

Understanding between Peoples and Peace as a Target

The Intercountry Committee Egypt and its partners initiate a great number of projects which tend to improve the situation of living for the people, and to strengthen the relation of the two countries

The rapid growth of the population and the recent decline of tourism in Egypt led to a reduction of the country's foreign currency reserve, and will sooner or later torpedo any improvement of the living situation and the stand of education in Egypt. This will have an impact on the job training for young women in particular, and to their knowledge of preventive health measures. Equality of both sexes in education and choice of jobs is not in sight.

Coordinated Efforts

In the past, a group of German Rotary and Rotaract clubs have structured and initiated a great number of Matching Grants in many fields, along with other aid projects, always in close cooperation with Egyptian clubs and organizations and all with a view to improve the situation of living for the people. The German Section of the Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development contributed large amounts of money to finance these Grants, in particular those to promote and further the education of young females. Since 2011 RFPD Resource is focused upon the improvement of Mother and Child Situations.

Many projects in different fields

Many projects were designed to teach women in Egypt to read and to write, to develop a basic knowledge of medical facts and of family planning as well as training them for a job. Three examples will illustrate what is meant: During the last few years German Rotaract groups have kept the Alexandria Project alive in cooperation with RFPD; it had been started in 2001 by the Rotarian District 1860 and RFPD. It aimed at improving the life conditions of women in a poverty quarter by educating them and training them for a job by granting them micro loans. By broadening their experience and by working on their own the role of women in the society was to be fortified, with the intention of reducing the exorbitant population growth. In 2005, the European Conference of Rotaract honored this project as "the Optimal Social Project in Europe". Muhammad Yunus, recipient of the Peace Nobel Prize, also praised the project.

In 2007/08 several clubs within the German District 1850 realized a number of projects in Cairo and Alexandria for the health education for young women, plus reading and writing (CLE method). They worked in close cooperation with their Egyptian partner clubs and were supported by the Rotary Foundation (Matching Grants) and RFPD. A few months ago, the RC Oldenburg started another large project for the education of 600 young women. During 2012/2013 the RC München-Land also initiated an educational project for young women, in cooperation with the RC Giza North and with financial help from RC München-Englischer Garten and from Districts 1840 and 2450. Point of gravity of this project was to teach young women how to sew. The ones that passed the final exam received "their" sewing machine as a gift and were encouraged to start their own little business.

Fortifying the Relationship

In addition, projects for the improvement of the drinking water situation and improvement of general living conditions in Egyptian villages were initiated. With their engagement and dedication in these fields all partners of the Intercountry Committee Egypt as well as both REFD country sections Germany and Egypt definitely contribute to further a good and healthy relationship between the two countries.

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