



EGYPT

COMMUNITY BASED INITIATIVES

THE FACTS

Population: **79, 602, 650** (CAPMAS, 2010)

Income group: **Lower-middle**

Percentage of people living in Absolute

Poverty: 25.2% (CAPMAS, 2010)

When people can influence decisions affecting their health and wellbeing, they expand their capabilities which advances their human and community development. Regional strategies and policies for community-based initiatives (CBI) ensure that the community is actively involved in local health policy and planning processes, and that countries are advocating for universal access to quality primary health care services through community ownership and effective inter-sectoral collaboration.

CBI apply an integrated bottom-up approach to health and socio-economic development aiming to achieve a better quality of life for marginalized and underprivileged communities.

WHO Egypt currently implements four CBI:

- The Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (**Urban HEART**) has been implemented in Gezerit El Warak community in Giza Governorate. It provides evidence that can support local authorities in prioritizing urban problems and encourage city planners to allocate resources for necessary interventions to achieve health equity, also to sensitize, mobilize and empower communities to advocate for health equity (see table below).
- **Ezzbet Khaireallah** enhances leadership of women within the community through health awareness and hygiene education. Training of Trainers (TOT) through interactive baking lessons for 10 women, who teach and replicate these skills to other women within the Community. TOT combined with seminars

for 1,200 women, both perpetuate education on good health habits and family nutrition.

- The project in **Kafr Hakim**, based in 6th October in Giza Governorate, implemented early screening detection and treatment of anemia, intestinal parasites and infestation for over 2000 patients. Teaching of crafts and literacy education has promoted Women's empowerment. Environmental campaigns by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) in collaboration with community youth associations and local development committees have been implemented.
- **Methaway** implemented the Basic Development Needs (BDN) activities to facilitate community health, social and environmental development post-revolution. The community have started the Palm Tree Project, aiming to reach 2000 trees which has provided economic and environmental benefits. Youth empowerment activities have also been implemented.

Policy Domain	Core Indicator	Current Survey in Gezerit El Warak	DHS – Egypt 2008*
Physical Environment and Infrastructure	Connect to piped water	84.0	98.0
Physical Environment and Infrastructure	Water safety for drink	17.4	No data
Physical Environment and Infrastructure	% of Water supply interrupted	100.0	30.7
Physical Environment and Infrastructure	Connect to drainage public sewers	0.0	56.0
Social and Human development	Illiteracy rate	36.4	25.2
Social and Human development	Fully immunized Infants	95.1	91.7
Social and Human development	Skilled Birth Attendance	72.2	71.7
Social and Human development	Prevalence of Male tobacco smoking	55.9	43.9
Economics	Unemployment	7.9	11.9 ^a
Governance	Voter Participation (Last Referendum)	52.7	41.0 ^a

URBAN HEART TABLE OF RESULTS

KEY BENEFICIARIES

- Gezerit El Warak community.
- Female residents of Ezzbet Khaireallah directly, their families and other members of the community indirectly.
- Kafr Hakim community.
- Methaway community.



Urban HEART Gezerit El Warak's sole transport to mainland, CBI have increased awareness resulting in the provision of a new boat.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Urban HEART

- Assess the socio-economic and health determinants that affect the population's health.
- Compare the social determinants of health of Gezirat El Warak with national standards.
- Determine the gap in health equity between Gezirat El Warak and the national level.

Ezzbet Khairallah

- Raising women's socio-economic status through capacity building and awareness raising on health and hygiene.

Kafr Hakim

- Identifying and treating anaemia and intestinal parasites as well as highlighting associated risk factors.

Methaway

- Through Basic Development Needs (BDN) facilitate community health, social, environmental development and improvement.
- Create job opportunities providing economic benefits.

CHALLENGES

- Limited resources for implementation of activities and lack of coordination between different stakeholders.
- Institutionalization of CBI as a programme in MOHP.
- Limited CBI central team with widening scope of work

National Partners:

World Health Organization (WHO)
 Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP)
 Ministry of Education
 Ministry of Environment
 Ministry of Social Solidarity
 Central Government Health Directorates
 Governorates Representatives for Health,
 Environment, Agriculture, Education (other
 concerned departments)
 Local Authorities
 Youth Associations
 Non Governmental Organizations

Contact:

WHO Country Office:
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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Community empowerment and involvement in Giza and Ezzbet Khairallah.
- Political commitment from Governor of Giza.
- Partners of Gezerit El Warak were motivated to contribute further to success of the CBI
- Identifying the presence of anemia and implementing solutions to solve the issue in Kafr Hakim.
- Integration of stakeholders who have not previously worked in health including local partners and governorates, subsequently people and organizations now considering environmental health and social determinants of health as key issues that need to be addressed e.g. clean water access, sewage control and sanitation.
- Developing community organizations and new NGOs.

ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED & FUTURE PLANS

- To achieve institutionalization of CBI as a programme in MOHP.
- To ensure CBI becomes an integral component of all programs as it provides a good way to reach the depths of communities to find and solve existing problems.
- Other communities near Kafr Hakim have requested the extension of similar activities and procedures for solutions in their own communities by WHO and MOHP.
- Capitalize on new revolution inspired mentality to change political, social and physical environment.
- Include community schools, hospitals, workplaces and markets in future CBI activities.



Training of Trainers baking workshop in Ezzbet Khaireallah

LESSONS LEARNT

- It is important to ensure timely briefing and engagement of the Officials at the Governor and Assistant Minister of MOHP level, e.g. before the opening of the workshop and during the announcements.