



Coptic Orthodox Church
Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social
Services
(BLESS)

Annual Progress Report
for the period
1st January – 31ST December, 2018

Table of Contents

Introduction:	1
BLESS Strategic Directions	2
ICDP operational stages:.....	3
BLESS institutional development during 2018:	6
Planning and monitoring progress in 2018:.....	7
ICDP target communities during 2018	10
List of the new communities of ICDP 2018	12
Map of activated communities of ICDP 2018:	14
ICDP components progress report.....	15
Economic Development Component progress report:	15
Key achievements:	19
Challenges encountered:	21
Lessons Learned:	21
Component adjustments in 2019	21
Success Story:.....	22
Primary Health Care Component progress report:	23
Key achievements:	28
Challenges encountered:	28
Lessons learned:.....	29
Component adjustments in 2019	29
Success story:.....	30
Adult Education Component progress report:	31
Key Achievements:.....	33
Challenges encountered:	34
Lessons learned:.....	34
Component Adjustments in 2019:.....	34
Success Story:.....	34
Community Empowerment and Sustainability Component progress report:	35
Key achievements:	38
Challenges encountered:	39
Lessons learned:.....	39
Component adjustments in 2019:	40

Success story:.....	40
Improving the Standard of Education Component progress report:.....	41
Key achievements:	44
Challenges encountered:	44
Lessons learned:.....	45
The component adjustments in 2019:	45
Success Story:.....	46
Unleashing the Potentials of the new Generation Component progress report:.....	47
Key achievements:	50
Challenges encountered:	51
Lessons learned:.....	51
The component adjustments in 2019:	51
Success Story:.....	52
Youth Development Component progress report:	53
Key achievement:.....	54
Component adjustments in 2019:	54
Community Peace Building Component progress report:	55
Key achievements:	58
Challenges encountered:	59
Component Adjustments in 2019:	59
Success story:.....	59
Rural Development component progress report:.....	60
Key achievements:	65
Challenges encountered:	66
Component Adjustments in 2019:	66
Success stories:	67
Housing Improvement Component progress report:.....	68
Key achievements:	71
Challenges encountered:	71
Lessons learned:.....	71
Component Adjustments in 2019:	72
Success story:	72
Environmental Development component progress report:	73

Key achievements:	77
Challenges encountered:	78
Lessons learned:.....	79
Component adjustments in 2019:	79
Success story:.....	80
Community Studies and Research Component progress report:	81
Key achievements:	84
Challenges encountered:	85
Lessons learned:.....	85
The component adjustments in 2019:	85
Human Resources Development Component progress report:	86
Key achievements:	88
Lessons learned:.....	88
Success stories:	89
Rise Up and Walk Component progress report:.....	90
Key achievement:.....	95
Component adjustments in 2019:	95
Success Story:.....	96
Combating Addiction Component progress report:.....	97
Key achievement:.....	99
Success story:.....	99
The Prisoners Care component:.....	100
Key achievements:	100
Component adjustments in 2019	100
Findings.....	101
ANNEX:.....	102
Motivations for launching the strategic plan for 2018-2020:.....	102
ICDP strategy of Operations:.....	102
Developing Slum Areas. Why?	103
The best shots in 2018:	104
Last minute success story:	106

Introduction:

The Coptic Orthodox Church, in its continuous commitment to the prosperity of humanity, believes that it has a leading role in development from both a cultural and social perspective. The Coptic Church represents the collective-consciousness embedded within Egyptian society, because of its unique origin, which is deeply rooted in Egypt history human principles and Christian morals.

BLESS represents a practicing model for both Egypt and the Coptic Church as a developmental entity, which is an extension for the role of the church and presents a live model for the society.

Vision:

A community capable of investing its potential, accepting diversity, respecting differences, and living with human dignity.

Mission:

Awakening the social -consciousness of individuals to liberate society from the bondage of poverty, ignorance, and illness. Emphasizing human values, reinforcing the Egyptian identity, and leading the change through communal participation. BLESS will lead the change through field interventions, and the support of forming local entities.

Guiding Values:

- Our love for God inspires us to love all human beings and emphasizing their human dignity
- Transparency and accountability
- Encouraging and supporting the spirit of creativity, volunteer work and charity
- Respecting human beings regardless of religion, sex, age, or race
- Re-affirming the spirit of responsibility and commitment
- Providing quality and sustainable services
- Focusing on compiling and utilizing available local resources

Cornerstones of the Strategic Plan

1. National and international documentation
2. The country's national plan for sustainable development for the year 2030
3. The sustainable international development plan that was set by the United Nations in 2015.
4. The recommendations of development specialists in Egypt to help develop BLESS' role in the community

BLESS Strategic Directions

Frist Strategic Direction:

Promoting social awareness to maintain a secure society that accepts diversity and respects differences. A society which is built on citizenship, does not discriminate, and works towards peace and equality.

Second Strategic Direction:

Empowering poor communities in slums and deprived areas to develop themselves to eliminate poverty. Empowering and protecting marginalized groups and help them to fully integrate into their society (e.g. children, women, and people with disabilities, drug addicts, and prisoners).

Third Strategic Direction:

Establishing partnerships with non-governmental, governmental, and international development organizations. BLESS, with its accumulative experience in the field of social, cultural, and economic development, will initiate its active participation as a technical support entity.

Built on the directions listed above, the main program for development within BLESS was designed to sustain a larger number of interventions which would help cope with social changes, and is represented now in the Integrated Community Development Program ICDP.

ICDP Pillars

This Program was designed based off of a scientific methodology to include a number of specialized and technical program which operate in rural and slum communities. These programs will be activated in either full or partial participation based on needs assessment of the community, conducted by a specialized committee and social studies program. The program builds on 4 main pillars have the following basic features:

First: Basic Programs pillar (Education, Health, and Economic Development) Based from our experience in development, these sectors are basically needed in most communities, whether rural or slums.

Second: Capacity building pillar (Studies, researchers, developing HR, empowering sustainable development)

Third: Building the Next Generation pillar (Unleashing the new generation potentials, building community peace building, taking care of at risk groups)

Fourth: Improving Quality of Life pillar (Rural, environmental, housing improvement, and rescue programs)

Standards criteria of Selecting Targeted Communities for the Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP)

1. Communities that were not served completely by previous development associations
2. Lack of health and educational services in the village
3. Far distanced from governmental and non-governmental services
4. Deterioration of local environment and high percentage of illness
5. Houses are inadequate or suffer from common living
6. High rate of population
7. High illiteracy and dropout rates
8. Lack of stable employment and a high rate of unemployment
9. The population is between 300 and 1000 family
10. Increase of marginalized and at risk groups (disabled people, drug addicts, prisoners, and elderly people)

BLESS provides its services to all segments of population without any discrimination related to sex, religion, race or color.

ICDP operational stages:

1) Selection stage:

a) Selecting communities, according to the previous criteria.

b) Selecting field workers (from 3 to 4 persons in each community), according to the following criteria:

- Education: university graduate (social studies- commerce – etc.) in case of there is no high educated candidate in the community BLESS can except graduate of secondary or technical school.
- Age: between 20-35 years old
- Experience: 1-3 years of experience in related field (fresh graduate is acceptable)
- Good relations with all community inhabitanicies is a must good relation with local community agencies is preferable
- Computer skills: preferable to have good skills in Microsoft office

2) Training of field workers

The Human Resource component organizes basic training course in Cairo, to improve developmental knowledge, skills and attitudes of the new field workers.

3) Needs assessment community study

The community research and studies component leads the needs assessment studies in each community with cooperation with the field staff by a combination of digital and participatory research tools. Based on the results of these needs assessment, the secondary components are activated in the newly targeted communities.

4) Field implementation

a) A temporarily plan for activating the four essential components “Education, Health, Economic and community empowerment and sustainability, with consideration of gathering baseline data and start to recruit local committee volunteers

b) According to the needs assessment community study results, each community develop annual operational plan with cooperation of the community’s volunteers and under the supervision of the PME.

Within the first six month of implementation, community establishes a development equipped office.

5) Monitoring and Evaluation phase

- Operating digital monitoring system to collect and analyze field data
- Periodic qualitative reports from the technical component of ICDP
- Monthly meetings with field coordinators and technical component of ICDP advisors
- Efficiency field studies for ICDP activities made by Social and Research component

6) Capacity building phase

An annual refreshing training for field workers in attendance of technical components managers and supervisors to build field workers capacity, address successes, challenges and lessons learned to make corrective actions

7) Phasing out evaluation:

BLESS formed an evaluation committee consists of field, technical and research representatives to set an assessment framework, implement an evaluation and come up with decisions and recommendations exit report.

Standards criteria of exiting Targeted Communities for the Integrated Community Development Program (ICDP)

The exiting time point will be defined whenever the community is capable of developing and sustaining itself from the following indications:

1. The existence of local trained cadres
2. Community initiatives capable of addressing and solving society problems
3. A network of relations with other GOs and NGOs
4. The existence of a supportive entity to sustain development process.

Through BLESS experience, we expect that the number of years where the community reaches maturity wouldn't exceed five years.

BLESS institutional development during 2018:

Bless Capacity Building Progress

BLESS witnessed a great transformation in the capacity building process in different BLESS departments that includes:

First, In the second half of 2018, PME and technical components went through a new learning monitoring journey to enhance technical program capacity. Each technical program developed best practice criteria for its activities, designed the appropriate tools to monitor the quality of activities, trained the components supervisors to practice it, and come up with evaluation results for each region. Bless rewarded the winners of the best practice contest. Then, they set outcome indicators for each component, developed appropriate tools and data collection plan, collected and analyzed data. That process provided a unique learning opportunity for PME, technical components, and field to get to know what happened and what needed corrective action.



Best practice prize

Second, BLESS operations includes a wide geographical area, so there was a need to train and qualify experienced fieldworkers to reinforce technical supervision level, which improved field performance as well as provided adequate data.

Third, as a result of capacity building trainings held for the human resources department, BLESS applied a complaining mechanism for achieving transparency. This mechanism was activated on the headquarter level of BLESS in the form of complaints and suggestions box, on the field level a board holding a complaint phone number was forwarded to be in each community development offices, all complains are escalated to respond according to the type of complain.

Fourth, BLESS developed system of annual assessment for BLESS staff, it helps to motivate, improve, appreciate performance of organization staff.

Fifth, BLESS bought a digital accounting system (COMSYS) in order to digitalize the budget and accounting process. The financial department staff was trained on using it, BLESS is going through a transitional phase using both the manual and digitalized methods until being fully qualified to use the new digital system.

Planning and monitoring progress in 2018:

Developing strong PME unit requires an essential role in tracking and updating M&E data with best quality possible. Therefore, BLESS is in-going process establishing and upgrading a digital monitoring system as follow: -

Phase 1:

BLESS Developed an internal digital monitoring system aims to track activities implementation progress in the field, and some organizational indicators, (BLESS ability to provides its services to the whole community and the level of partnership with other GOs & NGOs). Using Microsoft 365 and mobile application.

Throughout 2018 PME department held 3 training workshops to 6 field coordinators and 6 coordinators' assistants, 8 regional workshops targeted 122 field worker (15-20 field worker in each workshop). Aiming to improve the field staff skills in using the digital system, avoid the common mistakes, and to upgrade the level of verification. Also one collective training for whole field staff were held in September to demonstrate data analysis produced by the digital system and discussed the advantages and recommendations to improve the digital system.

The digital system was very effective easy tool to track the implementation progress considering BLESS vast geographical regions and the existence of periodic data on certain time. At the other hand there were three major issues. The adequacy issue as part of the data process handled manually, the limited software capacity, and the data security issue.

Phase 2:

To overcome these obstacles, BLESS started to think of dealing with professional software company. We were blessed by 2 volunteered companies offered to cooperate with BLESS. PME department with Technical Support Unit held over 13 meeting to decide which company to deal with, which we decide to be Universal Solutions Software Co., after 5 workshop meetings with Universal Solutions co., BLESS realized that to build a new Digital System from scratch it will need almost one year. Which will make an information gap it can't be handled. So BLESS decided to start upgrading BLESS monitoring digital system internally, by PME and Technical Support Unit. BLESS in ongoing process to avoid most of former monitoring system obstacles by,

- Developing a new Office 365 - SharePoint application, provides automated comparative analysis to avoid manual process, and allows including technical component comments over field data, to add several layers of data verification.
- Maximizing software capacity, to allow 3 000,000 record instead of 5000 record, 100 account instead of 25 account. Which allows develop an account for each community and technical component, and also build additional part in the system to track program indicators progress.

- Posting the digital monitoring system on a very well secured domain “GO Daddy”, developing account for each community, and giving each system user certain level of authority, undertaking steps to avoid unsecured data.

Organizational indicators:

In accordance with BLESS mission “to have a community capable of investing its potential, accepting diversity, respecting differences, and living with human dignity”. BLESS set two organizational indicators.

First, BLESS set a target of 20% of the total beneficiaries from diverse backgrounds.

BLESS organizational indicator progress in 2018:

Total Muslim percentage of beneficiaries through 2018 is 12%, with following analysis,

- Luxor and Aswan region recorded 18% of Muslims.
- South Upper Egypt region that is considered to be one of the most conservative ideologies and traditions recorded 6% of the Muslims.
- Middle Upper Egypt and North Upper Egypt regions that include El-Minya governorate that is considered to have the highest level of religious discrimination recorded one of the high ranks in BLESS which is 19% of the Muslims.
- Slums of Cairo region in spite of its unique conditions reached 7% of the Muslims.
- The percentage of Muslims in Alexandria region was the highest one that reached 31% of Muslims.

To achieve that percentages, BLESS made a lot of effort as:

- Reviewing all technical component literature, to insure Adopting natural inclusive terminology and methodology in all Activities
- Convincing field staff, clergy, and local community leaders to create an inclusive society, and positively overcome bad experience.
- Extra Expenses to rent suitable locations, to give the opportunity for unchristian to join the activities.
- In case of having few number of Muslim families in certain communities, BLESS expands the scope to villages’ suburbs and neighboring villages to reach many diversities as much as possible.
- Inviting all the community inhabitants through home visits and publishing advertisements in streets to be visible for everyone

Despite these challenges, BLESS insists to contribute to create a peaceful community that accepts diversities. As a matter of fact, BLESS started by leading a pioneering project calls for peacebuilding “SALMO project” in a partnership with Diakonia, The Awkaf, Educational Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Media. The project aims at increasing the strength of the Egyptian society for social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, the project is a two-year pilot project and will be implemented in three governorates: Cairo, Qalyobia and Assiut.

The initial results and experiences gained from the project will be used for scaling up and extending the project’s outcome to further communities.

While the peacebuilding and conflict prevention need to involve a whole range of different actors in the society, yet; SALMO Project targets the key influencers in the Egyptian community such as: Civil Society Organizations, Religious leaders, Media, Nature Community leaders and public administration.

SALMO project provides platforms for intergenerational collaboration as well as community engagement and mobilization.



SALMO opening ceremony

Second, tracking the third strategic direction “Establishing partnerships with non-governmental, governmental, and international development organizations”.

believing that, building strong and wide networks sustain, maximize and strengthen the development interventions, BLESS set a target that 50% of technical program and field region has at least one intervention implemented by networking with GO’s or NGO’s.

