

We try to make sure it lasts

In Egypt the district stands for teaching women to read and to write, and for providing them with job training

In Egypt 1,5 million children are born each year. By 2020 the population of presently 80 million will have grown to 100 million. The uncontrolled growth leads to illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, illness and an increasing crime rate. It will destroy Egypt's economy and will lay the foundation to a number of other unwelcome consequences. Measures of family planning ("population development") and job training are important measures to avoid such mischief. A number of projects initiated by Rotary seek total remedies: fighting against illiteracy, discrimination of women and unemployment. All projects were developed and initiated in close contact with the Egyptian authorities and leaders. Solutions were attempted and developed, of a kind that enabled other institutions to continue them, which helps to make reform efforts survive and last.

Based on the experience of German clubs from earlier projects, the RC München-Land developed and initiated a Matching Grant Project "Promotion of the Education of Young Women in Egypt", working in close cooperation with the RC Giza North in Cairo who will also serve as the administrator of the project. It will run over nine months, and will provide lessons for 60 young women in a Cairo suburb, to teach them reading and writing, as well as some job training. In addition, they will be taught some facts about family planning and preventive health measures. Participants that pass the final exam receive a sewing machine as a basis for a small business of their own.

The project which is also supported by the German District 1840 has a volume of 21.200 US\$. That includes - besides the 60 sewing machines mentioned - the costs for the teachers, the renovation of the classroom equipment, the classroom rent and the purchase of another 30 sewing machines which will be kept in stock for future customers.