where profits went to purchasing educational materials.

**Menara social activities**
- Mother’s day was celebrated and gifts were given to all of the mothers.
- The end of the school year was celebrated with a party for children and their parents who were encouraged to speak about children’s improvements.
- Trip to Dream Village in Menouf, 40 children and their parents were participated.

**Menara Parents Meetings & Home Visits**
- Monthly parents meetings were held.
- Monthly home visits to build awareness of parents.

**Menara Training**
- Japanese doctors conducted training workshop focusing on physical therapy for four days, it was attended by 12 teachers.
- Training workshop for music therapy, was attended by 14 participants.
- 2 weeks of training focusing on management attended by 2 teachers.
- IQ training workshop attended by 2 teachers for four days.
- Monthly training workshop for all of the teaching staff.
- Two day workshop focusing on simplified tasks for children with disabilities conducted by a Singaporean trainer, attended by 12 teachers.
- Monthly parents training provided by EpiscoCare staff.
- Idea exchange programs set up with other special needs organizations.
- Students from the Faculty of Special Education helped teach the children how to use clay and crayons as educational tools.
If there is a will, there is a way!

My name is Nadia Foad. I live in the Madent El Salam community and I am 65 years old. I was very insistent about educating my children and grandchildren, and I made them attend school. My problem was that my grandchildren would sometimes study beside me and ask me to help them in reading or writing, but because I could not read, I was unable to help. They wanted to teach me, but I told them that I was too old to learn to read and write and it would just be crazy. One day, my neighbor told me that there is a development center that provides literacy classes. She encouraged me to join the class because I was very ashamed that I was illiterate at my age. She told me that I will feel happy with the group. I actually felt like I was with my family and all of the other students were like my sisters and brothers, which encouraged me a lot. This environment helped me to do my best to learn more and more until I finished the class and passed all the exams. Now I can read and write very well, though I did not get the governmental certificate since I am over 60 years old. However I am happy because I can read the newspaper, the Bible and help my grandchildren. So I would like to say that if you have the will to do something, there will be a way.
Economic program

Program description
If they are given the chance, poor and underprivileged people have tremendous capacity and levels of creativity to help themselves.

EpiscoCare has a micro credit program, which we have discovered can have a very positive effect towards improving the incomes and living standards of poor people. We are proud to say that our rate of repayment in loans is currently at 95%.

In many places in Egypt, there is not a high level of availability of programs in the areas of vocational training, support in business management, and accounting and financial management. We try our best, through our programs, to meet these needs by providing trainings and resources for the people. If the people can generate sufficient surplus from small businesses and their work, they are able to fully repay the credit and reinvest what they have left over, and they must fulfill requirements in trainings before receiving the first loan.

In order to better the lives of those beneficiaries in our target communities, EpiscoCare has made it a goal to raise awareness about the capacity and potential of the private sector and entrepreneurship. For this reason, we support through micro loan programs, arrange seminars on financial accountability, business management and accounting. All of these programs combined are designed to specifically help the beneficiaries establish their projects and businesses.

Overall 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 12 vocational training courses to train beneficiaries in different skills including sewing, hair dressing, handicraft making, and computer usage. The courses were attended by a total of 339 beneficiaries.
- Follow up for vocational trainings was conducted through attendance and evaluation sheets and post-course job applications.
- 357 trainees were able to get jobs as a result of the vocational training program through cooperation with Catholic Relief Services.

Capacity Building
- 12 meetings of the economic committee were held. 5 volunteers attended each meeting from each center.

Building Awareness Seminar
- EpiscoCare held 12 seminars in each center attended by average 382 beneficiaries focusing on the culture of private sector, a feasibility study, marketing, project management, career development and developing the projects.

Income Generating Projects
- EpiscoCare gave out 1,766 micro loans to establish income-generating projects to help people ensure a better life for their families in the future.
- EpiscoCare staff conducted 4,577 follow ups on the ongoing projects that have begun in the last 2 years.
- Our micro loans have a 95% repayment rate.