In 2018 BLESS was able to build strong relations with central and regional GOs (including ministries, local councils, medical units, research units and universities) and different NGOs. During 2018, 35% of the activities of components were implemented with organizational networks

ICDP target communities during 2018

Region	Community	Diocese	Governorate	Village selection	Start	Exit
Luxor and Aswan	El- Gheriara	Arment and Asna	Luxor	Dec. 2015	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
	Qomaer	Luxor	Luxor	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
	El-Heliala	Arment and Asna	Luxor	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
	Ezbet Gad	Luxor	Luxor	Jan. 2014	Jul. 2014	Dec. 2019
	El-Mamaria	Aswan	Aswan	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
	El-Hager	Aswan	Aswan	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
South Upper Egypt	El-Sheikh Marzouk ¹	El- Balina	Sohag	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2018
	Awlad Yeiah	Gerga	Sohag	Jan. 2016	Oct. 2016	Dec. 2022
	El- Berba	Gerga	Sohag	Jan. 2016	Oct. 2016	Dec. 2020
	Anba Shenouda	Akhmim	Sohag	Jan. 2017	Oct. 2017	Dec. 2020

¹ BLESS will exit from this community by the end of 2018

Region	Community	Diocese	Governorate	Village selection	Start	Exit
Middle Upper Egypt	El-Halaki	Tama	Sohag	Jan. 2014	Oct. 2014	Dec. 2019
	El-Shanina	Abu Teig	Asuit	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
	El-Sheikh Shebika ²	Mallawi	El- Minya	Jan. 2013	Jul. 2013	Dec. 2018
	El-Sultan and Toom	El- Minya and Abu Korkas	El- Minya	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
	Kafer Lebs	El- Minya	El- Minya	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
	El-Habishea	Asuit	Asuit	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
North Upper Egypt	Ezbet Farcis	Matai	El- Minya	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
	Ezbet El-Yasmin	Matai	El- Minya	Jan. 2014	Jul. 2014	Dec. 2019
	Esahk and Blok	Maghagha & El-Adwa	El- Minya	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2021
	El-Khalifa	Beni Suef	Beni Suef	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
	Sansom	Mattai	El- Minya	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
Lower Egypt	Ezbet El-Saiyda ³	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Jan. 2013	Jul. 2013	Dec. 2018
	Ard El Soudi	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Jan. 2015	Jul.2015	Dec. 2020
	Mubark and Beni Salama	El- Behaira	El- Behaira	Jan. 2014	Jul.2014	Dec. 2019
	Okab	El- Behaira	El- Behaira	Jan. 2016	Jul.2016	Dec. 2021
	El-Maraghe and Kherwa'a	Alxanderia	Alxanderia	Nov.2017	Nov.2017	Dec. 2022

^{2 3} BLESS will exit from these communities by the end of 2018

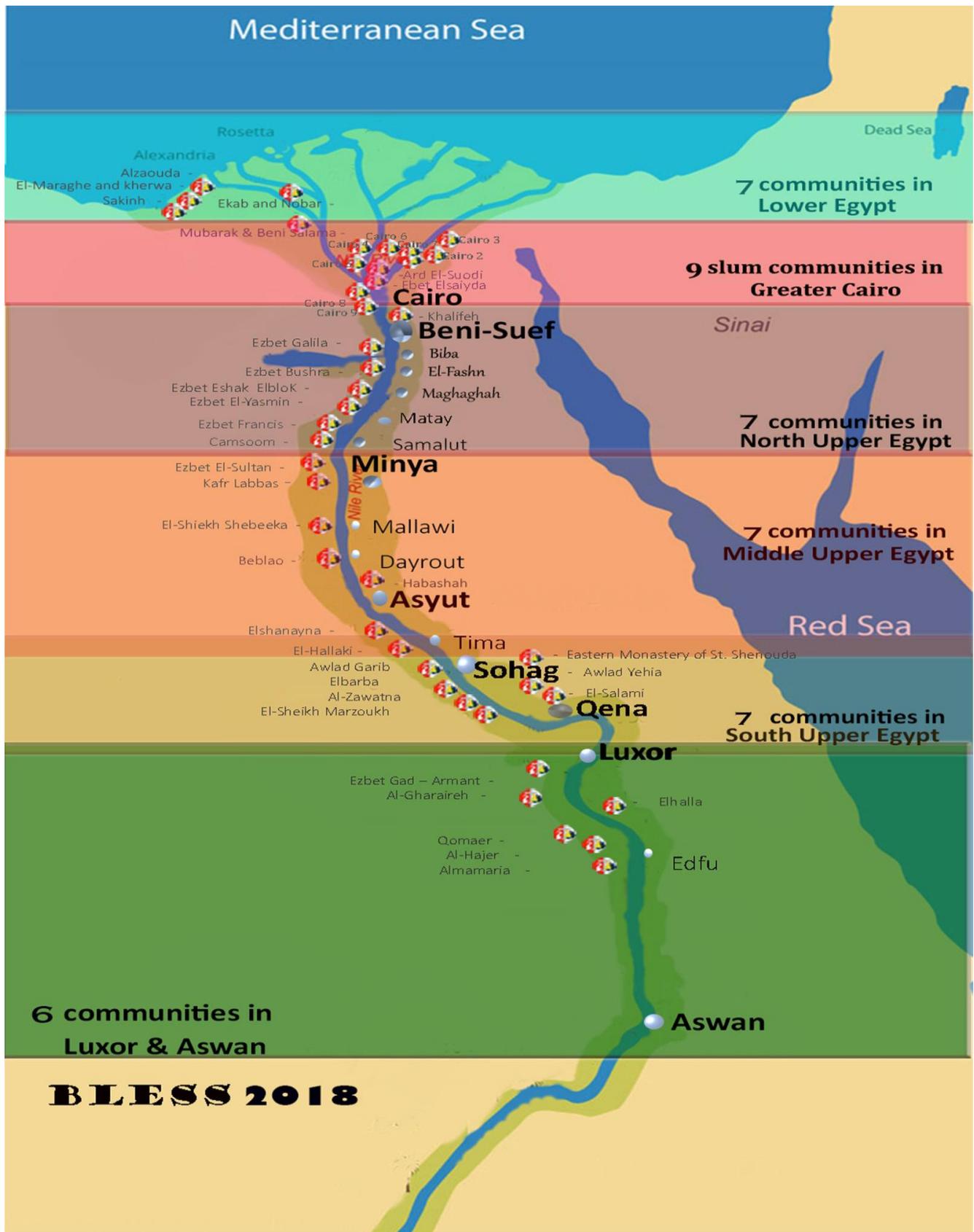
List of the new communities of ICDP 2018

Region	communities	Diocese	Governorate	Village selection	Training date	Needs Assessment date	Start	Exit
Slums communities in Greater Cairo	El-Khosos	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	Hoad Galal	El- Salam City	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	El-Marg El-Sherkia	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	El-Marg El-Gharbia	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	Zaraib Ezbet El-Nakhl	Cairo	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	El Mo'atamdia	Middle Giza	Giza	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	Ezbet Khairalla	Cairo	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	Dec. 2020
	El-Katawe	Shobra El-Kheima	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	According to Exit Criteria
	Ezbet Kheiza	East Giza	Giza	Aug. 2017	Jan.- Mar. 2018	11 Dec.2017-24 Apr.2018	May 2018	According to Exit Criteria

Region	communities	Diocese	Governorate	Village selection	Training date	Needs Assessment date	Start	Exit
Lower Egypt and Slums of Alexandria	Skina	Alexandria	Alexandria	Jul. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Aug. – Nov. 2017	Apr. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
	El Zawaida	Alexandria	Alexandria	Jul. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Aug. – Nov. 2017	Apr. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
North Upper Egypt	Ezbet Boshra	Beba and El- Fashen	Beni Suef	Jan. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Mar. – 6 May 2018	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
	Galeela	Beba and El- Fashen	Beni Suef	Jan. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Mar. – 6 May 2018	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
South Upper Egypt	El-Salamaia	Qena	Qena	Nov. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Mar. – 6 May 2018	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
	Awald Gharieb	Sohag	Sohag	Nov. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Mar. – 6 May 2018	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
	El-Zawatna	Gerga	Sohag	Nov. 2017	6 Feb.- 30 Apr. 2018	16 Mar. – 6 May. 2018	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria

- BLESS exited from Bblaw and Hkr El-Skakeny communities due to community challenges that faced the implementation of ICDP in both communities.

Map of activated communities of ICDP 2018:



ICDP components progress report

Economic Development Component progress report:

Guiding points for vocational and technical trainings:

Pass: 50% to 69%

Good: 70% to 85%

Excellent: from 86% to 100%

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
1) By the end of 2020, 2500 beneficiaries (15% women and girls between 20 and 35) would have been empowered with knowledge and skills to be qualified for self-employment or to join the labor market in 45 slum and rural communities.	Decrease the seasonal and permanent unemployment in the targeted communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1800 beneficiaries would have attended the vocational and technical trainings • 70% of the trainees will gain 70% of skills according to the qualifications of the ordinary labor level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 15% of the beneficiaries have basic knowledge without practical experience and 85% of them have no knowledge and no 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1003 beneficiary attended the vocational and technical trainings (409 of the 1003 beneficiaries have joined the labor market) • 80% of the trainees have gained skills to be qualified as an ordinary labor according to the internal practical and theoretical evaluation (60% of the 80% got excellent, 20% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 vocational and technical trainings • 44Entrepreneurship training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94 vocational and technical trainings. (attended by 148 men / 855 women) • 44Entrepreneurship training (attended by 236 men / 1014 women)

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 405 trained local cadres 	<p>practical experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<p>got good, 20% got pass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 203 trained local cadres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Specialized trainings for field workers and volunteers 3 Industrial community studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Specialized trainings for field workers and volunteers (attended by 83 men / 120 women) The component has finalized the preparation phase, study framework and industrial communities selection.
2) By the end of 2020, 300 unemployed youth would have got jobs in 45 slum and rural communities.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 youths registered in the job fairs 100 beneficiaries joined the labor market from job matching in the seminars or job fairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 103 youths registered in the job fairs 50 beneficiaries joined the labor market from job matching in the seminars or job fairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Job fairs 83 Seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Job fairs (attended by 29 men and 74 women) 97 Seminars (attended by 1747 men / 5043 women)

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the income of 500 young men and women would have increased by 30% and empowering them with knowledge and entrepreneurial skills to meet the requirements of daily life in their communities in 45 slum and rural communities.	Improving the standard of income for beneficiaries (15% women and girls) in targeted communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1650 women and men increased their income from the microeconomic projects 3000 beneficiaries who have improved their standard of living through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing opportunities for education - Access to health care and treatment - Improve family welfare - increase the quality of the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 706 women and men increased their income from the microeconomic projects and (325 were unemployed before and 381 had improved their income) 1165 beneficiaries improved their standard of living through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -15% of them use this increase in Providing opportunities for education - 30% of them use this increase in health care and treatment -35% of them use this increase in Improve family welfare - 20% of them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 525 microeconomic projects Participating in 3 exhibitions of products marketing 1 Information bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 706 microeconomic projects. (for 362 men /344 women) Participating in 1 exhibitions of products marketing The Information bank has been established

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
				use this increase to increase the quality of the project		

Key achievements:

According to the first and eighth SDG's, Economic Development one of the Key elements to eradicate all forms of poverty, the greatest challenge facing humanity. Economic development component through 2018 focused on three main pillars to reduce poverty, increase opportunities to join labor market, and improve income, especially among women and young people: -

1. transform target groups mentality from traditional form of employment to entrepreneur, through cooperation with ILO. The component succeeded to spread that approach in the 6 regions, which has great impact in maximizing the percentage of microeconomic projects demand, succession, and payment rate (99 % of payment). As a result of that Economic component included the entrepreneurship training as main activity in all targeted communities, and implemented by local voluntary sources.
2. BLESS serving wide range of ecological, geographical, and cultural target categories. Economic component in 2018 provided a wide range of vocational trainings, so each category can fit women, men, illiterate, educated, rural, and urban, as followed:
 - Sewing
 - Plumbing
 - Making accessories
 - Nursing
 - Hairdresser
 - Installation of cameras and satellites
 - Carpentry
 - Making bags
 - Mobile phones maintenance
 - Washing machine maintenance
 - Computer maintenance
 - Electrician
 - Driving
 - Mechanic
 - Soap manufacturing
 - Crochet
 - Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
 - Baking

3. Maximizing results mean more networks with other NGO's, GO's, and experts aiming for adding new vocational training. The component built relationships with different associations, especially in the field of regain heritage products, and handmade crafts. Here is a list for the associations and the benefits

The association	The benefit
- Directorate of Manpower in Minya	- 31 beneficiary participated in job fair of El-Minya governorate - Participating in the vocational and technical trainings
- The Social Fund in Minya	- Cooperation in the vocational and technical trainings with BLESS
- The dioceses recruitment offices (Matai, Beba, Abu Qarqas, Deir Mawas)	- Participating in the job fairs
- International Labor Organization	- A training for 8 communities in Beni-Suef, 5 in Minya and 3 in Middle Egypt on how to choose the suitable project, networking, feasibility study and marketing
- Saint Ebram Family	- Participating in vocational training on rugs industry with tools and trainer
Internal partnerships in BLESS: - Rural Development Component - Prisoners Care Component - Health Care Component	- Giving loans to the female farmers for establishing their own projects - Feasibility studies of projects for the prisoners' families - Design a nursing training program. Contracting with trainers and specialists in each region

Challenges encountered:

- 37 beneficiaries of the 1003 beneficiaries have dropped out from vocational and technical trainings, by discussion with those beneficiaries ,BLESS figure out the main two reasons for dropout,
 - Lack of commitment to trainers with training time in one community.
 - some beneficiary aims to gain specific skill from the whole training and leave after (e.g.: patron design in sewing training)
- shortage in local vocational and technical trainers in community or region level.
- Low percentage of men participation in vocational and technical training, for the following reasons:
 - The internal immigration for youths to other villages or governorates to find job opportunity
 - The family men who have daily based income jobs, they cannot afford leaving their main source of income, even if that training will make him gain additional skill and more income.
- The limited marketing chances, in our poor targeted communities.

Lessons Learned:

- The Economic Development Component has found that 80% of its beneficiaries are women, and this refers to:
The high percentage of women who are responsible for their families (globally there are 122 women aged 25-34 living in extreme poverty for every 100 men living in the same age group, as mentioned by SDGs), locally the conservative culture especially in rural communities, and lack of job opportunities for illiterate or low educated women, made them eager for freedom, and economic empowerment.
- To increase men participation percentage in economic activities, the component study several tools of incentives and motivations, and of course if our partners can share some ideas that will be perfect.
- in order to face the shortage of the local trainers from local communities, BLESS have designed vocational TOT program, the first graduates assigned to train the beneficiaries in their communities.

Component adjustments in 2019

considering the financial constraints, component made some activities adjustments

- Make one industrial area study instead of three
- Limiting the training of the field workers and the development committee on the new communities only
- The activity of helping the beneficiaries to find jobs and the activity of the marketing exhibitions will be based on local contributions only

Success Story:

Take a step...

