Poverty Alleviation and Legal Rights for Young Women and Children

Goal

The Poverty Alleviation program, implemented by The Ministry of State for Family and Population/NCCM in cooperation with the World Bank and funded by the Italian Cooperation, aims at increasing existing opportunities and improving the economic and social conditions of women, adolescents, and children.

Objectives

- Alleviate the procedures required to obtain official documents (IDs, birth certificates, and certificates for unregistered persons), 40,000 targeted beneficiaries;
- Facilitate the target group’s access to these official documents;
- Increase awareness on children rights and on democratic principles;
- Facilitate the target group’s access to basic economic and social services.

Time Span

June 2007-January 2010

Geographical Scope

- Giza
- 6th of October
- Helwan
- Beni Suef
- Minia
- Sohag
- Qena

In each of these governorates, six centers are targeted.

Target Group(s)

Direct target group: children, adolescents, and women. Indirect target group: governmental organizations, NGOs, and civil society.

Achievements (From June 2007 until October 2008)

Program’s Policy Component:

- The new amendments of the child Law number 12 of 1996 as amended by Law number 162 of 2008 depend in the first place on the best interests of the Child and his/her rights to identity, the elimination of the non-discrimination and the access to all rights enshrined by the state. Such rights are in accordance with all relevant international instruments and the Egyptian Constitution.
- The amendment done to the child law provided in its article number 17 on: "the issuance of the first birth certificate is free of charge and to be delivered to the sponsor of the child after verifying his/her identity.
- The amendment of article 49 of the law provided that: "the children named below are entitled to have access to monthly pension from the competent department of the Social Solidarity in accordance with rules and conditions set forth in the Social Solidarity Law; provided that the rendered pensions shall not be less than 40 Egyptian pounds to be given to each and every child who or his/her family has no income; orphaned children or children with unknown father or parents and children; children of sponsor housewives and children of mothers jailed or imprisoned for a term not less than 3 years.
- The amendment of Article (15) that provides on: "the mother has the right to register her baby in the birth registration records, and to register the baby in the birth certificate under her name."
- The steering committee agreed, in its first meeting, on the project’s action plan and determined the roles and responsibilities of the NGOs in implementing the project’s activities.
- The Policy Committee agreed on means to facilitate the procedures of official documents so to effectively implement the project’s objectives.
- The Legislation Committee reviewed laws and legislations that have to do with official documents so to propose amendments and facilitate the procedures to issue these documents. The Committee also printed and published posters clarifying the procedures required to issue official documents indicating the contacts of high officials in case any problem is faced. The posters were distributed to the partnering NGOs, to health offices, and to civil affairs offices.
- Media campaigns were conducted in Giza, Sohag, and Minia.
- Meetings with the directors of the civil affairs offices from the target governorates. And
- Meetings with the under secretaries from the Ministry of Health and directors from the health units in the target governorates to know the main problems faced by the partnering NGOs in implementing the project’s activities and knowing how to overcome these obstacles.
- Workshops (one in Giza on 6th May 09, one in Sohag on 27th July 09, one in Beni Suef on 5th August 09, and one in Minia on 13th of August 09). The objective from these workshops is to increase networking and partnership between stakeholders concerned by the issue of registration in the target governorates.
- A legal study on the procedures to issue official documents.
- Devising a communication strategy based on which the project’s communication activities will be implemented.

Program’s Operational Component:
• A building capacity plan for the partnering NGOs was devised, at the beginning of the project, based on a workshop to determine the NGOs’ training needs. Accordingly training workshops were conducted on topics such as: the procedures to issue official documents, effective communication, social empowerment, and projects’ management.
• Printing materials (posters, flyers, brochures, agendas, etc.).
• Devising a book narrating the project’s success stories.
• Setting a website for the project.
• Devising a manual on the procedures to issue official documents and a manual on awareness raising. A training workshop for each manual was organized so that the partnering NGOs could participate in the review of the manuals.
• In cooperation with the partnering NGOs, 469 lectures, 57 meetings, and 3 roundtables were organized from which benefited 23686 women and girls. Topics discussed were mainly on the importance of official documents in having access to basic rights (legal, social, etc.), on the way to issue the documents, on the population component by talking about family planning issues.
• 9 training workshops/conferences attended by the project team on: M&E tools and other developmental issues.
• Devising a project’s situational analysis study.
• The project’s communication activities: itinerant theater show, documentary, billboards, radio and TV programs, 3 workshops conducted for media persons and MPs.