Assist people in finding jobs
- The Ras El Soda Community Center helped 50 beneficiaries to find a decent job through cooperation with Catholic Relief Services.
- EpiscoCare helped 107 beneficiaries through the other EpiscoCare development centers

Partnerships and networking
- Shepherd Association
- Mentra Company
- Abdallah Pharmacy
- Egyptian Democratic Social Party
- CEOSS
- Anna Simone Association
- Catholic Relief Services
- Environmental Friends Association
- Business Men Association
- Caritas Egypt
- Episcopal/Anglican Diocese of Egypt
- El Lotes Company

Annual report 2012
Success story

Even though I am over 80, I am independent
My name is Hayat Hafez and I am 80 years old. My vision is very poor and I can't see properly. I wanted to start a small business so that I could have enough money to eat and not be a heavy burden on any of my neighbors or family. I knew that the Ain Shams Center gives loans for micro enterprise projects, so I went to them and I asked about a loan. They told me that because of my age I would not be the best candidate to get a loan, as they only give loans to people up to the age of 60. So I decided to get a loan in my daughter's name. Now, I have a small shop and have bought a small oven and flour to bake bread. I started to work and live and now have enough money to pay for my food. I am never late in paying my loan repayments after I had finished paying back the whole loan and I have taken another loan and now every one in the area knows me and I sell bread to many people.

I would like to thank every one who works at Ain Shams Center for their help and support.
Social care program

Program description
Women in Egypt are much more likely to be poor, illiterate and victims of domestic violence than the men, even though there are many international agreements which have affirmed gender balance and the importance of a woman’s role in society. The most vulnerable of the women in Egypt are widows and women who are divorced and oftentimes left alone as the sole financial supporter of the family and fully responsible for the family’s well being.

EpiscoCare created the Social Care program in order to support widows and the most marginalized women. We look to empower them economically, socially and culturally, offering financial support and basic supplies to sustain a household. In order to make sure that the women know best how to use the supplies and money provided, EpiscoCare carries out home visits to check in on the women’s wellbeing by offering family counselling and invitations to seminars to build up awareness related to health, education, social and cultural issues. In some special cases, financial contributions are provided for childbirth or bereavement expenses and sometimes even for setting up a new home after marriage.

Another important aspect of the Social Care program is that we arrange special events and parties for the women we help support. This gives them the opportunity to have special occasions to celebrate and it also gives them the chance to interact, gaining support and a sense of camaraderie, that they are not alone, with other women in similar situations.

Activities

- EpiscoCare held 24 spiritual meetings attended by 2,426 women.
- Provide Monthly financial support for 43 women who are very old and cannot find work.
- EpiscoCare held public meetings and seminars to build the social awareness for 357 women.
- Family counseling for 187 families was conducted with support and help from professionals and priests.
- Sunday school classes 510 children offered fruits for them after services.
- 4 brides were supported in buying the things that they needed before their wedding.
- 3 women were supported in childbirth.
- 8 families received financial support after a family member had died.
- 54 elderly women were provided with ready-made meals weekly.
- Food distributions for the poorest families in the community were performed at Easter and Christmas.
- An exhibition for used clothes and carpets making classes were conducted to help the poorest women.

**Social activities**
- One trip with 68 participants went to Ismailia for summer camp.
- Participation of 32 women in Diocese spiritual conference.
- Participation in Diocese conference for youth of 2 young people.
- Three parties were organized and attended by a total of 876 women and 142 gifts were distributed on Mother's Day.

**Education activities through the social care program**
- EpiscoCare provided monthly private lessons for 10 students.
- Tutorial classes provided for 18 students.
- Public meetings were held to build awareness about the value of education and attended by 444 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare provided school fees and school materials for 82 students.
- EpiscoCare established a store for those with the lowest income to sell school materials at a half price.

**Health activities through social care program**
- 422 home visits were conducted as follow up for the awareness classes.
- 68 patients were supplied with medicines in addition to helping with one Medical operation.
- EpiscoCare helped cover lab work for 11 cases.

**Improving the internal environment**
- EpiscoCare provided furniture, beds and household appliances for 5 homes and repaired 5 other homes.
- Seminars held focusing on cleanliness and FGM were attended by 193 women
- 25 toothbrushes were distributed to children after talking with them about the importance of dental hygiene.

**Economic support**
- 3 vocational trainings for empowering women economically which were attended by 52 women.
- Assistance in obtaining decent jobs for 12 beneficiaries.
- Assistance in obtaining one apartment for a very poor family.

**Handicrafts**
- 170 new designs were created in addition to the old designs
- 169 orders were produced
- 24 clergy robes were made.
Motherhood and Childhood program

Program description
One problem in Egypt that has been identified by EpiscoCare is that parents are now well informed about the rights of their children. Through the Motherhood and Childhood program, we work to build parents’ awareness about these rights and how they can develop better life skills for their children through a variety of programs.

