



EMPOWERS/ Egypt Newsletter

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Main Topics

Cc New Post

Memorandum

CARE Atlanta

Empowers Film

Cross Visits

Short News

Gender Workshop

Water Analysis

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EMPOWERS Egypt Country Coordinator Gets a New Post in CARE Egypt

Dr. Hazem Fahmy; the EMPOWERS Project Country Coordinator (CC) was appointed to the post of Program Director (PD) in CARE Egypt. He will continue though to be the acting CC for EMPOWERS until a new CC is appointed. Fahmy comments on this move saying that he is happy he was selected as a PD and he confirms that his responsibility of and commitment to EMPOWERS will not be negatively influenced by these changes.



Signing a Memorandum of Understanding between GEF and EMPOWERS

Last July, a memorandum of Understanding was signed between EMPOWERS project represented by CARE organization and the Small Grant Program (SGP) represented by Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Memorandum sets out the commitment to promote improved local governance for water and sanitation (WATSAN) and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Ehnasia district, in Beni Suef governorate. EMPOWERS and SGP will co finance pilot projects in Bahsamon, Mamaleek, and Manial Hany villages. The combined expenditure from both parties will be up to a total of 150,000 euros. The pilots will be derived based on the participatory planning process developed by EMPOWERS.



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A visit by CARE Atlanta Staff to EMPOWERS Villages in Beni Suef

Three visitors from CARE Atlanta staff in the United States visited EMPOWERS from August 29th to 31st, 06. The target of the visit was to learn about EMPOWERS process and activities and get communities' impressions about them. The visitors were Gretchen Lyons printed and online communications manager, Meredeith Davenport and Una Brosnan who work as professional photographers.

The visitors spent the first day of the visit in Masharqa village where they were introduced to EMPOWERS work in the village. Mrs. Gretchen was interested in having interviews with women to know their level of participation in decision making. Some of those interviews will be published in CARE Atlanta's Annual Report that concentrates this year on women participation around the world. A similar visit was paid to Kassab Village on the second day while the third one was dedicated to getting scenery photographs in Mamaleek village to show water usage on "Bahr Youssef" Nile branch.



EMPOWERS Documentary Film Will Be Out Soon

The documentary film reached its final preparation stages. During July and August, the film crew shot in EMPOWERS villages and had interviews with several stakeholders including community people, governmental officials in addition to the team work and specialists.

Internal and external shots that show different water usages, problems and people's needs were taken. The director produced a first cut in September that will be refined and delivered by the end of October.



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EMPOWERS Team and Stakeholders in Jordan and Palestine visit the Project in Egypt

The idea of arranging cross visits between EMPOWERS project countries came out as an opportunity to show stakeholders how the EMPOWERS experience is applied in other areas. The Egyptian team received a delegation of community people, governmental officials and EMPOWERS staff from Jordan and Palestine from the fourth to the seventh of September, 06.

In the first day, the delegation visited the project partners in Cairo. They visited the Developing Research and Technological Planning Center (DRTPC) and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) where they learned about the history of each of them and their contribution to the project. The second day was spent in Beni Suef where the delegation visited the Agriculture Directory and was introduced in a presentation to major water problems that the villages in Beni Suef face. They also visited Bahsamon village and the community members presented what they learnt through EMPOWERS and they benefited from it. The delegation spent their third day in Fayoum governorate. They were introduced to the Water Boards Project experience and exchanged views with the project's staff. The delegation spent the fourth and final day of the cross visit in Cairo in a wrap up workshop to produce comments and recommendations



Short News

- The number of beneficiaries from the drinking water connections in Masharqa village became 150 families out of 265 families who subscribed for the service.
- Signing a partnership between Masharqa community and Improved Education Project. The problems were analyzed and the proposal was written using EMPOWERS methodology.
- Signing a partnership between Health Improvement Program and Masharqa and Mamaleek CDAs.
- Selection of Bahsamon village within the villages supported by the social fund to solve irrigation problems in Ehnasia district.
- Bahsamon community analyzed the irrigation sector in a recent meeting. They were able to determine two targets to solve most of irrigation problems they suffer from. Governmental officials of the irrigation directorate who attended the meeting promised to fund around 85% of the interventions proposed to achieve these targets. This is a good example of the cooperation and coordination between governmental officials and community people.