El-Sheikh Shbeka is a community in Middle Egypt, which suffers from the lack of some professions. Plumbing was one of the most important professions that doesn't exist whether in this village or in the neighbor villages, which leads to the very high cost of plumbing repairs.

The economic development committee recognized this need in the village, so they asked the field workers to organize a vocational training for plumbing in the village. There were 11 youth looking forward to improve their standard of living and fight the lack of job opportunities and money, wanted to participate in this training to know a practice a new profession, but they are responsible for families and their main dependence in life was on unstable daily income from farming and they don't have any other source of income, so it will be hard for them to leave their work to attend the training.

Despite that, their passion in change their living standard and situation was stronger than their challenge, so they attended the training successfully. After finishing the training and gaining the technical experience, in addition to the tools, which were given to them by BLESS. These all 11 youths have worked whether in their village or in neighbor villages with an average income 2000 Egyptian Pounds, after earning only 800 Egyptian Pounds before.

Thus, those youth has totally changed their standard of living of themselves and their families by their insistence and passion.



Plumbing vocational training

Primary Health Care Component progress report:

- Key health messages measured to indicate level of awareness and practices in health awareness classes: Family planning, FGM, healthy diets for children and adult, first aid, food and water pollution, diabetes, high pressure, the normal/abnormal symptoms for the pregnant, prenatal care, giving birth under medical supervision, using family planning methods, personal hygiene, adopt healthy diet, and healthy nutrition indicators (which are measured through weight and height)
- The percentages awareness and practices level according to the component's ranking:
 - Poor level of awareness/ practices: from 0% to 40%
 - Medium level of awareness/practices: from 41% to 70%
 - High level of awareness/practices: from 71% to 100%

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the health awareness of the beneficiaries (80% women and girls) would have been risen, which qualifies them to adopt healthy practices, habits, and enable them to have access to health services provided by the State in 45 targeted rural and slum communities.	Adopt healthy habits and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73920 beneficiaries attended the seminars and the health awareness classes • 70% of the beneficiaries have medium level of awareness of the healthy habits and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 50% have poor level of awareness, 24% have medium level and 26% have high level of awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21796 beneficiaries attended the seminars and the health awareness classes • 14% have poor level of awareness, 16% have medium level and 70% have high level of awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 170 Seminars • 83 Health awareness classes • 9000 Home visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 192 Seminars. (attended by 2813 men / 16177 women) • 96 Health awareness classes. (attended by 48 men and 2160 women) • 10478 Home visits

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of the beneficiaries adopted medium level of the healthy habits and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of the beneficiaries adopted poor healthy habits, 32% adopted medium level of healthy habits and 3% of them adopted advanced level of health habits and practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% of the beneficiaries adopted poor healthy habits, 20% adopted medium level of healthy habits and 65% of them adopted advanced level of health habits and practices. 		
By the end of 2020, 40,500 beneficiary (70% women) would have received primary health care services to combat the most common diseases (hepatitis C, breast cancer, optic ulcers, Cervical diseases) in 45 rural and slum communities.	Combating the most common diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 528 campaigns 13500 beneficiaries benefited from the campaigns Number of beneficiary discovered their infection of the disease and were directed to the treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 106 campaigns 16569 beneficiaries benefited from the campaigns 1415 beneficiary discovered their infection of the disease and were directed to the treatment (507 have virus c, 707 have optical issues, 194 have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 160 Campaigns 42 virus C campaign 40 Blindness campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97 Campaigns 37 virus C campaign (attended by 3113 men, 6000 women and 15 child) 27 Blindness campaign (attended by 617 men, 2349 women and 468 children)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of the infected people will get treatment after campaigns (if possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<p>breast cancer and 37 have cervical tumors)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58% of the infected people got treatment after campaigns (247 from virus c campaigns, 525 from blindness campaigns, 69 from breast cancer campaigns, and 4 from cervix tumors campaigns) (the component is following up with the other infected people to get treatment.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 breast cancer campaign 40 Cervix diseases campaign 83 Mobile Clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 Breast cancer campaign (attended by 2078 women) 10 cervix diseases campaign (attended by 514 women) 86 Mobile Clinics. (attended by 2257 men / 6591 women/ 2983 children)
By the end of 2020, the reproductive health awareness of 2000 mothers (20-35 years) in 45 rural and random communities would be raised to qualify them to be able to preserve their	Decrease mother's and infant mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of 15480 women are aware of the importance of prenatal care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of 4678 women have low level of awareness, 37% have medium level of awareness and only 10% have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% of 4678 have low level of awareness, 15% have medium level of awareness and 65% have high level of awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 Family planning seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43 Family planning seminars. (attended by 4044 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
lives and their newborns lives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15480 women use family planning methods • 80% of 2280 women give birth under medical supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high level of awareness • 2105 women used the family planning methods • 25% of 634 women gave birth under medical supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4164 women use family planning methods • 80% of 634 women gave birth under medical supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 Pregnant classes • 4065 Home visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 Pregnant classes. (attended by 634 women) • 4400 Home visits
By the end of 2020, 3000 children (2-6 years) would be protected from malnutrition diseases to have healthy physical growth according to the global rates in 45 rural and slum communities.	Decrease the children mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 children with healthy nutrition indicators as a result of the nutrition classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 564 aren't meeting the normal standard of nutrition, 250 meet average standard and 110 meet the healthy standard of nutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 665 children met the healthy nutrition indicator this year, 167 are meeting the average standard of nutrition and 92 children are not meeting the normal standard of nutrition. (BLESS is following up with these 92 children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 Nutrition Classes • 4065 Home visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 Nutrition Classes. (attended by 924 children) • 4600 Home visits

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 150 local cadres (20-35 years) would be qualified to provide Primary health care and first aid services within their community and to get the Egyptian Red Crescent Certificate.	The existence of trained local cadres in each community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 450 beneficiaries got the Egyptian Red Crescent certificate or BLESS certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 154 beneficiaries got the Egyptian Red Crescent certificate or BLESS certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 First aid trainings for 15 communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 First aid trainings for 16 communities. (attended by 22 men and 132 women)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 360 beneficiaries can provide primary health services to their community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 117 beneficiaries can provide primary health services to their community 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 300 trained local cadres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 140 trained local cadres from the health committee members and the fieldworkers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Trainings. (attended by 22 men / 118 women)

Key achievements:

“Good Health and well-being” (the third SDG) ,in that goal the UNDP stating that “At least 400 million people have no access to basic health services” , to maximize the accessibility to health services in Egyptian poor communities, the health component seeks to strengthen the partnership with several health and medical institutions, such as ministry of health, which provided (60 campaigns in 45 communities for 8078 women, 3113 men and 15 children) also ,primary health care component started negotiation with the Ministry of Health to expand its health services by including cervical tumor and blindness among its national campaigns

- For further sustainability, the health component in cooperation with the economic component- held a first aid training in order to qualify local 192 cadres. In 15 communities, by knowledge and skills of first Aid, to provide this service in local community, those cadres are lifesaving until patient reaching the nearest hospital or medical unit.

Challenges encountered:

- The cervical tumors campaigns needed more relations and networks specially in south upper Egypt and Luxor and Aswan regions to be implemented. BLESS solved this by making more relations with private doctors and laboratories starting from 2019 in the targeted communities as the pap smear was not available in the clinics or the laboratories that BLESS dealt with in 2018.
- “You are opening the young girls’ eyes “, because of that conservative strict traditions, there was a drop out from girls’ health awareness class in one of the communities. This challenge was faced by clarifying the class content and convincing the families, through home visits and meetings, of the importance of health awareness for the girls, and giving them the space to be involved in their communities.
- The component aiming to provide its services to all community categories, by held health activities in neutral location, whether by renting or using public locations, but the two options are challenging, the rented location is not quite available in small communities and adds extra expenses and public locations can cancel the reservation according to its priority.
- Breast cancer campaigns are very effective activity, implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, which provide fully equipped mobile unit (vehicle has certain dimension, to operate needs special electric specifications, and night guards), unfortunately BLESS cannot implement that activity in all target communities ,for two reasons, the dynamic schedule of Ministry of health , and the complex needed criteria to operate the mobile unit compared with the small communities available facilities .

Lessons learned:

Dialogue is one of the inherited common customs in Egypt to exchange experience, regardless age, or social class. Primary Health Care component invested this culture, aiming for correcting health beliefs and attitudes, by leading a health conversation in health awareness classes and seminars. Just pass by houses front doors in one afternoon and you will see the ongoing health seminars among young ladies, elders and girls, which enrich and maximize the benefits from health messages.

- Dealing with specialized lecturers (doctors, nurses, etc.) give more credibility for awareness sessions, so the component involved specialist at least once a month in health awareness classes.
- In spite of Breast cancer campaigns is very important for early detection and treatment, ladies are reluctant from benefitting from it, as a result of lack of information about the possibility of cure or the unaffordable cost of treatment. the component made a corrective action by adding several raising awareness seminars and public meetings to clarify the possibility for cure, and the governmental affordable cost services. (some cases needed extra investigations, BLESS facilitate that to insure curtness)
- Implementing the activities in public places contributes to include all community category in the activities.
- Building relations with the GOs and NGOs supported in the success of the campaigns but it is preferable to set BLESS plans in accordance with the plan of the Ministry of health if possible.

Component adjustments in 2019

To overcome the financial constraints, some activities adjustments are made, without affecting the quality or efficiency of activities.

- The pregnancy classes and Hepatitis C campaign will be activated in 35 communities according to community priority
- The health awareness activities at the first year of the newly communities join in 2019 & 2020 will be decreased by half.
- The mobile clinics is going to be activated once in slum communities and twice in the marginalized rural villages.

Success story:

Pioneering activities.

The primary health care component is considered to be one of the effective components in BLESS which has the strength to reach many of the targeted beneficiaries and leave a great impact on their lives. The health component deeply understands that poverty and lack of knowledge kills the infected people not the disease itself. As BLESS rooted in Egyptian community, can predict the people's area of suffer and design the suitable intervention specially for poor communities, based on that, Health component adapted pioneering medical campaigns as Hepatitis C campaigns in 25 communities in Cairo slums as in 2017, 500 infected persons were detected and cured. lately the ministry of health starting from 2018 adapted "100 million health campaign" to eradicate Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and chronic diseases. Now the cervical tumors and blindness campaigns, considered as pioneering activities, were implemented by BLESS with extensive relations and networks with private sector medical companies, as a response of an extreme need for this services in local poor communities, BLESS started those campaigns in 2018 and will continue till the end of the project, at the meanwhile BLESS in building new networks with the government to include these services among its campaigns, in favor of all Egyptian citizens.



Cervical tumors campaign

Adult Education Component progress report:

- **The ranking of the literacy classes according to the internal evaluations:**

- Weak: the average grade in the internal evaluation from zero to 10 (cannot read and write), can add and subtract only.
- Pass: the average grade in the internal evaluation from 11 to 20 (can read numbers and words, can add, subtract and multiple)
- Good: the average grade in the internal evaluation from 21 to 35 (can read sentences and interact with others, can add, subtract, multiple and divide with probability 50% mistakes)
- Very good: the average grade in the internal evaluation from 36 to 50 (can read sentences and interact with others, can add, subtract, multiple and divide with probability 20% mistakes)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 10000 beneficiaries (75% girls and women) would be educated and get the official literacy certificate in rural and slum communities.	Combating illiteracy among adult beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 trained local cadres • 900 active local cadres • 10000 beneficiaries enrolled in literacy classes • 25% of the total number of beneficiaries will get very good, 60% of them will get good and 15% will pass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero • 39% got weak, 30% got pass, 26% got good and 5% got very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 483 trained local cadres • 350 active local cadres • 4338 beneficiaries enrolled at literacy classes • 13% got weak, 35% got pass, 32% got good and 20% got very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Cadres training • 44 Public meetings about the importance of education • 63 ICDP literacy classes (in addition to 187 national 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Cadres training (attended by 79 men /404 women) • 68 Public meetings about the importance of education training. (attended by 927 men / 4699 women) • 300 literacy classes. (attended by 1118 men / 3220 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5000 beneficiaries got their literacy governmental certificate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2179 beneficiaries got their literacy governmental certificates 	literacy classes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 156 Social activities 4 Exams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 107 Social activities (attended by 470 men / 2691 women) 4 Exams (attended by 523 men / 1656 women)
By the end of 2020, 1,500 graduates of literacy classes would have been enrolled in formal education in rural and slum communities.	15% of the succeeded beneficiaries from the literate classes continued their education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1500 beneficiaries continued their education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 348 beneficiaries continued their education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Continuing education 25 Establishing library 2 Computer courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 Continuing education (for 52 men and 296 women) 51 Establishing library 1 Computer courses

Key Achievements:

“Literacy for liberation” this is Paolo Friary philosophy which inspires the Adult Education component, aiming to contribute to the (fourth SDG) liberation of human being from the chains of fear, illness and poverty the direct results of illiteracy. So, the component seeks for expanding the human perception in life not only to make them literate.

BLESS believes that the right education starts from training efficient cadres. In 2018, the adult education component trained 483 local cadres, gain the knowledge and skills to understand the beneficiaries needs, create a positive learning environment based on beneficiaries’ daily life.

“I was not alive and the education revived me” This was quoted by one of the ladies participating in the literacy classes in the graduation ceremony. The component adopt a methodology enable the participants to express themselves and to integrate them in their own communities.

- The component succeeded to provide literacy classes all over Egypt, by total volunteering resources (350 volunteers) in cooperation with Adult Education Authority which provided technical, financial and administrative support for BLESS to maintain that valuable services. The technical support as some of adult education authority branches managers provide trainings for literacy classes teachers. The financial support includes rewarding literacy classes teachers for each succeeded beneficiary. And the administrative support includes holding exams and extracting certificates for succeeded beneficiaries.



Success certificates for women in Ekab community

Challenges encountered:

- Governmental bureaucracy as a new executive manager for adult education authority branch, deactivated the protocol between BLESS and the adult education which led to a delay in the timing of the governmental exam.
- Some beneficiaries have bad experiences and frustration of studying at that age.
- There is no written law obligates the educational departments in the governorates to enroll the passed adults in the preparatory stage. BLESS solved this by making a deal with these educational departments to make a pre-exam for them and established an introductory class for beneficiaries to qualify them for the exam.
- Because of the financial constrains the component cooperated with improving the standard of education component to implement the computer courses.

Lessons learned:

- The psychological preparation of the beneficiaries and choosing near places for them affected positively in their performances in the exam

Component Adjustments in 2019:

- Some of the activities repetition has been decreased in order to fit with the budget as the number of established libraries, computer labs and social activities
- Decreasing the number of libraries, computer labs and social activities

Success Story:

The light become brighter

The class of St. Virgin Mary church, includes 6 of disabled participants, they become a source of joy in 2018. The church adopted BLESS methodology to start the first literacy disable class, BLESS through the partnership with the Public authority for Adult Education succeeded to establish disable classes with special preparation, to hold the final exam for them in a convenient safe atmosphere, a safe and suitable environment respects their needs and conditions. However, those disabled do not pass the exam but at least this contributed to the eradication of illiteracy of some disabled beneficiaries and motivated the adult education authority and the volunteers to support those beneficiaries and give them all their rights.