One of these programs is offered in the form of nurseries in communities suffering from a lack of basic services and educational institutions. These nurseries predominantly welcome children from economically disadvantaged families that cannot afford to pay for government run nurseries. The goal of the nursery program is to provide time for the children when they can play together and build their intellectual and social abilities. The teachers are trained to teach and take care of the psychological aspect of working with small children from poor homes, learning to teach the children with dignity and respect that they may not receive in their homes.

EpiscoCare runs Montessori program which aimed at helping with early childhood development by offering building skills activities, academic education, and regular medical check ups for children and mothers, often times providing counseling and home visits to parents. We also provide meetings for parents so that they can come together and work as a group to overcome their struggles that they may face. This leads to our goal of helping people help themselves, especially when we try to foster an environment where parents are comfortable learning and sharing their knowledge about how to best raise children. This environment is developed through formal and informal settings, sometimes by running seminars and workshops for parents and sometimes through holding parties or socials for entire families.

Overall goals for the program:
- 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
- In 2012 the nurseries served 196 children.
- Upgraded the playground at House of Happiness Nursery.
- Finished an upgrade and expansion to the House of Smiling Nursery in Ain Shams.

Academic education and building skills
- Achieved Montessori programming each day
- Nursery staff arranges play time and games aimed at building children’s skills following the Sweden “Folkbildning” approach.

Helping children to have a better health
- Medical checkup was provided for 1900 children.
- Balanced diet meal was provided for 6,000 children.

Building awareness sessions for parents
- EpiscoCare held 36 public meetings, which were attended by 1,432 parents
- EpiscoCare helped 60 parents finish the school procedures to join their children to school after finishing nursery

Home visits
- Nursery staff conducted 86 home visits to follow up on the children’s living conditions and continue to build parents awareness.

Campaigns
- 2 campaigns were held focusing on child rights and were attended by 400 parents.

Social activities
- EpiscoCare organized parties which were attended by a total of 368 beneficiaries.

Exchange experience
- Exchange seminars were scheduled to upgrade the teaching of children and teachers’ knowledge in cooperation with ABC nursery, Amideast, and Habet el Kherdal Nursery.
Cooperation with economic program
- Economic support for parents by giving loans for 32 families.

Partnerships and networking
- ABC Nursery
- Amideast
- Habet El Kherdal association
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Solidarity

Success story

My name is Awatef Fahmy. I live in Ain Shames area and I have a son named Kerolles. He is very active and naughty and he always damages things around him. I felt very angry with him all the time so I used to punish him by burning his hands to keep him quiet. When he reached preschool age, I took him to Ain Shams nursery. When they saw his hands and asked me why his hands looked wounded and I told them the truth and complained about his attitude. They talked with me about the best ways of dealing with him and how I can use his energy in a positive way. They also invited me to attend the seminars and classes about building awareness and the monthly meetings for parents. I learned that my way of discipline will lead to worse behavior later and I now know more about child rights and that I have to respect him and his potential. I know that physical abuse will be hard to forget and it will affect him negatively in the future. They told me that there are many ways to punish him and teach him at the same time, I felt very ashamed and I decided that I will not punish him this way again. I will love him and care for him because he is a gift from God. I started to change my ways and he has become a very nice boy and he responds better to my advice. I realized that what I did was a crime and I have asked God to forgive me. I love him so much and I pray all that time and ask God to protect him, thanks to Ain Sham development center and especially to the Nursery teachers.
Health and Environment program

Health care services are, for the most part, widely available in Egypt, but this does not mean that everyone has access to good and honest health care. People who live in rural and poor urban areas are oftentimes geographically and financially separated from good services. To make matters more strained, many of these areas are prone to water-borne illnesses and malnutrition.

At the community centers, EpiscoCare offers a variety of specialized and basic health education classes and seminars. These programs, supplemented with public meetings help us build awareness and combat practices common in Egypt such as female genital mutilation, sexual abuse, HIV, drug abuse, hepatitis and issues surrounding basic sanitation and preventative health. We find that in these communities, women and children tend to be more vulnerable than men as the health of the men is typically prioritized over those of others as they are the main money-makers in the family.