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Community Members Attend a Workshop on Gender

EMPOWERS team organized a workshop on Gender in Beni Suef from the eighth to the tenth of August, 2006. It was prepared by Ms. Rhodante Ahlers the gender expert who was appointed to make the workshop material preparation in Jordan, Palestine and Egypt. The workshop included community members from the five villages that EMPOWERS works in. The main target was to introduce the communities to Gender concepts and determine the roles of both men and women in the society.



The three days workshop started with a preparation day with EMPOWERS staff only to agree on a common gender concept. Community members joined in the second and the third day of the workshop. They studied gender and its relation to water issues through presentations, case studies and work groups. It is worth mentioning that this is the first time that community members from the five villages get together and work. It was a good opportunity for exchanging views and experience and learn to collaborate with each other.



Community Members in the New Villages Finished the Second Stage of Water Sector Analysis

Community member are almost done with the analysis of the second water sector. They determined stakeholders and their capabilities and put a plan to overcome sector problems. In Bahsamon village, participants or the community target group analyzed the irrigation sector in collaboration with governmental officials. They show great enthusiasm because farmers suffer from irrigation problems and lack of funding. They are desperate to find appropriate solutions. Governmental officials made a promise to help farmers as much as they can.



On the other side both Mamaleek and Manial Hany villages analyzed the drinking water sector. They did it in collaboration with representatives from the local unit, the environmental unit, and potable water company. They determined the basic interventions that can help them solve drinking water sector problems. The local unit promised to connect water pipes to the main streets that do not have them in both villages.



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Kassab Village File

Beni Suef News Journal Writes about Kassab Village Achievements

Beni Suef News Journal published an article on the cooperation between Kassab Village and CARE organization. The article discussed the main activities and achievements of Kassab Community Development Association (CDA). The CDA consists of thirteen members including one woman. There are a number of pilots projects implemented in cooperation with the EMPOWERS project within CARE organization. These pilots include connecting drinking water pipes to unconnected houses on loan basis, and a proposal to solve high water table



problems. The article added that the main obstacles that the CDA faces are the lack of funding to build the CDA building and the exclusion of Kassab village from participating in the Education Improvement project.

This article signifies the change in the village attitude and the increase in participation and freedom of speech that they now enjoy as their voices are well heard throughout Beni Suef governorate.

The Start of the Second Pilot Project in Kassab Village

The second pilot project in Kassab which is funded by EMPOWERS project consists of three projects with a common goal. The target is to decrease high water table level. The first project is the substitution of the trenched currently made in the village and the establishment of new trenches according to certain scientific standards. The second project is an awareness campaign in the mother



village and hamlets on the importance of conserving water. The third project is buying a tractor to dislodge liquid waste. The tractor cost 140 thousands Egyptian pounds and has already started working on dislodging waste. The CDA will be responsible of managing the tractor and its maintenance. The picture shows how serious is the water table problem in Kassab and the need to work on solving it.

Said ...in the Communities

“EMPOWERS gave us the chance to get out of our houses and participate with men in decision making”
Waffaa Korany- a CDA member and part of the women group in Kassab village.

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Photo of the Issue

The two kids in the picture are innocently playing and washing their hands and face in the water coming from the pump. They do not know that this water is not safe. It is mixed with liquid waste leakage that might cause many diseases.



Cartoon



Published with permission from the Water Boards Project in Fayoum governorate

Water in Numbers

Families entitled to safe water for drinking in Beni Suef governorate are equivalent to 74.7% of the governorate families. 25.3% of the families are still deprived from having safe water in their houses.

(Human Development report of Egyptian Governorates- Beni Suef Governorate)

Final Words

Usually the newsletter team leaves this space to explain what is new in the newsletter or express our opinion. In this issue, we would like to thank Dr. Hazem Fahmy for the efforts he exerted in the last three and a half years to coordinate the EMPOWERS project in Egypt. Fahmy has positively influenced all the team work and partners and has always emphasized team spirit. He allowed the work to follow in an atmosphere full of respect, transparency and commitment to work. We thank him, wish him the best of luck, and are looking forward to his continuing support to EMPOWERS through his work as CARE Program Director.

We would also like to congratulate our colleague Galal Moawad; EMPOWERS Field Coordinator for becoming the father of his newly born baby boy "Nader". We wish him great health and prosperity.

Please send your comments to: melsoda@egypt.care.org

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