Community Empowerment and Sustainability Component progress report:

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 500 local volunteers would be mobilized to contribute in the planning and implementation of development process in the 45 targeted communities	Local community leaders able to manage the development process in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 trained and active volunteers • 20 communities will meet BLESS exiting criteria • 500 youth(18-30 years old) who weren't active in community development, have taken a leading role in the development process in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero (however, 80% of them are volunteers in the church but they didn't use to be a volunteer on the community level) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 629 are trained volunteers and 933 are active volunteer. • 3 communities meet BLESS exiting criteria • 354 youth(18-30 years old) who weren't active in community development, have taken a leading role in the development process in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Public meetings • 44 Volunteering campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 Public meetings. (attended by 579 men /1510 women) • 40 Volunteering campaigns. (attended by 570 men / 2139 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, local community committees structure would have been built in 45 targeted communities	Structure local committees adopted (administrative, structural, technical mechanisms and basic financial procedures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of 45 local committees activate the administrative mechanisms and basic financial procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% of 45 local committees activate the administrative mechanisms and basic financial procedures and the component will follow up with giving technical support to improve the performance of the other committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Capacity building trainings 835 Development committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Capacity building trainings (attended by 71 men and 82 women) 745 Development committee meetings. (attended by 382 men / 690 women)
By the end of 2020, 20 initiatives would be implemented in the targeted communities to handle the problems and issues.	Local committees able to solve the community problems with the available resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 communities developed initiatives to handle their problem 40 stakeholders or partners participate in the initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 communities developed initiatives to handle their problem 22 local stakeholders or partners participate in the initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Local initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Local initiatives were implemented by the beneficiaries as local contributions and 17 initiatives were implemented in cooperation with the other technical

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 volunteers participated in the initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 volunteers participated in the initiatives 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> components of BLESS.
By the end of 2020, the institutional capacity (technical, financial and administrative) for 12 regional entity would be built in the targeted communities.	Create levels of regional qualified entities and committees to sustain the developmental process after exiting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 trained local entities members on Documentation financial, administrative and technical mechanisms in each region 20 local committees supervised by regional entities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 local entities have the knowledge and effectiveness (2 of them work on projects) Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 trained local entities members on Documentation financial, administrative and technical mechanisms in each region and the rest of the entities will join during the period of the project 2 local committees supervised by regional entities in Middle Upper Egypt and lower Egypt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 Institutional Assessments 1 Capacity building trainings 6 Regional round tables 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Institutional Assessments 1 Capacity building trainings (attended by 16 men and 1 woman) 6 Regional round tables (attended by 81 men and 147 women)

Key achievements:

Goal 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors. Despite advances in certain areas, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. All stakeholders will have to refocus and intensify their efforts on areas where progress has been slow.

Following the SDGs (Goal 17), Empowerment and sustainability component seeks to strengthen local community's partnership, bringing together all stakeholders, government, civil society associations, and private sector. To support and achieve progress in community's developmental goals and sustainability, "Empowering community's defeats fear and transforms the recession to sustainable development" This was the reply of the empowerment and sustainability component manager when she was asked why do we empower targeted communities.



Training on Community initiatives

The component area of achievement

- Maximizing the number of trained and effective volunteers in each local committee
- Developing series of capacity building workshops for local committees, focused on how to launch and implement community initiative, "know How" is the main theme for workshops and technical support visits.
- Providing technical support and trainings for unleashing the potential of new generation and peace building target beneficiaries (talent school teachers, peace building local cadres) to implement children and adolescent's local initiatives.
- Extensive follow up and technical support for 26 local community initiatives
- 354 youth started to take leading roles in their communities in a cooperation between the unit of youth in unleashing the potentials of new generations and the community empowerment and sustainability component.

The sustainability of development work in exit communities:

Former exit communities' sustainability, monitoring field visits were held to monitor the exit communities and provide technical support, through that visits BLESS addressed the most successful areas of sustainability in 5 pilot former communities (one in each region) five main local committees are still running in:

- Economic development, four out of five local committees succeeded to sustain revolving loans (loan amount and mechanism), also approaching other organization to increase loans amount. The community inhabitants economic and living standard has been increased as a result of the ability to access to loan several time. Two communities extended the beneficiary scope to include neighborhood community.
- Education improvement, although all former exit communities did not benefit from Education improvement component (as its newly established component) but the education committees in 3 communities addressed the educational slandered of student problem, and start approach NGO's to establish supportive and coaching class.
- Primary health care committees in 4 communities still held awareness seminars, and getting benefit from national and local services, the local development office become well known center for providing health services.
- Childhood committee, all 5 children nurseries still running under church supervision,3 of them using BLESS Methodology.
- Community organization (currently empowerment and sustainability) committee is main factor to sustain the previous committees and build relations in 3 communities

Challenges encountered:

- Empowerment and sustainability component developed an institutional assessment tool to select regional entities aiming to support the sustainable developmental process within region. The component supervisors with field regional coordinators succeeded to select 7 institutions in 3 regions. But, South Upper Egypt region found difficulties in nominating regional entity, and the sustainability interventions in slums of Cairo region might need some modifications to fit the unique nature of the region.

Lessons learned:

- The existence of trained local leaders is very important element in sustaining developmental process in local communities, but according to village tradition, family and work obligation, volunteers cannot attend distant or more than one day trainings, therefore Empowerment and Sustainable component, added technical support sessions with certain topics and application appropriate for volunteers' conditions.
- Written documentation and keeping records, is very important to local committees, to prove democratic process and support decision making.
- More than three technical components in BLESS implemented initiatives in 2018, the community empowerment and sustainability component will train the committees of these components and the number of their initiatives will be included with the initiatives of the component.

Component adjustments in 2019:

- The public meetings will be activated in newly joined communities only
- The volunteering campaigns will be activated in newly joined and exit communities only

Success story:

Raising Voice

People in Egypt used to have misconceptions between them and government for long years. Community empowerment and sustainability aims for achieving community based initiatives by increasing people's awareness about their duties and rights.

In El-Habaysha village in Assuit Governorate in Middle Egypt region, is small rural village. the village inhabitants have bad history dealing with several governmental entities. One of them is Mr. A.G (a volunteer in El-Habaysha development committee), as he went several times to one of the governmental offices to stamp some papers. Every time he returned home frustrated, because of the bad service, treatment and bureaucracy.in one technical support sessions he learnt about E-governmental services, he decided to give it a shot and sent complain on the E-governmental services, after couple of days he was surprised to find a reply giving him advices how to finish his papers as fast as possible. Mr. A.G was very satisfied and shared this experience with the members of the development committee.

After few days, Mr. S.A, another leader in the development committee, was traveling on the unpaved road leading to the village, he decided to make a trial and to send the pictures of the road with a complain to the E-governmental services. The trial was successfully completed by the reply of one of the officials who contacted him personally. The manager ordered to start paving the road immediately.

This experience sounded good at the village level as the people felt that they can live better with dignity if they aware about their duties, rights, and raise their voice.

Improving the Standard of Education Component progress report:

* This component is activated in 15 communities

Guiding points:

- The ranking (according to the school grades) of support classes:
 - weak (from 0-49%)
 - pass (50-60%)
 - good (61-70%)
 - very good (71-84%)
 - excellent (84-100%)
- The ranking of the tutoring classes according to the component criteria:
 - weak (can't recognize the letters and the numbers)
 - pass (Can read and write some words but can't do mathematical calculations)
 - good (Can read and write words and do mathematical calculations with mistakes 50%)
 - Very good (can read and write sentences and perform mathematical calculations with mistakes 20%)
 - Excellent (can read, write and do mathematical calculations)

The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 2018	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the level of education for 4500 students in compulsory education (primary and preparatory) would be improved in 15 target communities of the Integrated	Reducing the phenomenon of illiterate learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4500 students enrolled in the support classes • 75% of the targeted students would improve their education levels by getting 70 % in the formal governmental exam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 10% of the students got weak grades, 37% got pass, 25% got good and 28% got very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1235 students enrolled in the support classes • 20 % of the students got pass grades, 40% got good, 29% got very good, and 11% got excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 Support classes in 15 communities • 10 Parents meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 Support classes in 14 communities (attended by 1235 children) • 5 Parent meetings (attended by 95 men and 183 women)

The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 2018	Implemented Activities
Program for Community Development to qualify them to improve their reading and writing skills and pass their school tests by at least 75%.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 225 trained local cadres for support and tutoring classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125 trained local cadres (48 teachers of support classes and 77 teachers for tutoring classes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Teachers Trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Teachers Trainings. (attended by 51 men / 74 women)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 720 enrolled students in the tutoring classes 75 % of children have improved their reading and writing skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 24% of the students got weak, 28% got pass, 27% got good and 21% got very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1201 enrolled students in the tutoring classes 25% of the students got pass, 30% got good, 25% got very good and 20% got excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Tutoring classes 3 libraries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 Tutoring classes in 15 communities (attended by 1201 children) 3 libraries (for 455 child)
	Acquisition the skills of dealing with computer applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 180 students participated in computer courses 180 children gained the basic computer skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54 students participated in computer courses 54 children gained the basic computer skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 computer laboratories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 computer laboratories (for 325 child)

The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 2018	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 450 researches and presentations made by the students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 researches and presentations made by 130 students as a result of the library and computer lab activities 		
	Increasing the beneficiaries' self-confidence and the ability to integrate in the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4500 Student participate in social activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 705 Student participate in social activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Social activities in 5 communities 5 trips in 5 communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Social activities in 5 communities (attended by 485 child) 5 Trips in 5 communities (attended by 220 children)

Key achievements:

- According to the fourth SDG “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, that More than half of children and adolescents worldwide are not meeting minimum proficiency standards in reading and mathematics. So improving the Standard of Education has adopted the methodology of enjoying education, enjoying learning, reading, writing and doing mathematical calculations.
- The gap between the book and children had shrunk, as their perspective towards books has changed, and they preferred to spend their time in the library reading in different fields that widens their horizons and imagination as stories, poetry, scientific information and space.
- An inclusion between the two components (Improving the Standard of Education and Unleashing the Potentials of the New Generation) has made a great success as it encourages the students to attend the tutoring classes to improve their reading, writing and mathematical skills and at the same time discover their talents and develop it in the talents school. So Education has become a pleasure and passion for children, after being an obstacle for them.
- There is a huge increase in the number of students in the support classes, which is a powerful indication for the success of the activity, and the severe need for it in the communities.



Children in support classes

Challenges encountered:

- The limited chances to find public places, to implement some of the activities like the support classes
- The difficulty to find teachers for all the school subjects in some communities
- The need of curriculum for mathematics, reading and writing for the tutoring classes

Lessons learned:

- Contracting with teachers at the beginning of the school year for the support classes, helps in reinforcing the classes with qualified teachers
- Making a specified and united curriculum for the tutoring classes, make the students benefited from it to the maximum
- At the beginning the students refused to attend the tutoring classes, due to their refusal for studying during the summer time, so the component combined the activities of the tutoring classes and the talent school to encourage the students to attend the classes during the summer
- Implementing the activities in public places, encourage all the students to engage in the activities
- The trips and social activities helps in breaking the ice between the students and the teachers
- The component discovered that, school evaluation doesn't reflect the real educational level of the students because of certain educational success policies, so starting from 2019 the component will develop an internal evaluation for the students in the support classes, as an indication for the educational level of the students

The component adjustments in 2019:

- Due to the need in some societies for starting the support classes from the 1st year of primary not the third year and the need to implement support classes for preparatory stage, the component responded to this need and implement the support classes starting from the 1st year of the primary stage in 6 communities and the support classes for the preparatory stage in 2 communities.
- Due to the great number of students who want to participate in the computer courses, a basic information course was held for them in 2018, while in 2019 and 2020 there will be a filtration for these students to start giving more advanced levels for them.
- Due to the financial constraints that happened, the budget of the component will be decreased to 65%, so there are some changes will be applied in the program in 2019, as:
- freezing the activity of furnishing new libraries and it'll be a subject of fund

Success Story:

I Can...

One of the biggest challenges in our rural communities, is that there is insufficient attention for education and specially for girls. The families don't allow their daughters to go to school and when they do that, they do not follow up with them. This low level of education generally in Egypt returns to the huge number of students in classes and the unqualified teachers who depends on memorizing only. Which leads to get certificates without having a real education.

In the village of Barba, the center of Gerga Governorate of Sohag, the field workers had organized awareness sessions and public meetings about the importance of education and they implement the tutoring classes activity during the summer time, trying to increase the level of awareness about the importance of education and to fight the low level of education problem.

Mary was one of the girls participated in the tutoring class in Berba, she was ashamed of herself and her education level. Although being in the preparatory stage, she couldn't recognize the differences between the letters and numbers. She was from a very poor family, that her father keeps working all day to afford his children' food and her mother tries to meet the needs of her children regarding eating and dressing, ignoring the education level.

After participating in the tutoring class for 3 month, involving in the educational process and following-up with the teachers. Mary's education level has raised a lot, as she became able to form words and sentences and make some mathematical calculations. After the end of the class, Mary made a show in the graduation ceremony celebrating her success where she explains for the parents and school teachers attended the ceremony, the timetable in a simple and a creative way, the thing that amazed her teachers and parents.