Through cooperation with local partners and our community centers, EpiscoCare aims to improve basic sanitation and curative health care, especially in poor communities where few services are offered and lack of education has led to a dangerous living environment. Through increasing awareness about these issues, EpiscoCare has been given the opportunity to empower members of the community to enact change in their own community, which others then see. We find that health issues that have cultural stigma surrounding them can only change when the local community desires the change.

Overall goals for the program:

• 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.
• 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.
Activities

Health awareness
- EpiscoCare staff conducted 944 home visits for 1,622 men and women in order to build their awareness in the field of personal cleaning, nutrition, family planning and to follow up with pregnant women. This also helps us get feedback about the classes and study the health project for improving the homes environment.
- 250 Individual interviews for family counseling, building awareness, and health projects.
- EpiscoCare organized 9 health education classes on health awareness for 160 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare conducted 34 seminars, which were attended by a total of 1,028 beneficiaries focusing on different health topics.
- EpiscoCare organized classes and seminars focusing on Hepatitis C, which were attended by 559 beneficiaries.

Better Health
- 1,642 patients received checkups from an internal medicine doctor.
- 966 beneficiaries received medicines.
- 16 seminars for building awareness about liver disease attended by 559 beneficiaries.
- 3 environmental classes attended by 85 beneficiaries.

Reproductive Health
- Pregnancy classes to provide medical care for 20 women.
- 19 seminars were organized on family planning attended by 1,138 women and 72 women started using contraceptives.
- 4 Classes about HIV were held and were attended by 295 beneficiaries.
- 3 FGM classes were held and attended by 98 women and girls.
- 8 Seminars on FGM were held and attended by 286 beneficiaries.
- 8 seminars on HIV were held and attended by 390 beneficiaries.

Improvement in Living Conditions
- EpiscoCare helped to improve 142 homes through supplying furniture, beds, and household appliances.
- EpiscoCare helped repair 7 homes by upgrading bathrooms.
- 10 Seminars about the environment were held and attended by 401 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare staff organized 7 cleaning campaigns where 352 women participated in cleaning and planting trees in public areas.

Networking with GOs & NGOs
- Ministry of the Environment
- The Governmental Health Unit
- The Egyptian Democratic Party
- El Salam Hospital
- The Vision School
Additional activities in cooperation of the Coalition for Motherhood and Childhood

The Coalition for combating FGM is a group of nongovernmental associations working under the council of population, which works to combat the FGM by building children's awareness in school age and their parents. They held the following activities in cooperation with EpiscoCare:
- EpiscoCare held 12 building awareness seminars for building the attitude and handcraft skills for students in primary school and their parents.
  These seminars were: cleaning the house, Personal cleaning, the environment, nutrition, balanced diet, helping attitude, soft and harmful attitude, gossip, lying, traffic light, nose bleeding, and teeth. All of the seminars were attended by 60 children and 60 mothers each time, in separate sessions held simultaneously. At the end of these seminars there was a graduation party.

Success story

I am Sania Abd El Fatah and I live in El Salam Area. I have benefited from the development center there very much. My children have grown up in the nursery and I even graduated from the adult education class there, and got a literacy certificate. I was living in the dark and when I learned how to read and write I felt like I am in the light so I decided to convince every illiterate person I know to join the literacy classes and to be in the light. I have a neighbor named Dahab who was illiterate as well, so I invited her to join the class. One day when we were talking and she told me that she wanted to circumcise her daughter, I pleaded with her to not do that, as it's a kind of abuse, and since there was a seminar for combating the FGM, so I invited her to attend it. She came with me, and after the seminars she said that she was very stupid and would not commit this kind of abuse with her daughter as she is a gift from God and I have to protect her. She went home and talked to her husband and explained what they said at the seminar and what circumcision will actually do to her. He felt bad and so together they decided to avoid this habit and keep her safe.
Community organization program

Program description
The overarching goal of our community organization program is to empower community members in order to distribute power and resources more equally throughout Egyptian society. People develop confidence and believe more in themselves when they unite together and are involved in the betterment of their community. Working together towards the same goals also breaks down barriers created by discrimination and builds trust.

In order to ensure sustainability and increase development in these communities, EpiscoCare has designed the community organization program to encourage a culture, which highlights volunteerism, capacity building and awareness. By highlighting these ideas of participation and responsibility, trainers are able to change the culture for the better, enabling people to better develop themselves and their community as a whole.

At the same time as running these programs in various communities, EpiscoCare is cooperating and sharing know-how with other civil society organizations through training and capacity building so as to create this community awareness on a broader level as well.

