

Country strategic plan summary for 2006-2015

This document describes how Plan Egypt and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2006 to 2015.

Egypt, officially known as the “Arab Republic of Egypt”, lies on the northeast corner of Africa. Egypt has about 76 million inhabitants and the cities have high populations. The country is divided into 26 governorates in two main regions: the northern region (Lower Egypt), including the delta of the Nile, and the southern region (Upper Egypt). The main causes of poverty in Egypt are: overpopulation, unequal distribution of income and wealth and an under-performing economy.

Plan Egypt’s program

Plan has been working in Egypt since 1980. Currently, it works in five governorates, two urban (Cairo and Alexandria) and three rural (Giza, Beheira, and Kalyoubia). Plan Egypt works closely with community development associations and community volunteers. It also encourages the participation of children, their families and communities in issues related to their development.



Major issues affecting children in Egypt:

- A variety of diseases among infants and children, such as diarrhea and acute respiratory infection
- Lack of medical check-ups for pregnant women, where both mothers’ and babies’ health are at risk
- Need for rehabilitation programs that protect the rights of children with special needs and allow them to realize their full potential

“Our children with disabilities are now able to practice new activities”



- Limited access to clean potable water, connection to sewage systems, and lack of garbage collection and waste disposal services in homes and schools
- Low quality of education due to overcrowded classrooms, non-specialized teachers, schools running in double shifts, and old teaching methods
- Child labor and mistreatment, and a high number of street children in urban areas
- Weak child participation in schools and communities
- Widespread poverty conditions, where families are not able to provide their children with appropriate education, health care and recreation

How will Plan Egypt address these issues?

To help ensure **better health, development and education of all children**, Plan will work together with communities, non-governmental organizations and the government to develop programs to:

- Facilitate access to services for infants and young children in the areas of health, nutrition and education
- Facilitate access to medical services for mothers and women in reproductive age
- Facilitate access to medical services for children, to ensure their healthy growth and development
- Support construction, renovation and provision of equipment to medical centers
- Raise community awareness on the importance of education

- Help improve existing educational conditions by supporting the renovation of school buildings, encouraging teacher training, and facilitating the provision of equipment and furniture
- Promote student participation in school management with the help of parent and teacher associations
- Raise awareness on the rights of children with disabilities and support communities to respect and create opportunities for the children
- Facilitate the provision of clean water, sanitation and garbage/waste disposal services in homes and schools

To help **strengthen community based organizations to promote and protect the rights of children** Plan will focus on:

- Building relationships with children, families, communities, non-governmental organizations and the government. By increasing its network, Plan will be able to address issues with a stronger impact
- Supporting community based organizations with trainings, awareness campaigns, and technical assistance
- Supporting the creation of children's groups, supporting recreational facilities, and building children's capacity to encourage their participation in issues which concern them
- Facilitating awareness sessions on leadership and women's rights and issues, and promoting women's participation in problems related to the development of their communities
- Create successful development models that could be replicated by other organizations.



"We enjoy spending time in our kindergarten"

To help **increase family income** Plan will facilitate vocational training workshops for unemployed family members to improve their professional skills and chances of getting a better job. Plan will also provide families with small loans to help them start small businesses to increase their income.

Important achievements

Significant progress has been made in recent years, represented by many success stories. For example, Plan Egypt has supported the creation of children clubs in its working areas. These clubs provide children with a safe place to practice their hobbies, such as reading, playing, singing and drawing. They also give children the opportunity to participate in the development of their communities.



"We do lots of activities in children clubs"

A pilot school improvement project was implemented in ten schools. Some achievements of this pilot include: increase in school attendance and decrease in dropout rates, improved student performance, and wider children and parent participation. Also the quality of the teachers improved. Plan Egypt is now replicating this project throughout the schools in areas we work.

Program approach

To achieve its goals, Plan Egypt adapted the **child-centered community development approach**. This is a development approach in which children, families and communities are active participants. They improve their capacity and opportunity to work together in identifying issues affecting their lives. They also develop common strategies and programs that would help generate lasting improvements in their lives.

Through this approach, children and their families are provided with venues and tools that will help them contribute to and own the development process of their communities. This approach deals with the main causes of problems that hinder the fulfillment of children's rights.