

1. First Interim Report re. Projekt GG1529052

„Water for Life“

Connection of approx. 1.700 houses to the Potable Water Public Supply System
in the District of Beni Sueif (Central Egypt)

I visited Egypt in early May 2014 in my capacity as chairman of the German Section of the Intercountry Committee Egypt. During my visit I was approached by Ms. Nevine Abdel Khalek, PP of RC El Tahir Cairo, and Mr. Amir Sabri, RC Al Shorouk, Cairo. They advised me of a **GG Project “Water for Life”** in the planning state and asked me to recruit German Rotary Clubs to subscribe to that project.

The aim of the project is to connect houses of underprivileged residents in various settlements of Egypt to the Public Drinking Water System.

According to official records, 98,5% of all houses in Egyptian cities, towns and villages are equipped with the facilities required for a connection to the System. “Equipped” means that the owners are factually in a position to apply for connection to the local water authority, however, with the provision that the house owner agrees to pay for both the connection between the water main under the street surface and his house, plus the water meter to be installed.

According to UNICEF, many underprivileged residents in houses located in rural areas outside of larger settlements and towns are unable to pay the costs involved with a connection to the Public System. Statistics show that approx. 13% of all Egyptians are financially unable to meet such costs. That means that 1,3 million houses with approx. 6,5 million residents in Egypt cannot afford to be connected to a Public Fresh Water System. The Egyptian authorities are not prepared to change the system. Their position remains that connections are to be paid by private house owners.

The Egyptian Rotary District No. 2451, in view of the government’s attitude, resolved in 2014 to strongly promote the matter of connecting houses of the underprivileged to the public Supply System once the Rotary Project “Polio” has come to an end.

The present project “Water for a Healthy Life” aims at helping the “poorest of the poor” to finally consume and enjoy clean drinking water. The project will greatly improve public health, in particular for children.

My Rotary Club München Land resolved in the summer of 2014 to participate in the project via its social support institution, and to accept the assignment as Primary International Sponsor, which means that it is my responsibility to organize the works required to bring the project under way until its completion.

Instead of the RC El Tahir which is no longer connected with the project, the RC El Maadi (Cairo) agreed to handle the registration, the application, the progress control on site, the preparation of the final invoice and the final report for TRF.

Leading idea for the conversion of the Matching Grant Project to Global Grant Project by TRF with a minimum total of 30.000 US\$ was to enable a plurality of clubs to combine their efforts for the completion of larger projects, with a view to induce clubs to cooperate. Under this aspect, clubs in Cairo and in Munich were asked to participate in financing the project.

An application for a total sum of 89.350 US\$ for Global Grant Project GG1529052 was submitted to the Rotary Foundation (TRF) on 1st March 2015. Participants are 8 Egyptian clubs and 7 clubs in Munich (RC München-Englischer Garten, RC München-Land, RC München-Mitte, RC München-Münchner Freiheit, RC München-Nymphenburg with 3.000 US\$ each, plus RC München and RC München-Residenz with 1.000 US\$ each), amounting to 17.000 US\$. The German District No. 1842 contributes 15.000 US\$, the Rotary Foundation adds another 37.450 US\$. The project was approved by TRF on 7th May 2015.

Showing a total amount of 78.628 € as private funds standing ready for Project GG 1529052, Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst e. V. Düsseldorf (RDG) submitted Project BMZ 2015.1655.8 for the connection of 1.700 houses with the Public Potable Water System to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation, which will grant three times the amount of the private funds, meaning that we expect to be able to dispose of a total sum of 314.512 € for the project in question.

The Ministry confirmed the receipt of the application and its audit on 8th June 2015, adding that Rotary, with the private funds available and at its own risk, may start performing. District Governor Gerhard Zierl (D 1842) and Frank Müller-Römer, Project Agent of RC München-Land as the responsible German club) visited Egypt in June for a few days to get things moving. On 14th June 2015 they were engaged in a lengthy discussion (Ms. Afaf Esmat, Agent of RC El Maadi responsible for the project, PP Abdelati Kabeel, Project Manager, Amin Sabri (RC Al Shorouk, Agent of District 2451 for Potable Water Projects, on one side) with Director Mahmoud Latif, Benisuef Potable Water & Sanitation CO (on the other side). Central points of the discussion were the preparation, realization and invoicing of the connection work for houses mainly in the settlements of Al Hibah Village and Al Jafadun Village in the area of Al Fashn south of Beni Suef.

