

Final Report

Global Grant Project GG1412160

‘Connection of houses to the public drinking water supply and to the sewage system in three smaller settlements near Beni Sueif (Central Egypt)’

Preamble

According to official information, 98,5 % of the houses in Egyptian towns and communities are equipped with the facilities required to connect the building to the pipelines of the public drinking water supply. ‘Connection facility’ means that the house owners are in a position to file applications to be connected with the local water authorities’ household and at the expense of the house owner.

UNICEF says that many poor inhabitants in rural areas outside from larger settlements and towns fail to apply for a connection to available public drinking water pipelines. About 13 % of the total population of Egypt (1,3 million houses with about 6,5 million inhabitants) are concerned. The Egyptian state refuses to give up the principle of the ‘own connections’. The government insists that house owners shall pay for their ‘own connections’ also in the future.

That is the reason why UNICEF (Egypt) decided – after the Polio-Project runs out - to turn their attention to regions where houses are still unconnected to the public drinking water pipelines with a view to help out quickly when Rotary is asked to render assistance. As a consequence, a corresponding agreement between the District 2451 (Egypt) and UNICEF Egypt for the connection of 2.500 houses resp. households to the drinking water pipelines was reached in December 2013.

Project

With the help of Global Grant Project 1412160 three smaller settlements near Beni Sueif on the west banks of the Nile – about 160 km upstream from Cairo - a greater number of houses resp. households of very poor inhabitants should be connected to the public drinking water supply. The local hygiene and sanitary conditions are substandard and quite bad.

The project of the RC Al Shorouk (Cairo Heliopolis, Primary Host Sponsor) for a Global Grant (GG1412160) which was completed in cooperation with the RC München-Englischer Garten (Primary International Sponsor), the RC München-Münchner Freiheit, the RC München-Ost and the RC Budapest City (with support from Districts 1842 and 2451) was approved by TRF on 25th September, 2013. The project provided for the connection of about 420 houses to the public drinking water supply. The total budget came up to 82.000 US \$.

The local water supply was also supported by the administration of the Ehnasia District, i.e. names and addresses of very needy persons in the three settlements El Shobak village, El Deir village and Brawa village were provided, all residents whose houses so far had not been connected to the drinking water supply for lack of funds (the connection fee amounts to 100 Egyptian Pounds which is approx. 11 Euro). In the framework of the project the inhabitants were connected free of charge. The administration had confirmed that there was a definite need for help, which meets with the conditions set by Rotary for Global Grants to be approved. Hygiene and medical care as well as sustainability and qualification of the partners

are further conditions. The new (from 01.07.2013) District 2452 (Egypt) as well as the RC Al Shorouk were qualified for Global Grants earlier.

The administration authorities approved all project documentation prepared by the RC Al Shorouk together with the local water authorities.

The RC München-Englischer Garten as Primary International Sponsor participated with a grant amounting to 24.225 US \$. The other two Munich Clubs contributed 2.300 US \$ (1.800 €) each. Moreover the RC Budapest City, partner club of the RC München-Englischer Garten, donated 1.175 US \$ and the District 1842 came up with an amount of 15.000 US \$.

Once the project had been approved by TRF the RC Wien-Graben – also a partner club of the leading RC München-Englischer Garten – decided to participate in the project and to share the contribution with their partner club (12.100 US \$).

Completion of the project

Due to the political unrest in Egypt the project was postponed from fall 2013 to spring 2014.

On behalf of the RC Al Shorouk the local water authorities placed the orders to connect the houses. To satisfy Rotary, the water authorities recorded all data separately, i.e. the addresses and the costs for all installations, and provided the RC Al Shorouk with a monthly report of survey. That formed the basis for the remittance of the next installment, to be used for the connection of more houses. The members of the RC Al Shorouk visited the building site six times – at their own cost.

The local water authorities planned to connect the houses and burden the owners with the costs. Seven employees received instructions to inform and instruct the tenants of the households to be connected.

On 11th May, 2014, Frank Müller-Römer and other members of the RC München-Englischer Garten as Primary International Sponsor visited Egypt to acquaint themselves with the details and the successful completion of the project.

Tight financial control and meticulous cost control below the initial estimations made it possible to connect 452 instead of 420 houses originally planned. The project was completed in December, 2014.

Members of the RC Al Shorouk held two instruction courses of body hygiene (wash hands, cleanliness) for the local owners of the houses connected to the system (50 and 100 persons). The club also donated the necessary utensils, like soap, disinfection supplies etc., including little gifts for the children.

My visits on site, the conversations I had at that time and letters I received from the persons responsible for the project convinced me that the project was completed with due care by the Rotarians of the RC Al Shorouk and that the water authorities responsible for the project did what they could to help the project along.

The official final report of the project can be found under

www.rotary.de/la-aegypten/projekte/abgeschlossene_projekte

Acknowledgements

The successfully completed project helps the poorest of the poor who used to live under substandard conditions and in primitive houses (see photos that I took on the occasion of my visit) and who had to get their drinking water from far away. Nowadays – compared to the past – the groundwater that is pumped by hand pumps can only be used as impotable water, i.e. for laundry etc.

The project brought a definite and sustainable improvement of hygienic conditions of the households connected, in particular for the many children, a fact which will also tend to reduce the mortality rate.

This is to thank all Rotarians of the RC Al Shorouk, in particular the initiator and coordinator of the project, Mr. Amin Sabri, for all their commitment to the project.

Frank Müller-Römer

Person in charge of the RC München-Englischer Garten



New drinking water connection with water meter



Obsolete hand pump for groundwater



The proud 'owner'



Simple house for one family



Mr. Amin Sabri from RC Al Shorouk (Cairo)

Initiator and responsible for the project