Overall goal for the program:

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

Activities

Needs Reassessment
- EpiscoCare held 8 public meetings attended by 389 beneficiaries focusing on how to identify the needs of the community, plan for developing the community and be positive as a whole community. They also focus on the importance of official papers, increasing volunteerism approach, motivated and positive participation and the rights of citizenship.
- A field study was conducted with the participation of 59 local leaders.

Capacity building and building awareness
- 15 political seminars were organized and attended by 485 beneficiaries,
- EpiscoCare held 6 classes for political awareness, which were attended by 239 beneficiaries.
- Political campaigns for the volunteers attended by 15 participants.
- EpiscoCare held classes for political awareness and children, which were attended by 15 children.
- EpiscoCare held monthly lectures for local leaders attended by 230 beneficiaries.
- Monthly meeting with the local committee were attended by 15 participants.
- Monthly meetings for building the political awareness were attended by 229 participants.
- 3 classes were held on civic education and were attended by 90 beneficiaries.
- EpiscoCare conducted 501 home visits to encourage people to participate in the community organization program.

**Ensuring Legal Existence**
- EpiscoCare helped 85 beneficiaries to obtain ID and voter registration.

**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).
- 12 monthly meetings were held for the local committees, attended by 15 volunteers each time
- Campaigns to motivate volunteers and participate in the referendum of constitution in Alexandria, in collaboration with the Library of Alexandria.

**Working with the community**
- 7 cleaning and planting campaigns attended by 325 in cooperation the Ministry of Health
- 2 cleaning campaigns in El Salam City in cooperation with the vision school

**Partnerships and networking**
- The Local Development Association
- Egyptian Democratic Party
- Supportive Association for Social Development
- Ministry of Environment
- Cultural Balas
- Shiffert Association
- El Salam Hospital
- El Salam Medical Unit
- Art and Development Association
- Egyptian Association for Family Health
- Mrsa El Bark
- Adult Education Association
- Think and Do Association

Annual report 2012
Success story

I have to participate with my vote
I am Sameh’s Mother, 58 years old. I live in the Ain Shams area, but my ID was issued from Assuit in Upper Egypt, so I was very lazy to travel and participate with my vote. I told myself that my vote will not make a difference in the voting for the constitution, but the development center in Ain Shams invited me to attend the political participation class. This class lasted for three months and in this class I learned that voting is my right and my vote will make a difference in our political life in this time of instability in Egypt. I know that each one of us has a role in our Egyptian community and the political and community participation is a duty. We have to work together to change our lives and improve our conditions. I feel that my personality has changed completely and I was motivated to travel to Assuit and now I vote, so I am happy because I challenged my mental model. Thanks to the Ain Shams Development center which made a difference in my thinking.
Program description
EpiscoCare believes that development has to be By people, For people and With people. So it aims to build the capacity and improve the skills of employees and volunteers engaged in our work, which help us to achieve more and meet the targeted groups’ needs, also to ensure the sustainability of the development process.

In coincidence with our goals of community participation, we believe that it is very important to build the capacity of those people within local communities to help them meet their own needs, give them a better outlook on life and overall be better people in their communities, setting a good example for others. We do this by recruiting and training laborers, local leaders and people participating in local committees, teaching them how to run community organizations and ensuring a sustainable future.

We are able to prepare new staff and volunteers to work in the development field by providing training that is practical and applicable for the economic, cultural and social situations and hardships that may be faced in the local communities. The program aims to give them the skills necessary to impart new knowledge unto others, which is why we also arrange for basic and refresher training courses for staff as they are employed with EpiscoCare in order that they know the most up-to-date information about community development.

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

Activities

Training workshops undertaken by EpiscoCare

Economic program
- “Importance of vocational training workshop” attended by 16 trainees.

Education program
- “Difficulties of the adults education classes” attended by 15 trainees.
- “Different methodology for teaching adult education classes” attended by 20 trainees.

Motherhood and Childhood Program
- “Child care” attended by 11 trainees.
- “Psychological problems of children” attended by 12 trainees.
- “How to keep a nursery safe” attended by 12 trainees.

Community organization
- “Team building and teamwork” attended by 35 trainees.
- “Building skills methodology and activities” attended by 16 trainees.
- “Monitoring and evaluation” attended by 28 trainees.