Thus Mary changed from being shy to be proud of herself, from being unsocial to a sociable and self-confidence person with the power of education

Unleashing the Potentials of the new Generation Component progress report:

*This component was activated in 15 communities in 2018

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 2400 children (2-18 years) would be able to be raised, enjoy their childhood, discover and develop their skills through interactive methodology in an inclusive environment	Creating an inclusive environment for children which accepts diversity and contributes in enjoying their childhood, discovering and developing their skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 trained local cadres • 80% of the targeted children gain self-confidence • 70% of the targeted children can express themselves • 70% children participate in activities with all categories of society (males and females, Christians and Muslims) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 20% • 40% • 18% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 112 trained local cadres • 70% of the targeted children have self-confident • 80% of the targeted children can express themselves • 45% children participate in activities with all categories of society (males and females, Christians and Muslims) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 T.O.T for summer school teachers • 5 Summer school • 1 Training for talent school teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 T.O.T for summer school teachers (attended by 4 men / 31 women) about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the psychology of the child and how to treat him - how to explain lessons • 6 Summer school (attended by 1207 children) • 1 Training for talent school teachers. (attended by 21 men / 56 women) about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the psychology of the child and how to treat him - the component objectives and activities

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Talent school • 12 Carnivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the talent school activities • 15 Talent school (attended by 1695 children) • 12 Carnivals (attended by 2119 children)
By the end of 2020, the capacity of 320 adolescent (13-18 years) would be built, qualifies them to increase self-awareness, ability to manage emotions and adopt positive life principles	Adolescents adopt positive life principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 adolescents participated in the adolescents' course "your heart is yours" • 80% of adolescents participating in the course can express themselves • 70% of adolescents have self confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 20% • 13% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 adolescents participated in the adolescents' course "your heart is yours" • 90% of adolescents participating in the course can express themselves • 60% of adolescents have self confidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Your heart is yours course "adolescent's course" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Your heart is yours course "adolescent's course" (attended by 28 boys and 43 girls)
By the end of 2020, the institutional and technical capacity of 54 nurseries in the targeted communities would be built to	Creating a safe environment adopting interactive methods to build the child capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54 nurseries will be established or developed in according to the component specifications (36 nurseries will be establish, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 nurseries established or developed according to the component criteria and specifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Established nurseries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 Established nurseries (attended by 1325 children)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
the extent that they would provide a suitable environment for building the children physically, mentally and educationally.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 will be developed) 35 nurseries will be committed by the component methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 nurseries were committed by the component methodology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 nurseries teachers' trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 nurseries teachers' trainings (attended by 30 women for 21 nurseries)about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the psychology of the child and how to treat him - Montessori methodology - the daily program of the nursery
By the end of 2020, 1500 parents would be empowered by knowledge and skills of the positive parental education	Parents adopt positive parental education methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1500 parents attended the courses 70% of knowledge was gained by the parents 75% of parents apply positive parental education methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 25% 26% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 680 parents attended the courses 73% of knowledge was gained by the parents 70% of parents apply positive parental education methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 parental education course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 parental education course (attended by 680 women)

Key achievements:

According to the sixteenth SDG, that on the global level, children are exposed to some forms of psychological aggression on a regular basis at home. On the national level in Egypt, the violence arose in all forms of life, so the component created an inclusive and peaceful environment for children including boys and girls, Christians and Muslims through an interactive methodology, where they can dance, sing, act, draw, paint, play, eat and drink with each other. Success isn't easy ... so implementing these successful talent schools took a lot of steps, as followed:

- Dealing with experts to make a curriculum suits all the children
- Developing selecting criteria for the teachers
- Extensive interactive trainings for the teachers to be qualified to deal with children
- Implementing the talent school, to be a place for children to invest their energies and discover their talents, which by its turn helped the children to restore their human nature of peace, love and accepting others regardless any conflicts, violence or differences, as it made a unity in the society between all its elements.
- This activity leads to a societal movement from the local entities, as they admire the component methodology and tried to adopt it in their activities
- The component is going to implement second phase for this activity in 2019 to invest the talents discovered, and it will be a subject of fund

The component concentrates on another very important category, the adolescents. Few numbers of organizations concentrate on this age, despite it is a stage full of different feelings. 68 adolescents participated in the course, 68 adolescents became able to understand their thoughts and feelings, 68 adolescents gain the ability to express themselves. Some of them took a further step by going to the psychologists to get treatment. So “your heart is yours” course, have been turned from just a name of a course to an attitude adopted by the adolescents, as they believed that “I don't have to be crazy to go to a psychologist” and “I have to respect my feelings and express it”. As a result of the great impact done by this course, the component decided to spread its idea to all the communities of BLESS starting from 2019.

“If you raised a child in a right way in their earlier age ... you'll have a psychologically healthy person”, that was the component vision in nurseries. It has developed specific criteria for the chosen nurseries whether to be established or developed.

Challenges encountered:

- After qualifying the nursery teachers, through trainings, some of them decided to establish their own business or work in another nursery with higher salaries
- The limited chances for public places in small communities, to implement the activities
- Some nurseries teachers face community and family constraints in travelling outside their village to attend the trainings
- The religious leader in the church is the responsible for the managerial issues of the nursery, that can be an advantages and disadvantages at the same time:
 - the advantages of guaranteeing sustainability of this activity after exit. Because the existence of church supervision.
 - While the disadvantage, is the component faces difficulty in convincing some religious leader to Adopt part of component methodology, as religious leader has his own methodology which is considered sometimes a barrier for change
- In conservative communities, people refused some kinds of activities which includes dancing and singing, and they complained to the priest, so the component interfered and convinced them about the importance of these activities by showing C.D of videos for other children participating in these activities

Lessons learned:

- At first, the component criteria reject recruits a talent school teacher from a day care nursery teachers background, in order to maximize and diverse local cadres experience, but the challenge of unsustainability of the new activity cadres has appeared, accordingly the component changed its criteria of and allowed the inclusion of nursery teacher if possible.
- To overcome the dropout of the trained nursery teachers, the idea of a conditional contract to preserve the trained nursery teacher for a year, is discussed with the priests
- Due to the low percentage of nurseries adopting the component methodology, the component studying the idea of developing a curriculum, and it is a subject of fund

The component adjustments in 2019:

- The component will provide technical support to the communities served in 2018 till the end of 2019, to guarantee adopting the communities for the component methodology
- The component will serve new 13 communities in 2019

Success Story:

Turned to be sociable...

Philopater is an only child for a mother, who was so afraid to the extent that, preventing him from getting out of the house alone. He is a six years old child, who has never played, socialize with other kids or even go outside on his own. That thing which has a negative effect on his personality and psychology, that made him so nervous, always screams at anyone tries to talk to him and afraid of dealing or talking with anyone.

The field workers and the talent school teachers realized this situation, so they decided to convince his mother to let him participate in the talent school, after a lot of arguments, she agreed and this was considered the first time for him to get out of the house without his mother and to socialize with other children. At first Philopater was very shy, can't express himself and refused to deal with anybody, but the talent school teachers made a special attention and plan to encourage him to participate in all interactive activities gradually and track his participation level. At the same time the teachers and the field workers, spend time with the mother regularly to release her from fear and overprotected way with her son. Philopater began to respond to the teachers, he started to interact, express himself, make friends by the end of the talent school he turned to be a sociable child. Philopater's mother had recognized the change in her son and thanked the field workers and the teachers a lot and promised them to let her son go to the talent school regularly, let him go wherever he want by his own and encourage him to socialize with everyone.



Talent school in El-Memaraya community

Youth Development Component progress report:

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of the year 2020, BLESS would empower 500 young men and women, (between the ages of 18-30), to explore and invest in their cultural and societal potentials, yet continue to hold the spiritual values of the church within the targeted communities of the IDCP.	Youth play an active role in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 204 active youth in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 101 active youth in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Seminars 2 Art workshops 3 Courses of leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 seminars (attended by 125 men and 165 women) 2 Art workshops (attended by 2 men and 5 women) 3 Courses of leadership (attended by 106 men and 98 women)

Key achievement:

Youth are the best wealth, nation could have, so investing in youth is the only guaranteed profit. Accordingly, BLESS adopted the belief of investing in youth, exploring their energies and developing their skills. Youth development component seeks to empower youth and develop the culture of volunteerism in the society through:

- Creating young leaders capable of influencing other youth, have effective role and lead the change in their communities within a course of leadership about how to lead a group, be an effective leader and develop proactive and positive spirit among the group.
- Raising youth voices and issues through developing artistic and creative awareness among them within art workshops about theatre, music, literature, graphic, directing and handicrafts

An inclusion between Youth Development and Community Empowerment and Sustainability components occurred to develop the culture of volunteerism among youth, how to lead the change in their communities and how to be a positively influencer, so they trained 354 youth on addressing problems, adopting initiatives of solutions for these problems and influence people to implement these initiatives.

Component adjustments in 2019:

Due to the financial constraints, some of the activities will be limited, like the seminars will be 8 instead of 12



Art workshop

Community Peace Building Component progress report:

*This component was activated in 12 communities in 2018

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the component would elevate the awareness standard for 4000 students (preparatory stage) of peaceful livelihood principles.	New generation adopt the peaceful livelihood principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2000 students are aware of peaceful livelihood principles 72 trained local cadres 4000 students participated in the awareness sessions (male and female, Muslims and Christians) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 726 are aware of peaceful livelihood principles 24 trained local cadres 1009 students participated in the awareness sessions (male and female, Muslims and Christians) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Awareness campaigns in schools 6 Street shows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Awareness campaigns in schools (attended by 1009 children) 10 Street shows (attended by 223 men, 355 women and 790 children)
By the end of 2020, The awareness level of 10,000 men and women would be elevated of peaceful coexistence and respect for differences.	Eliminate violence performance against women and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 720 women participated in women's club 10000 men and women attending seminars 720 women who can deal positively with the upbringing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 80 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 198 women participated in women's club 10663 men and women attending seminars 120 women who can deal positively with the upbringing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Women's club established 36 Seminars to Enable and Combat violence against Women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Women's club established (for 198 women) 33 Seminars to Enable and Combat violence against Women. (attended by 586 men / 3470 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		issues in their families		issues in their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Local community initiatives combat violence against women • 12 positive parental classes • 24 Seminars to combat violence against children • 12 Local community initiatives combat violence against children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Local community initiatives combat violence against women. (attended by 159 men and 911 women) • 12 Positive parental classes. (attended by 13 men and 249 women) • 34 Seminars to combat violence against children. (attended by 476 men and 3193 women) • 13 Local community initiatives combat violence against children (215 men and 1193 women participated)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 300 religious leaders would be aware of the importance of spreading the tolerance culture and peaceful livelihood principles.	Increase the awareness of the religious leaders about the culture of accepting others and refusing all forms of violence against women and children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 religious leaders (priest and sheikh) participate in workshops • 300 religious leaders (priests and sheikhs who adapt religious tolerance behavior. • 300 religious leaders (priests and sheikhs) who contribute to the spread of tolerant and peaceful principles to their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • 60 • 40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 174 religious leaders (priest and sheikh) participate in workshops • 80 religious leaders (priests and sheikhs who adapt religious tolerance behavior. • 60 religious leaders (priests and sheikhs) who contribute to the spread of tolerant and peaceful principles to their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Community dialogue meetings for religious leaders • 6 Workshops for religious leaders combating violence against children • 6 Workshops for religious leaders combating violence against women • 3 Publications combat violence against woman • 3 Publications combat violence against children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Community dialogue meetings for religious leaders (attended by 77 religious leaders) • 10 Workshops for religious leaders combating violence against children (attended by 71 religious leaders) • 8 Workshops for religious leaders combating violence against women (attended by 25 religious leaders) • 2 Publications combat violence against woman • Zero Publications combat violence against children

Key achievements:

The foundation of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, is a part of global and national movement (SDG's 16). The peace building component is a new addition to ICDP. The component participates in creating a community accept and respect the diversities (BLESS Mission), Aims to reduce the whole forms of violence, especially among women & children, through community dialog.

After one year of hard work, the component started reaping some of the fruits. In the rural conservative communities in upper Egypt, the empowered women started to gain self-confidence able to express themselves and their points of view, realized that they are valuable and have a leading role in creating peaceful environment on family and community level.

The component activities (e.g.: positive parent courses) maximized the common ground as it's created the opportunity for interaction and ice-breaking between Muslim and Christian parents.



Street show in El-Sultan we El-Tom community

They realized that these common things are much greater than the differences.

The village became a platform for children theater performances, calling for peace, Preparing the children minds and hearts to strive for safety living. Creating a new generation respect differences before similarities. These children are the parents and the community leaders of tomorrow.

The component is a member in the National Council for Women, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood and the National Population Council that provide that the component with lecturers and specialists in the awareness classes and seminars.

Challenges encountered:

The Ministry of Education prevented making any activities inside the schools which led to the stop of the awareness campaigns for students in schools because of this law. Some of the communities were able to implement the campaigns for students outside schools. However, the security issues in the other communities do not allow such thing.

Component Adjustments in 2019:

The Ministry of Education facing the school penetration from some association, by declaring a new school policy, prevents the association or the individual from operating activities with the school or the students, BLESS respects the new policy and will freeze that activity and follow the Egyptian strategy that focuses on the reproductive health issues.

Success story:

birth of a strong woman.

Mrs. A.A is an Egyptian woman who has 23 years old living in El- Sultan Hassan and El tom village, in El-Minia governorate, where the peace building component is activated. During the sessions of the women club the field workers noticed that she had a trauma because of the loss of her twin since few years. She could not move on and could not overcome the way her mother-in-law was treating her as she used to tell her that she is guilty for not saving her children but in fact, Mrs. A.A paid all her money in order to cure them.

During the women club, the women start to recount their experiences and share their daily life with each other, they love to listen and to be listened. After few sessions in the club, Mrs. A.A started to express herself and to tell her new friend about her feelings and problems. This interaction in this comfortable community helped Mrs. A.A a lot in her situation, as she was given a lot of advices how to deal with her mother in law and to avoid quarrels with her. She also learnt a new hobby which is tricot in order to make use of the wasted time and after a while she started to make tricot handy crafts and to sell them. Mrs. A.A was a strong woman who was able to handle her life after a horrible situation and made the best use of the women club.

Rural Development component progress report:

*This component was activated in 18 communities in 2018

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the capacities of volunteers (250 local community cadres) would be built to contribute in leading the rural development process in their communities.	Local community leaders able to implement rural development activities in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 trained local cadre • 125 local community leaders participated in implementing the component plan • 10 rural initiatives implemented by local community leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69 trained local cadres • 52 local community leaders participated in implementing the component plan • 4 rural initiatives implemented by local community leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Basic training for volunteers • 2 Specialized trainings for farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Basic training for volunteers (attended by 54 men and 1 woman) • 2 Specialized training for farmers (attended by 52 men)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the animal and poultry would be maintained, the productivity of agricultural crops would be increased by 10% in 25 rural communities.	Improving the standard of living for farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000 farmer attended the agricultural crops and animal nutrition awareness sessions 400 farmers increased their productivity of agricultural crops by 10% 400 farmers are able to maintain their livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 540 farmers attended the agricultural crops and animal nutrition awareness sessions 305 farmers increased the productivity of agricultural crops (wheat and corn) by 13.25% 1039 farmer are able to maintain their livestock for 4894 cattle and 13177 poultry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 114 Agricultural seminars 114 Animal nutrition seminars 76 Field visits 5 Pilot fields 5 Agricultural services 5 Veterinary services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 115 Agricultural seminars (attended by 7990 beneficiaries;2817 men/5173 women) 106 Animal nutrition seminars (attended by 7466 beneficiaries;2195 men/5271 women) 73 Field visits (attended by 700 men/119 women) 5 Pilot fields 2 Agricultural services were implemented through loans for the farmers of the village 15 Veterinary services for 4894 cattle and 13177 poultry possessed by 1039 farmers

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the benefit of the agricultural and livestock waste would be maximized in 25 rural communities.	Farmers adopt friendly ecological behaviors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2160 farmers attended the agricultural waste recycling sessions 200 farmers adopted eco-friendly techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 616 farmers attended the agricultural waste recycling sessions 76 farmers adopted eco-friendly techniques through composting(13 models), recycling wastes (10 models) and rationalizing the fertilizers and pesticides (53 models). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38 Recycling awareness seminars 5 Waste recycling models 5 Compost model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 Recycling awareness seminars (attended by 1062 beneficiaries; 293 men and 769 women) 10 Waste recycling models (attended by 264 men and 25 women) 13 Compost model (attended by 305 men) 5 models were done by BLESS and the other 8 models were done by the farmers themselves

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 240 rural women would be empowered in each of the rural targeted communities	Improving rural women standard of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1080 women attended the seminars • 162 women established their own projects • 240 Women applied the food industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 414 women attended the seminars • 19 women established their own projects • 270 Women applied the food industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 Food industries seminars • 76 Facilitating access to loans for small income generating projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 Food industries seminars (attended by 284 men/3773 women) • 19 Facilitating access to loans for small income generating projects
By the end of 2020, 6 to 9 farmers' correlations would be formed in the targeted communities.	Correlation for better opportunities for farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 farmer members in each correlation (network) • 6-9 correlations • 15-20 opportunities created by the correlations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With average 18 farmer members in each correlation • 4 correlations • 2 opportunities created by the correlations the first was about fair marketing for 15 farmers in El-Shanyana village and the second was networking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 Importance of correlations and products additional value seminars • 5 agricultural opportunities created by the correlations • 5 rural clubs • 5 cultural libraries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Importance of correlations seminars (attended by 89 men/ 200 women) • 2 agricultural opportunities created by the correlations • 3 rural clubs • 5 cultural libraries

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
				with El-Minya research center for planting wheat for 157 farmers in Kafr lebs village.		