On 15th June the discussions were continued. This time, PDG Yasser Assem and Incoming DG Adel Hafez, the chairwoman of the Egyptian Section of the Intercountry Committee Egypt, Ms. Soheir Wahib plus several other members of the section named were also part of the group. Main subject: the continued cooperation between German and Egyptian Rotary Clubs within the overall framework established last year. In a press conference attended by journalists of several newspapers, radio stations and two TV stations the project was discussed and presented in great detail. The duo responsible for the project, Ms. Afaf Esmat and Frank Müller-Römer, signed the Project Agreement. After an interesting meeting with members both male and female of RC El Maadi and a number of other clubs sponsoring the project, the evening ended in great harmony.

With the Global Grant Project “Water for a Healthy Life” an important Rotary Social Project was started which enabled a number of Rotary Clubs to be of lasting service to a larger number of underprivileged families.

Additional information about Rotarian projects of German Clubs can be found in the internet under

www.rotary.de/la-aegypten.

Some of the photographs taken during the visit will reflect the spirit of the matter.

Discussion in Beni Sueif (14th June.2015)



Trip to Central Egypt under police protection for the „Governor“ (on th left)

Discussion with Chaiman of the „Benisuef Potable Water & Sanitation CO“,Mahmoud Latif; from left zu right: Afaf Esmat (RC el Maadi, responsible for the Project); Governor Gerhard Zierl, DG 1842; Frank Müller-Römer (RC München Land, responsible for the Project); Abdelaty Kabeel (PP RC el Maadi; Projectmanager) and Amin Sabri (RC Al Shorouk, Agent of District 2451 in charge of Potable Water Projects).



Discussion of Details



Picture of the group after successful completion of talks with the Potable Water Administration.

Visit in El Hibah (14th June 2015)



Living quarters for a family of 4 with 1 bed, no water connection.



View into another house in El Hibah with only one living room without water connection



Meeting of District Representatives D 2451 (Egypt) und D 1842 (15th June.2015)



Welcome address of Incoming Governor 2451, Adel Hafez.

From left to right.: Soheir Wahib, RC Rhein – Nil and Chair of the Egypt Section Intercountry Committee; Frank Müller-Römer, Chair of the German Section Intercountry Committee Egypt; DG 1842 Gerhard Zierl; Incoming Governor 2451, Adel Hafez; PDG Yasser Assem (hidden) and Amin Sabri, RC Al Shorouk, Agent for District 2451 in charge of Potable Water Projects.

Welcoming address and speech DG 1842 Gerhard Zierl



Welcoming address Ms. Afaf Esmat, RC El Maadi, opening the formal Clubmeeting.



Incoming Governor 2451, Adel Hafez (links), Afaf Esmat (center), DG 1842 Gerhard Zierl

Signing Project Agreement “Water for Life” (15th June 2015)

Amin Sabri (left), Frank Müller-Römer (PP RC München Land, responsible for the project), Afaf Esmat (RC El Maadi, responsible for the project) Abdelaty Kabeel (PP RC El Maadi, manager of the project, right)



PP Abdelaty Kabeel (left), Frank Müller-Römer, DG 1842 Gerhard Zierl, Incoming Governor D 2451 Adel Hafez und Amin Sabri (right)

Press Conference, Radio and TV Interviews (15th June 2015)



Gerhard Zierl, DG 1842,
with journalists



Radio interview with
translation into Arabic by
Ms. Soheir Wahib,
chairwoman of the
Egyptian Section
Intercountry Committee
Egypt



TV interview, Gerhard
Zierl, translated into
Arabic by Ms. Soheir
Wahib