Training Workshops attended by EpiscoCare staff in Cooperation with NGOs

- El Gisser Training Center, “Interfaith dialogue” attended by 5 participants.
- El Gisser Training Center, “Citizenship” attended by 3 participants.
- El Gisser Training Center, “Writing Proposals” attended by 2 participants.
- The Art Association for Development, “Transparency” attended by 3 participants.
- National Council for population- "FGM as a critical issue in Egypt" attended by 5 participants.
- National Council for population - “The Increase in population and its relation with the health” attended by 6 participants.
- Disc Training Center- 3 training workshops “Social and Political Reform”, “Digital Safety” and “How to Design Website” attended by 6 participants
- Egyptian Association for Family Health: "Sinai Health problems” attended by 2 participants for 2 days.
- Amid East Institute, 3 workshops (Working with the poorest and marginalized children and good nutrition- empowering women - unemployment and young people) attended by 9 each time
- Amid East, 3 day training program focused on transparency and citizenship attended by 4 beneficiaries.
- Amid East, workshop focused on Democracy and Institution attended by 3 participants
Achievements

- Upgrading Ain Shams nursery by two premises, one to be a playing area, the other for building skills activities.
- Established new premises for Episcopal Training Center for teaching Arabic in Heliopolis.
- Established a new development center in Ezbet El Nakhel area
- Established a new development center in Suez governorate
- Established a new development center in Giza governorate
- Signed a partnership protocol with Catholic Relief Services and trained more than 300 beneficiaries (more than our plan) on different skills, which help them to find decent job.
- Signed a partnership protocol with the National Council of Motherhood and Childhood (Coalition against FGM), which helps us to help more beneficiaries in the area of combating FGM more than we had planned.
- 3 cleaning and planting campaigns were accomplished (more than we had planned), in cooperation of Coalition against FGM, Vision School and governmental cleaning organization.
- Achieved 1200 income-generating projects, which exceeded our plan
- Maintained a good network with more than 25 partners who help us to achieve more and help more people
- Supplied our development centers, and our special needs school with photocopiers to facilitate their work
- Supplied our development centers with computers and hard disks to facilitate the work, and to ensure a good network between the field and the head office

Lessons learned

- Participatory approach with local leaders is the best way to know the real needs of targeted communities, and to achieve our goals
- Starting with the local people in the community is the best development method, as they know their priorities and they know how to reach their potentials
- Having trained and qualified local leaders is the backbone of sustainability.
- Building a trustworthy network with GOs & NGOs and working with them helps to achieve more, to save money & time. Experiences exchange and creating good relationships increase shared knowledge.
- Building staff’s capacity is the cornerstone in the development process.
- Training the staff in cooperation with specialist institutions gives good results since the quality of training workshops is of the highest caliber.
- Education is the cornerstone of the development process for both adults and children.
- Income generating projects are the best way to help people to overcome poverty and become self-reliant.
– Building awareness and involving people in the current issues are effectively motivated them to participate and have a good role in their communities.
– Practice of democracy is not an easy task, and it needs a long time to be understood.
– Working with all the categories of the community (children, women, men…Etc.) is very important since each of them has a different role and a different point of view regarding the development process.
Challenges

- Egypt's political situation was the major challenge in achieving our action plan for 2012.
- Lack of security prevents people from going out on the weekends, which had postponed many of the activities from our training plans, since we used to do our training workshops during the weekends.
- The decrease in the value of the Egyptian Pound which has led to a rapid increase in prices, which was a big challenge in achieving our plan.
- The majority of our beneficiaries have lost their jobs since they work from day-to-day, which put a new burden on our duty to find decent jobs for them.
- The unstable situation has prevented us from being able to include more people in our economic program through the income generating projects since we were forced to stop for six months.
- We still have financial problems, which makes it hard to complete our work.
Financials

EpiscoCare is dedicated to combating poverty and social inequality in Egypt. Although 2012 was a challenging year with severe economic challenges it has still been a productive year.

Income 2012

EpiscoCare’s total income in 2012 was 1,230,392 L.E (184,558USD)

![Pie chart showing income sources: 59% Donations, 30% Programs and Activities, 2% Other, 9% Handicrafts Revenues]
Expenditure 2012

EpiscoCare’s total expenditure in 2012 was **1,447,475 L.E (217,121)USD**

![Expenditure Pie Chart]

**Figure 2:** EpiscoCares expenses 2012. 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 2013 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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