Key achievements:

“Plant life provides 80 percent of our human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource and means of development”, “2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture for their livelihoods”.

“Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume, by the efficient management of our shared natural resources, “agriculture is the biggest user of nature worldwide”

Rural development component guided by SDGs (Life in land) and SDG 12 (Responsible production and consumption) focused in 2018 on safe agriculture production, rural component seeking for improve qualitative properties for crops by rationalizing the use of subsidies and pesticides, invest the agricultural wastes in composting models in cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.

Economic agriculture production, low cost and high productivity, are the farmer dreams. The component increased farmer level of awareness to adopt several economic agriculture technics to produce a greater yield, (intercropping of two or more crops, the best productive seeds, the best time for planting crops) to make the best use for the agricultural lands.

Trained responsible active rural local cadres, this is the component main area of achievement, as it puts a lot of attention in selecting, training, and creating motivational environment, to encourage them adopt new agriculture methods and spread it in the community by being pioneer and source of information for others.

Empowering rural women. Rural woman is productive by nature, she makes use of anything and is capable for raising anything. The rural component focused in their area of strength and productivity, to improve their food production, for family use and raise the sense of entrepreneurship in a small number of women to be pioneers in food industry and other microeconomic projects. The component proved that it is deeply rooted in rural communities and aware about its common culture and how to spread a new intervention or method among them.

Develop the rural club activity into local rural correlations, aims for providing accessible and affordable agriculture elements for farmers and the best market price for their crops, two rural correlations succeeded to achieve that, by making cooperation with the Agriculture Research Center which provided 157 farmers with improved high productive of wheat seeds from El-Minya research unit.

Animal preservation, the component supports all rural development committee to build relations with the veterinary units to vaccinate the livestock and poultry, as the farmer considered the peace of animal the saving bank for the family. The committees succeeded to vaccinate 4894 cattle and 13177 poultry and saved the greatest investment for farmers. (that achievement can be valued if we compare the survived community animals with one other incident in El- Habaisha village, for some reason the vaccine was inactive, the community and farmers lost 90 of 400 livestock there. The cost of one livestock is around 20 thousand Egyptian pound. This was considered a great loss for the farmers’ capital.

Challenges encountered:

- There were activities like the agricultural opportunities created by the correlations that needed more time to be fully implemented after the formation of the farmers' correlations to come up with effective result, as the technical supervisors took some time to be prepared for these new activities and to deliver them to farmers.
- There were activities that were not fully implemented as the establishing of rural clubs because of the financial constrains appeared in the second half of the year.

Component Adjustments in 2019:

Some of the activities repetition has been decreased in order to fit with the budget as the basic training, rural clubs' furniture, cultural libraries, veterinary services, agricultural services and the economic agricultural projects.

Success stories:

A Woman Totally Knows what she is doing

Mrs. H.G is an ambitious farmer lives in El-Shanyna village in Assuit governorate, she didn't know that, the project she had established was not going to change her life only, but hundreds farmers lives.

The story began when Mrs. H.G asked for a loan from BLESS in order to improve her living and economic standard. Field workers, economic local committee leader and economic component supervisor held their regular meeting to review all the projects and to select the deserved one, according to the economic component standard criteria. Mrs. H.G project proposal was such pioneering. She wanted to buy a manual corn peeling machine, she figures out that, her village farmers consuming so much effort and time to peel the corn manually as well as hearing once, in the agriculture seminar attended by more than 50 farmers, that there is a certain device can help in peeling process, she is the only one who was interested to learn more, for that She made a search about this device.

Two members of rural developmental committee traveled with her to El-Qusya to exchange knowledge and experience with the manufacturers there, and to order a machine for her. The manufacturers improved the techniques of the machine upon her request as they made it work by fuel not electricity, to reduce the electricity cost and increase the motor power. Mrs. H.G made sure of the safety instructions and ordered for her own machine. The rural supervisor wrote his recommendations to the committee like that, "Please ensure Mrs. HG project approval ,as she totally knows what she is doing"

Mrs. H.G received the machine who positively affected the whole community at harvest season , the price for the peeled corn was L.E 280-300/acre and the greedy owners of the peeling machines were aiming for raising the price to L.E 350/acre this season which is considered to be unaffordable for the farmers. So, Mrs. H.G decided to support the farmers, started to work and put an affordable price L.E 120/acre. This action obligated the other owners to decrease the acre to reach same price. This was a victory for the whole farmers in the village who supported Mrs. H.G to be empowered and this reflected on the whole community as an agricultural economic project.



Corn peeling machine project

Housing Improvement Component progress report:

*The component was activated in 18 communities in 2018.

- **The ranking system of the component for the reparation of houses:**

* The component aims for having at least one convenient bedroom, kitchen and bathroom to be considered as a humanitarian shelter.

* **The humanitarian shelter (100%) is divided into:**

- Bathroom (35%) which is divided to: Plumbing and sanitary (10%), ceiling (5%), walls (5%), electricity (5%), floor (5%), and windows (5%).
- Bedroom (30%) which is divided to: Ceiling (10%), walls (5%), electricity (5%), floor (5%) and windows (5%).
- Kitchen (35%) which is divided to: Plumbing (10%), ceiling (5%), walls (5%), electricity (5%), floor (5%), windows (5%).

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 150 local cadres in 30 communities would be empowered to lead housing improvement in their communities.	Local cadres lead the housing improvement process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 trained local cadres • 1050 families will be supported by the local committee cadres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 88 trained local cadres • 460 families were supported by the local committee cadres in the targeted communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing policies and procedures • 1 Basic training for local cadres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing policies and procedures • 1 Basic training for local cadres. (This training included a brief about the component, its policies, procedures and the priorities of needy families) (attended by 39 men / 36 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Refresh trainings for local cadres • 10 Housing improvement committee • Regional visits to GOs and NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Refresh training for local cadres (This training included a brief about the developed procedures of the component to overcome the challenged that appeared during the first half of the year) (attended by 14 men and 12 women) • 18 Housing improvement committee • Regional visits to Habitat company and Construction centers

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 900 housing units in 30 targeted communities would be improved.	Humanitarian standard of living for the poorest targeted families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 900 families in 45 communities receive housing improvement services The houses of the targeted families will be improved by 50%, according to the component ranking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 27% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 375 families in 18 communities received housing improvement services The houses of the targeted families were improved by 57% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 Public meetings 300 Reparation of houses 150 Providing furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Public meetings (attended by 77men and 254 women) 345 Reparation of houses 159 Providing furniture (129 families got both reparation and providing furniture)

Key achievements:

According with external evaluators recommendations in 2017, BLESS separated Housing improvement component from primary health component, since then the new component transformed the its strategy, techniques and adopted scientific methodology. Towards benefiting the neediest family with basic comprehensive services, to meet the humanitarian standard and live with dignity (referring to goal 11 of the SDGs).

The housing improvement component succeeded to,

Adopt organized methodology for ranking most needy beneficiaries according to very clear defined criteria, developed services policies and procedures guides file, recruit regional engineering volunteered experts, to identify the most appropriate services standard for each region.

Raising beneficiary's awareness of healthy standard and its impacts of living, the target families empowered in a way that, they can examine their chances, decide what is their priorities and contribute to improve their own house.

The component increased the amount of provided services with affordable amount of family participation, by building relationships with central and local companies and suppliers, who provided contraption in (40 fans, 50 bathroom sets and 4800 ceramic meters)

In 2018 the hosing improvement component succeed to reach 344 families. Increase their student educational standard, decrees percentage of illness, increase their self-teem and willingness to live.

Challenges encountered:

- There was an inflation in prices during 2018 that led the component to decrease the number of beneficiaries to provide good standard of improvement for the targeted ones.
- In some cases, the houses needed to be rebuild not improving. BLESS financial conditions don't allow such thing in its criteria of selecting the beneficiaries.
- Some of the beneficiaries do not have enough money to contribute with 25% in improving their houses.

Lessons learned:

- Developing the procedures of the component and achieving the process of selecting the beneficiaries and making the implementation for them in shorter time.

Component Adjustments in 2019:

- The targeted number of families will be 12/community instead of the 30, the average cost of each is L.E 15000.
- The urgent cases number in the rest of the communities will decrease to 4 cases/region, the average cost of each is L.E 10000

Success story:

Not alone.

The Housing improvement component is activated in Zarayeb Ezbet El-Nakhl which is a slum in Cairo, that joined the ICDP in 2018. The developmental committee made specific criteria to reach the neediest families in the community. Mr. E.A is an overaged poor man who had more than 80 years old and lives with his wife who has 70 years old. Their pension only affords medications and food. After few visits for this couple, the committee and the fieldworkers recognized a bad smell. After clarifications, they knew that they did not have a humanitarian bathroom which gave this smell although they are so clean. Also, they knew that they had medical issues in their eyes and bones and they wished they could have a better bathroom but they do not have the enough money for this. They accepted the support of BLESS to afford 75% of the money and the couple will contribute by 25%. BLESS cared about connecting good sanitary for the bathroom and repairing the plumbing and flooring for the kitchen. This reparation saved them from many accidents that may hurt them a lot in this age. This action restored their respect, dignity and affected their psychological status as they said that they were assured that they are not alone as long as there are people who are care about them and their lives.



Bathroom improvement... Before and after

Environmental Development component progress report:

*This component was activated in 15 communities in 2018

Guiding points for the individuals’ eco-friendly practices:

- Wastes management
- Get rid of garbage in clean and safe way
- Rationalize water consumption
- Rationalize electricity consumption
- Rationalize gas consumption
- Re-use of wastes
- Food behaviors
- Dealing with canals and banks
- Dealing with trees

Guiding points for the community’ ecological interventions:

- Solid waste management (garbage and agricultural wastes)
- Waste disposal (clean)
- Improving the status of canals and banks (clean-up)
- Benefitting from the covered areas
- Beautification of entrances and streets of the communities and coating of electricity poles
- Popular participation in environmental initiatives
- Improving the quality of public services such as hygiene and maintenance
- Adopting new ideas such as compost and roofing of houses (in cooperation with the rural component)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the environmental awareness for 10350 beneficiary (8 years and above) would have been increased.	New generation Reject natural resources consumption behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9000 beneficiary participates in environmental awareness seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5480 beneficiary participates in environmental awareness seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 Seminars • 15 Carnivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 Seminars. (attended by 950 men / 4530 women) • 15 Carnivals. (attended by 846 children)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of beneficiaries adopted eco-friendly practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of beneficiaries adopted eco-friendly practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1155 Home visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2309 Home visits
By the end of 2020, BLESS would have contributed in improving the environmental conditions of 9000 beneficiaries In targeted communities	Reduce the elements of pollution in targeted community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of beneficiaries get rid of garbage with clean & safe method 4500 participating in cleaning and tree-planting campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76% of beneficiaries get rid of garbage with clean & safe method 5485 participate in cleaning and tree-planting campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Cleaning and tree-planting campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 Cleaning and tree-planting campaigns (attended by 2556 men / 2929 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 18 target communities would be qualified to be an eco-friendly communities.	Community adopt eco-friendly techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 beneficiaries participated in ecological interventions adopted by the community • 90 ecological interventions adopted by 45 community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1363 beneficiaries participated in ecological interventions adopted by the community - 35 ecological interventions adopted by 15 communities (2 communities must adopt at least 2 interventions to be considered as an ecological environment... so 13 communities adopted Solid waste management intervention, 7 communities adopted Beautification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Solar energy heaters (This activity is replaced by 120 street lightning poles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 Street lightning poles

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
				of entrances and streets of the communities and coating of electricity poles intervention, 14 communities adopted Popular participation in environmental initiatives, 2 communities adopted Improving the quality of public services such as hygiene and maintenance intervention)		

Key achievements:

- The component activities created unity among all community categories (men, women, children, Christian, Muslims)
- Protecting and preserving the environment is a global strategy (SDG's goal number 6), according to that the component adapted the same strategy through its activities. During 2018, the component succeeded in raising the beneficiaries' awareness about having a clean and healthy environment by reducing pollution and recycling wastes. Furthermore, the component empowered the beneficiaries and the development committee through the trainings and the technical support to lead the change and the developmental process in their communities. So The communities taste the good impact of this strategy, which motivated them to take positive steps and actions to change the negative behaviors by adapting local initiatives as:
 - Cleaning campaigns initiatives for all the community in cooperation with the local unit
 - Determining an appropriate way of getting rid of wastes for the community initiatives
 - Recycling wastes initiatives
 - Wastes separation at the source initiatives
 - Turning the used oils into dishwashing liquid soap initiatives
- The component succeeded in building strong central partnerships with several units and GOs, in accordance with goal 17 in SDGs "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the partnership for sustainable development", the thing that aims mainly to sustain the environmental development activities and to achieve the objectives of the component in preserving the environment and reducing pollution. Here are the partners of the component:

The association	The benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Environmental Affairs Agency and its branches in the targeted communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technical support- Training the component's staff- Raising awareness of how to preserve the environment- Participating in the activities in the targeted communities- Inclusion of the communities' needs in the Ministry of Environment plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Tree Planting Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Providing the communities with trees

The association	The benefit
- Local Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in planting and cleaning campaigns - Providing equipment, tools and labors - Providing places for implementing seminars in some communities - Connecting the garbage collector with the inhabitants of the communities - Putting recycle bins in some communities
- Water and Sanitation companies in Cairo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion the communities' needs in the company's plan - Raising awareness about rationalizing the consumption - Managing rationalizing the consumption workshops implemented by the component
- Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning canals

Challenges encountered:

- In some communities, the Church is the only wide place available for implementing the seminars, so BLESS intervened and try to solve this challenge in each community separately, to allow the participation of all the community
- The far distance between the communities and each other, harden the supervising process for the technical supervisors
- some local units are not cooperative enough with the environmental development component
- the continuous change in the development committee members due to the economic circumstances in the communities

Lessons learned:

- The presence of religious leaders during implementing the activities, was an encouragement for participation of all the community members
- AS result of several discussions with environmental officials and local community leaders, who expressed that according to the plan, limited number of families were able to benefit from solar heater, beside it's unlikely to be adopted by other families because of the high cost (17000 LE / one heater), so they referred to replace the solar heater with street lighting poles with the same cost and benefits the whole community.
- The technical supervisors made an extensive technical support visits for the development committee, due to the difficulty of the beneficiaries travelling to attend the trainings, because of the far distance, customs and traditions
- To have a more efficient training, the component made collective trainings for the field workers and the development committee of each 2 regions together, to guarantee exchanging experience between the beneficiaries and benefiting from each other, except for the Slums of Cairo and Lower Egypt and Alexandria regions, as they have a big number of field workers.

Component adjustments in 2019:

- The component will provide technical support for the 15 communities served in 2018 through trainings the component supervisors visits for the community

Success story:

Just like a Parliament ...

Hod galal is one of the communities in Cairo Slums, which suffers from garbage compiles in all community street banks, which affect community inhabitant's health.

The community inhabitants, the development committee and the field workers gathered to find a solution for this problem, they took the first move and went to meet the head of the district local unit to remove the wastes and cover sewage canal

The head of the district local unit held a meeting for the inhabitants of Hod Galal, in the church hall with the presence of officials from the Environmental Affairs Agency, and some of the religious leaders and community local leaders. They discussed the situation, come up with solutions, votes, and decided to:

- Lead a cleaning campaign in Hod Galal.
- Activating fines paying law with all kind of environment violators.
- Removing wastes compiles by the head of the district local unit vehicles twice a month.
- Raise the social and national awareness by mosque and the church
- An agreement with local garbage collector to get rid of garbage regularly
- Two persons were appointed to collect monthly subscriptions from community inhabitants



Cleaning campaign

Led by development committee, and field worker's community solved one of their irritable problems by adopting democratic methodology. Just like a Parliament.

Community Studies and Research Component progress report:

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicator/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the results of community studies would have been published (soft/hard copy) for targeted communities.	Needs assessment for ICDP communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 studies will be produced • 25 Communities meet the entry criteria • 25 Communities meet the exiting criteria • The studies will contribute by 100% to define the developmental intervention • The study will be efficient by 80% to indicate the appropriate program and interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • 3 • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 studies were produced • 3 Communities meet the entry criteria • 3 Communities meet the exiting criteria • The studies contributed with 80% to define the developmental intervention • The study is efficient by 50% to indicate the appropriate program and interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Community needs assessment studies • 3 new communities Studies • Studies of exiting villages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Community needs assessment studies for Cairo slums and Alexandria • 3 new communities Studies • 3 Studies of exiting villages

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicator/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		of ICDP new communities		of ICDP new communities		
By the end of 2020, 15 research studies and literary reviews about the most important phenomena and issues that arise in the Egyptian context would have been issued.	Updating BLESS staff with new developmental issues and approaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLESS' staff knowledge of the new phenomena will be updated by 70% 15 studies will be distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLESS' staff aware of 50% of the new knowledge and phenomena Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional and BLESS' staff knowledge of the new phenomena updated by 60% 3 studies have been distributed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Studies literary research for developmental phenomena and societal issues 4 Management team seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Studies about child marriage, Coptic's role in civil work, slums problems 3 literary research for developmental phenomena and societal issues have been done (research and studies are subject of fund to be continued) 3 Management team seminars about the results of the community's assessment studies

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicator/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop BLESS library by 12 books annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop BLESS library by 1 book
By the end of 2020, the cultural awareness of (1000) individuals of the development team would be built for (6) regional sectors.	Develop the positive aspects and knowledge of the development team members and targeted communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cultural awareness of development team members would be increased by 70% 1000 local cadres whose awareness have been built 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The awareness level of development team members has been increased by 77% 80 local cadres whose awareness have been built 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Awareness sessions about the Integrated Community Development Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 awareness sessions about the Integrated Community Development Program.
By the end of 2020, 12 round tables for the management team would be held annually to discuss present & vision of the societal phenomena that have been studied.	Invest lesson learned and benefit from success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 beneficiaries attended the round tables 12 phenomena have been discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 beneficiaries attended the round tables 3 phenomena have been discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 round tables 1 Participating in conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 round table (attended by 30 BLESS members) 3 BLESS members Participate in 2 "Egyptian Identity conferences"

Due to the financial constraints, BLESS prioritized that, community needs assessment are essential activities to determine the appropriate development component and intervention and must be proceed, the other component activities are going to be freeze, and they will be a subject of fund.

Key achievements:

- Starting from 2018 this component has shifted BLESS staff mind, by using electronic methodology in community needs assessment studies.

This mind-shift helped the component to collect more accurate data in short time, and indicate the appropriate intervention of the ICDP components in the new communities.

- The component is responsible for the exiting process from the communities, it has made 3 communities' assessment studies in 2018. The community' assessment studies pass through 3 phases to reach an exit decision:
 - The first phase is forming a professional committee consists of permanent and temporary members. The permanent members are from Community Studies and Research component, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and field coordinators, while the temporary members are technical supervisors of components to benefitted from their technical experience to evaluate the communities.
 - The second phase is to develop a community's assessment tool and train the committee members on applying it with the targeted communities
 - The third phase is communities field visits and focus groups to collect and analyze data to come up with decisions and suggestions, for the communities which are eligible for the exiting criteria which summarized in:
 - The existence of a development committee, that can lead the development work in their communities
 - Adapting initiatives by the development committee and the inhabitants of the community
 - Networking with governmental institutions, GOs and NGOs
 - Establishing a NGO if available



Training on using COBO software

Finally, the decision was taken, that 3 communities are eligible for the exiting criteria, which are: el-Sheikh Shbeka, El-Sheikh Marzouk and Ezbet El-Sayda communities.

Challenges encountered:

- The bad internet connection in local communities was the main reason for delaying the needs assessment data submission.
- The technical component staff doesn't get used to design their interventions based on academic research method.

Lessons learned:

- To maximize data collection accuracy, the component added layer of process supervision from expert field workers
- Focusing on the practical sides of using the tablet and the software in the training was so efficient while applying it

The component adjustments in 2019:

- Considering the financial constraints, the main focus of this component would be: -
 - Develop the new communities need assessment studies.
 - Select the new entry communities' evaluation, according to BLESS criteria.
 - evaluate exit communities according to BLESS criteria.

Human Resources Development Component progress report:

- **The employees’ assessment criteria is:**
 - The proficiency in work (the percentage of implementation and the quality of implementation)
 - The institutional behavior (the contribution to create a good learning and working environment)
 - The personal behavior

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, BLESS staff (340 servers) would be empowered to be enabled to perform the tasks entrusted to them with high quality and advanced scientific approach.	Elevate the efficiency level for BLESS’ staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 340 trained BLESS’ staff • 42 trainings held for different categories • 75% of BLESS staff get B in the annual employees’ assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero (This system of employees’ assessment is new) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 131 trained BLESS’ staff • 10 trainings held for different • 16 employee got outstanding, 197 got B, 147 got C and 28 got D 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Training curricula • 1 Basic training • 1 Refresher training • 8 Technical trainings for BLESS staff (managerial, developmental, specified trainings for each category) according to the needs assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Training curricula • 1 Basic training (attended by 35 women) • 1 Refresher training (attended by 54 men and 115 women) • 7 Technical trainings for BLESS staff (managerial, developmental, specified trainings for each category) according to the needs assessment (attended by 48 men and 114 women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the capacity of 400 community and Church cadres would be built to qualify them to design development interventions and projects.	Spread developmental approaches with faith based associations (Churches.....)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 faith-based institutions participated in the developmental trainings • 50% of the local cadres will interact in the trainings • 6 faith-based associations adopt developmental approaches whether inside or outside the church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 faith-based institutions participated in the developmental trainings • 65% of the local cadres will interact in the trainings • 2 faith-based associations adopt developmental approaches in poor communities in Greater Cairo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Clergy trainings • 3 External organizations trainings upon their request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Clergy trainings (attended by 22 men) • 3 External organizations trainings upon their request(attended by 17 men and 45 women)

Key achievements:

The process of development will not be completed unless there are people carrying the message of change and development to the people. Those who carry this message should be well trained on BLESS vision and mission, qualified to make good plans, have good communication skills, and believe in what they are doing. This is exactly what the component do in BLESS.

As the HRD component pays great attention to “the individual” , the component trained not only the leaders of the communities(fieldworkers), it also gives big importance for making female leaders as 75% of the trained field workers in 2018 are women.

In 2018, the component built a relation with an external consultant to cooperate in preparing training curriculum as well as paying a lot of attention towards training different categories as the office support staff, secretary, personnel and the financial department beside the fieldworkers and the supervisors of the technical components. It also trained twenty two priests to support the developmental work and four faith-based associations to broaden field of development and doubling the number of beneficiaries.

The component is also keen on inviting experts in the developmental field to train the targeted beneficiaries. From the trainings that were held in 2018 is a training about efficiency and effectiveness that had a great impact on BLESS staff and also a training for the technical supervisors of the components that trained them on developing quantitative and qualitative indicators for measuring the results. All the components now have good tools for measuring the indicators and use them with 60% proficiency and all the fieldworkers have the criteria of implementing activities with high quality. BLESS looks forward to achieving more proficiency is using the indicators of results in the few coming period.

Lessons learned:

- The period of the basic training will be one month only instead of two months in order to provide the opportunity for the fieldworkers to attend the training as most of them and specially the females faced the challenge of attending trainings outside their villages.
- Training the clergy before starting implementation in the targeted community support the development work and decrease the probabilities of misconnection between them and the fieldworkers.

Success stories:

From charity to development:

"Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you've fed him for a lifetime."

One of the faith-based associations that were trained by BLESS in 2018 used to make service as charity without knowing that they are able to use the same amount of money in improving the whole standard of living and raising the awareness of the beneficiaries.

This association started serving after finalizing the training course in BLESS with a revived spirit and refreshed mind. They started their service in two slums of Cairo after analyzing the problems in each community, making needs assessment and writing a proposal. This professional and organizing way helped them in establishing a literacy class of 20 beneficiaries and providing loans for three beneficiaries to establish their small businesses. This was a huge positive shifting in this association from charity to development for achieving sustainability and empowerment.



Training for Saint Paul Church servants on the development work

Rise Up and Walk Component progress report:

Guiding Points for the speech disabilities according to Stanford Beneh 5th edition measurement:

- Mild disability: suffer from speech disorders which could be improved by sessions and instructions to the parents and range from 75-89 according to Stanford Beneh 5th edition measurement
- moderate disability: suffer from speech disorders which could be improved by sessions and instructions and range from 69-74 according to Stanford Beneh 5th edition measurement
- Severe disability: suffer from speech and language disorders which could be improved by heavily sessions and instructions and range from 68 to less according to Stanford Beneh 5th edition measurement

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the capacity and technical skills for 900 local cadres would have been built.	Trained local cadres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 trained local cadres • The local cadres apply the training by 70% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 trained local cadres • The local cadres apply the training by 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Trainings for parents and people working in disability field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Trainings for parents and people working in disability field (attended by 100 men,200 women)
By the end of 2020, the speech performance of 360 children who suffer from speech problems would be improved.	Merge the disable child in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6000-8000 speech sessions • 90 children receive speech sessions • The children's performance would be developed by 75% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • 23% of the children have mild disability, 62% have middle disability and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 speech sessions • 65 children receive speech sessions • The children with mild disability have been developed by 80%, the 	2880 Speech sessions for children	2000 Speech sessions for children (attended by 65 children)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
			15% have severe disability	children with middle disability have been developed by 75% and the children with severe disability 60%		
By the end of 2020, 900 beneficiary with disabilities would be empowered to join the labor market.	Raising the living standard for disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 150 disabled participated in the vocational trainings • 20 disabled beneficiary joined the labor market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 disabled participated in the vocational trainings • 6 disabled beneficiary joined the labor market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training for people with disabilities • Network with a recruitment office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Vocational trainings for people with disabilities (2 workshops for perfume and accessories) • A recruitment office has been established in BLESS
By the end of 2020, 120 children with different disabilities would have been trained in self-reliance and independence skills.	Independent lifestyle and manage the daily needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 trained children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 trained children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1760 Direct sessions for children • 160 Technical support for families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1901 Direct sessions for children (43 children) • 1850 Technical support for families (attended by 42

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Specialized courses for building parents' capacities • Medical check-ups for children • 7 Entertaining activities for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Specialized courses for building parents' capacities (attended by 10 men, 50 women) • Medical check-ups for children (for 46 children) • 3 Entertaining activities for children (attended by 69 men, 195 women, 120 children)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 150 girls and women with blindfolds and their families would have been rehabilitated.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 rehabilitated girls and women (the project will end by 2019) 150 girls and women are capable of managing their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74 (This number has been collected from a former phase of the project) 40 (This number has been collected from a former project) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 164 rehabilitated girls and women 110 girls and women are capable of managing their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blind girls and women training (the planned depends on each participant need till they acquire the required skills) Training for the companion of blind girls and women (the planned depends on each participant need till they acquire the required skills) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 144 training session (attended by 164 girls and women) 72 Training for the companion of blind girls and women (attended by 47 girls and women)

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for the families of blind girls and women (the planned depends on each participant need till they acquire the required skills) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 Training for the families of blind girls and women
By the end of 2020, 250 beneficiary with physical disabilities would have been rehabilitated.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 disabled beneficiary will receive compensatory devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 disabled beneficiary received compensatory devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compensatory devices (the planned depends on the need of the beneficiaries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66 Compensatory devices (for 30 men, 15 women and 19 children)

Key achievement:

- The component starts a journey not only with the disabled, but also with their parents. their journey started from an evaluation for the disabled beneficiary with the international measurements such as Portage, Pre-academic program, Skills Series and Stanford Benet, as it measures the mental age in the fields of cognitive, movement, self-care and social to the actual age.
- During disabled sessions, a training is held for their parents to train them on how to deal with their children and their disabilities and how to apply the center sessions at home. In addition to the support sessions given for the parents regularly to empower them with the skills required.

Component adjustments in 2019:

As a result of the impressive life changing in the targeted blind girls at 'I can and I have a vision' our partner funder (Embrace) agreed to raise the project number of beneficiary from 100 girls to 150 girls.

Rise Up and Walk component is experienced technical component in the field of disability, the component members are expertise in their profession, according to that component set 2018-2020 plan, which targeted the expected number of beneficiaries listed in each objective. Also as one of ICDP components, can receive part of ICDP fund, but most of our partner donor interested at another field of fund, as a result of that component revised the proposed plan, by reduce the targeted beneficiaries according to its previous projects commitments (I have a vision, and Compensatory devices) and what BLESS can implement by its own or by local contribution, the new targeted beneficiary's figures as follow and listed in the outcome indicator.:

- The targeted trained local cadres would be 180 instead of 900
- The targeted children receive speech sessions would be 90 instead of 360
- The targeted number of disabled empowered to join the labor market would be 150 instead of 900
- The targeted children have been trained on independence skills would be 90 instead of 120
- The targeted number of beneficiaries with physical disabilities would be 250 instead of 4000



Direct session for children

Success Story:

Deserve to live....

The mother of the child G.A came to the Rise Up and Walk Center complaining that her child did not respond to her at all, crying constantly, sleeps heavily, has severe rejection of others and difficulty in dealing with them. After the first evaluation, the expert discovered that the child's mental age in the following fields was 2 years and a month in cognitive, 2 years and 6 months in movement, 2 years and 4 months in self-care and 3 years in social, while her actual age was 3 Years and 29 days.

The experts at the Rise Up and Walk Center decided to adopt the case of this child and help her, the sessions were started with the girl twice a week, working on all the above mentioned areas according to the portage program. Besides training the mother on how to deal with the girl in the academic side and the behavioral side. During the period of working with the girl it was noticed that she started to respond to the instructions directly and correctly, become less stubborn and her lingual level has raised. At the end of six months of the sessions, the child was re-evaluated "a semi-annual assessment to the development of the child", which reflected the huge improvement in her level, as her mental age in the following fields became 3 years and 2 months in cognitive, 3 years and 3 months in movement, two and four months in self-care and 3 years and 3 months in the social, while her actual age was 3 years and 6 months and 21 days .This shows the development of the child observed during the six months.

The child's mother said that "I am so happy, because I couldn't ever think before that my daughter could be improved and reach this level, she is now a normal child, obedient, respond to everything around her and socialize with the people", she added "My daughter now could have a normal life..."

Combating Addiction Component progress report:

*The planned of this component is dedicated upon the need of the beneficiaries

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, Better Life Center would have provided preventive and treatment services for 5000 addicted and survival from addiction.	Combating addiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new and old comers • Number of surviving from addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero • Zero • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2886 new and old comers • 1328 surviving from addiction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visits • Individual sessions • Group therapy lead by survivors • Holly mass 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72 Home visits • 183 Individual sessions • 3 Group therapy lead by survivors • 6 Holly mass
By the end of 2020, 160 families would be empowered with knowledge and skills that qualify them to deal with their addicted relatives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of families who adopt with their addicted relatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1411 families who adopt with their addicted relatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual Activity • Family meetings • Individual sessions • Primary sessions for rehabilitation • Insight sessions • Family counseling sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Spiritual Activity • 44 Family meetings attended by (1411 families) • 842 Individual sessions • 94 Primary sessions for rehabilitation • 299 Insight sessions • 317 Family counseling sessions

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hotline services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3148 Hotline services
By the end of 2020, community awareness of the risks of addiction would have been built	Decrease the percentage of addiction, especially among youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of beneficiary receive service from Better Life Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3285 beneficiary receive service from Better Life Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness seminars Mental Health and Combating Addiction committee meetings Tools of demonstration developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 128 Awareness seminars (attended by 12770 men) 7 Mental Health and Combating Addiction committee meetings 128 tools of demonstration developed
By the end of 2020, local cadres would be trained to be capable of providing awareness services and dealing with addicts	Establish local combating centers operated by trained volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trained volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 568 trained volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centers managed by trained volunteers Courses in Cairo and Giza 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33 Centers managed by (568 volunteers) 70 Courses in Cairo and Giza, (attended by 460)

Key achievement:

- Combating Addiction Component providing its services in 4 main fields:
 - 1) Providing services through Better Life Center for 3285 addicted beneficiaries and 1328 addicted survivals
 - 2) Preventive actions for addiction, as the component held 7 meetings for psychological health and combating addiction committee, 128 awareness seminars and developed 128 tools of demonstration for 12770 beneficiary
 - 3) Empowering 1411 families with knowledge and skills that qualify them to deal with their addicted relatives, through 44 meetings, 317 counselling sessions and 299 insight sessions
 - 4) Developing a unit for modifying the behavior of 30 addict's children through 68 individual sessions for children and 85 individual sessions for children's families

Success story:

Addicted to life:

I'm M.I, a university girl who came from a wealthy family in a rural community. Because of being self-dependent and having a strong personality, I was able to convince my family to complete my studies in Cairo. From few years I rent a room in a dorm possessed by a church. The life in Cairo is completely different from the village, it is more open-minded and broad. I lost the right road, took the opportunity of living alone and imitated my brother who was an alcohol addict. I addicted alcohols besides heroin as I wrongly thought that I find my happiness and comfort in being drunk, I felt as if I am in another world leaving all my fears, worries and troubles behind me. I began suffering from continuous syncope (fainting) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that happened to me because of heavy drinking and addiction. I started drinking more to quiet the voices in my mind. The responsible for the dorm noticed my crooked behavior, she was very caring and helpful. She understood my case, didn't give up on me, respected my desire of not informing my family and started supporting me in my recovery journey. My journey started by going to the best life center. There, I followed a withdrawal symptoms and treatment program from drugs. I admit that this time was very hard and painful, I made many brain x-rays and checkups. I relapsed many time, I was exposed to many cramps. But I had a strong will and determination, I fought for being better, replaced addiction with drawing which is my favorite hobby to make benefit from my waste time. I passed through a long psychological recovery journey using Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and Logo therapy to replace the negative thoughts that led to addiction with positive ones. After this journey, I had the passion to help addicted girls and support them, then I studied a diploma in treating addiction. I can say proudly now that I have been a survivor for a year and half.



Awareness seminar about addiction damage

The Prisoners Care component:

Key achievements:

The prisoners care component concentrates on 3 main aspects for serving the prisoners, as followed:

- 1) Raising awareness for leaders and social workers in the prison through implementing 8 trainings about dealing with prisoners and their needs
- 2) Providing services for the prisoners in the prison by providing them with pocket money, clothes and medical check-ups
- 3) Providing services for the prisoners' families through implementing 5 group therapy and 6 periodic meetings to raise their awareness of how to deal with their relative prisoners, adding to 17 microeconomic projects to support these families financially

Component adjustments in 2019

Through 2018 Bless were able to collect useful data and learn more about the prison roles and restrictions, one of them, it is forbidden to deal directly with the prisoners' children as it is considered preaching, now we revised our interventions to serve this vulnerable group with more acceptable and practical way. From 2019 the prisoners care component will include main followed activities:

- Spiritual activities for prisoners.
- Microeconomic projects for the prisoners' families.
- Capacity building for prisoners' servants

Findings:

Component	Men	Women	Children	Community partners (Muslims)
Economic Development	2605	7450	0	390
Health Primary Care	8892	40797	4390	8132
Adult Education	3169	12966	0	1369
Community Sustainability and Empowerment	1699	4569	0	404
Improving the Standard of Education	146	257	3921	345
Unleashing the Potentials of the new Generation	25	797	6417	660
Community Peace Building	1845	9569	1799	1684
Rural Development	15331	8092	0	1115
Housing Improvement	259	431	387	7
Environment Development	3506	7459	846	4095
Community Studies and Research	694	1093	0	35
Human Resources Development	141	274	0	0
Combating Addiction	14180	1411	0	0
Rise up and walk	251	851	293	15
Total	52743	96016	18053	18251

ANNEX:

Motivations for launching the strategic plan for 2018-2020:

- 1- To adapt to the changes in the country politically, socially, culturally, and economically and to address the current situations which now affect Egyptian society, resulting in different basic needs and to promote positive development.
- 2- To accommodate for the country's direction towards unification and to play a fundamental role in the advancement and development of communities.
- 3- BLESS' direction towards nurturing the ideas and concept of development work and social justice.
- 4- Internal revisions and evaluations of work inside BLESS.
- 5- Comprehending the movement happening due to new partnerships both internally and externally.
- 6- To include additional qualified staff to work for BLESS.
- 7- To elevate the quality of services and commit to quality standards.
- 8- To promote coordination and integration between the various programs.

ICDP strategy of Operations:

- 1- The developmental work will continue by operating the CID applications in the villages that started services till 2017 (35 villages).
- 2- Selecting 10 new villages to operate by applying Integrated Community Development Program with all its new components and applications, starting from 2018. The number of ICDP communities will increase yearly with the same rate of exiting of CID programs communities.
- 3- The ICDP will operate in 40-45 community at rural and slum communities with the basic pillar with the addition of an average of 2-5 programs from other pillars according to the seeds assessment.

Developing Slum Areas. Why?

BLESS targets the poorest communities in the country, which are usually concentrated in Upper Egypt (Assuit, Suhag, and Qena Governorates according to the poverty map for the year 2015) However, with the recent changes in Egypt, the slum phenomena have increased due to the lack of enforcement of construction laws, despite being far from the government's plans. These areas are deprived of basic services and utilities, so they suffer many problems, which pose threats to its security. The inhabitants of these slums suffer from poverty, unemployment, crimes, addiction, and breeds potential terrorism in some areas. Poverty also contributes to the problems of internal immigration from rural areas, and people begin looking for job opportunities in the cities where most of the production and service activities are.

The country has been concerned with the growth of slum cases for over 15 years, where it has a political or security concern. Slum extensions have spread in almost all Egyptian cities. The number of slum areas in Egypt was 434 in the year 1993, most of which were in Cairo and Alexandria, which accounted for a quarter of slum inhabitation. In 2006, it reached 1221 areas and had spread through 24 governorates, totaling 15.7 million people. It represents 24% of the inhabitation of the country, and 40% of the inhabitation of civilized areas. This phenomenon contributed to the spread of slum trends in all aspects of life.

Over the last 10 years, the Health and Education program has paid special attention to slum areas as part of an initiation to decrease poverty rates and to increase their standard of living.

BLESS' Role is to put these area's needs and its unique challenges into consideration during the planning of program development.

The best shots in 2018:



the minister of the scientific research honored at a seminar on the importance of the scientific research in BLESS



Priests training on the development work



Kafr El-Sheikh University' students training

طياره ورق مشروع لتحسين التعليم في مدينة البيصيلية

التعليمية والمعلمه ليكونوا قارين على بناء مستقبل ناجح لديهم. قامت هاجر رمضان (مطالبيه بمدرسة الخواصب في المرحلة الابتدائية) بإنشاء تعلمنا القراءه والكتابة والنسب واخذنا جدول الضرب وساعدنا هذه المدرسه في تنمية موهبتى هي الرسم. اوضحت نسمه حسين (مطالبيه بالمرحله الابتدائية) نعلم الموسيقى ويوجد بها حفلات مسرحها رقصه النورسيا ، تنمية موهبتنا الموسيقية وتعلمنا الحروف بطريقة مختلفة وحركات مختلفة. اشادت فاطمه جمعه (مطالبيه بالمرحله الإعدادية) ان هذه المدرسه ساعدتنا بالتخلص من وقت الفراغ والتخفيف من ضغوطيات بالحياه التعليميه في أثناء ذهابي للمدرسه تعلمت تخير افكارى من خلال الحكايات القدمه والاستفاده منها في بوس والتفكير منه. نوهه بشوى سيلاد (مطالبيه بالمرحله الإعدادية) ان هذه المدرسه ساعدتنا في كتيبه الكتابة والقراءه بطريقة جيده وسليمه واصبحت قادر على الوصول إلى الأفضل في حياتى التعليميه وتحظى اى صعوبات فى القراءه والكتابة. نمت عام عمليه (مطالبيه بالمرحله الابتدائية) تعلمت الكثير من القراءه والتخيرات للأفضل واصبحت سعيدة للذهاب إليها. اوضحت حدى ساه (مطالبيه بالمرحله الابتدائية) انهم يأتون وجيه بالمدرسه ويريدك أيضا وتعلم القراءه والكتابة وتأخذ اختبارات تقوية للحصول على الأفضل في العمليه التعليميه وشاهد الحب من مدرسين المدرسه وتوضيح كل الأساسيات التعليميه للحصول على الأفضل في الحياه التعليميه.

كتبت : الزهراء رمضان
تشهد مدينه البيصيلية بحرى وباطم مدينه المعموره تطور جديد من خلال اسفقيه الخدمات العامه والاجتماعية والمكوثيه فى القاهره بعمل مدرسه المواهب تحت شعار: طياره ورق، ترشح المستوى التعليمي للتلاميذ وتكثيفهم من اجراء القراءه والكتابة والتمهينات الحسيه فوكية القراءه وكانها بجوار مسجد نورا الاسلام ونسب (مستوفاه الجايزه) المعموره امام كتيبه مار مينيا فى المعموره تأسدت من كل طالب ومطالبيه ١٠٠ جنهات فقط لا غير شيريا بدأ الفتح المدرسه ١٨/٧/٢٠١٨. تعدى المشتركين بالمدرسه لعدد المئده وهو (١٥٠) مطالبيه ومطالبيه بالمرحلتين الابتدائية والإعدادية) حتى يومنا هذا التقديم مستمر ومفتوح لتضمين الأطفال الأخلاقيات والوصول بهم للأفضل. بدأ المرحة الإبتدائية من (يوم السبت إلى يوم الثلاثاء من الساعة ٨ صباحا حتى الساعة ١٢ ظهرا) ساعة واحدة من الساعة مساء حتى الساعة ٥ مساء. (يوم الأربعاء والإعدادية) من (يوم الإثنين إلى يوم الخميس من الساعة ٨ صباحا حتى الساعة ١٢ ظهرا). تقوم المدرسه بإعطاء الأطفال وجيه يومية ويريدك منها (وجيه طعام - ويريدك عبارات عن تسيبوحه وتساوت). أكد القومس كراس مراد فكري، كاهن كتيبه الشهيد العظيم مار مينيا بالمعموره فى اذو انه من خلال اسفقيه الخدمات العامه والاجتماعية قام بعمل مدرسه المواهب «طياره ورق بتعليم الأطفال الموسيقى والقراءه والكتابة. تنمية المواهب. هذه المدرسه تم تخدم الاخوه المحسن فقط بل هي للمجتمع

The success of talent schools and tutoring classes in one of the local newspapers in Aswan

Last minute success story:

Keep in memory

Samsoum is small village in El-Menia governorate, in the first public meeting for BLESS with the village inhabitants in the beginning of 2017, villagers expressed one of their main problems, as the nearest primary and prep school, is 3 K/m from the village, the children have to walk all that distance twice a day, also problems were often arrows between the village student and the school security, as they consider them the main reason for school over crowdies, as a result many parents take a decision to stop educate their children in that school, girls are the most affected children from that decision.

The first action for the local development committee, is taking action towards that problem, the committee led several meeting with villagers, and come up with a solution, they have to buy a land and start connecting the Education Ministry to build a primary and prep school,

One of the villagers offered his land for sale 12 Carats (the normal price for carat 30000 LE which means 360000 LE has to be

collected, for 8 month the committee and villagers tried to collect the money, the new school year is going to start and they collect 200000 pound, the committee in their regular meeting keeping try to raise money, but the villagers has no more money to offer, they are all start to express depression from continuing that project ,the main theme were "it's more than our capacity". By surprise the land owner offers to reduce the price by 10000 for each Carats (he has children affected by the school problem), the church contributes by the rest of money. The money was collected by the end of 2017.

The committee started another journey of connecting Ministry of Education, beginning with land waiver to the Ministry, taking license, and start build the school by the beginning of 20i8 till June 2018.



Samsoum school

The villagers dream come true when they witnessed the school opening by the ministry of education representative on September 2018. The committee documented the all journey steps, not just as an evidence of ownership, but also to keep the memory for” What they can accomplish together”.

