



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

**Annual Progress Report**  
**for the period**  
**1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>Th</sup> December, 2019**

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## **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: Capacitybuilding 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)

## **Executive Summary:**

**BLESS** over the decade has established itself, as an organization committed towards investing in Egyptian people potentials, to reach human dignity, through communal participation. Inspired by the ancient Egyptian Civilization, linking the present to future, there for BLESS take the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030, which represents a foothold on the way towards inclusive development, and aims for, cultivating a prosperity pathway through, economic and social justice, and reviving the role of Egypt in regional leadership. SDS represents a roadmap for maximizing competitive advantage to achieve the dreams and aspirations of Egyptians in a dignified and decent life.

### **Overview of 2019, “BLESS is growing with confidence”,**

**This** year BLESS was able to touch 172,494 people lives, 17% of whom were Community Partners (non-Christian), in cooperation with GOs and NGOs, in 42% of ICDP activities.

**Management** by result approach, created rich opportunity for learn, reflect, suggest corrective actions, and adjust ourselves in 2020 work plan. By

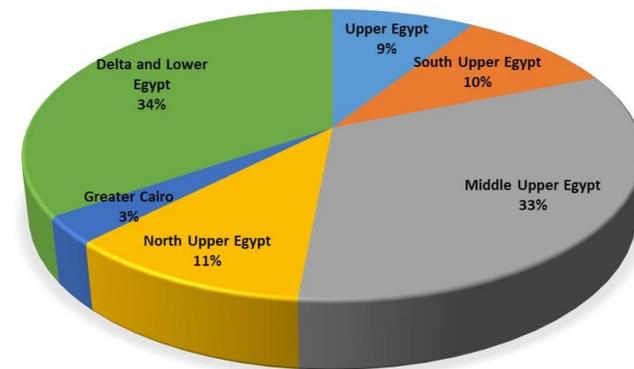
Build more integral interventions among ICDP components, to maximize resources and community benefits, such as those created between: Economic Development and rural development components, in generating microcredit projects, to empower rural women. Unleashing the potential of new generation and Peacebuilding components, in developing manual for positive parental classes and widening the scope of beneficiaries of both components targeted communities.

Environment Development, Adult Education components, unleashing the potential of new generation and Improving the Standard of Education, to spread the environmental awareness between pupils and adults.

Overcome challenges encountered, in 2018 one of the most common challenges within ICDP component, were the lack of trained cadres in the villages local committees, as their work and family obligations, prevent them from attending tannings outside their villages. BLESS created technical support intervention, to empower local leader’s knowledge, and skills, as well as set a standard definition for trained and active local cadre, which is,

- Trained local cadres: are the cadres which have attended at least one training, or have received at least two technical support sessions each session’s (the session duration is an hour and half), and have applied what they have trained.
- Active local cadres: are the cadres who volunteer to contribute to the developmental action in a specific component in a periodic basis at least once each quarter.

The Percentages of Muslims beneficiaries in each region



In collaboration with Diaconia, BLEES was able to conduct an organizational assessment, which highlighted the importance of developing Standard Operation Performance Manuals, BLEES consider it as a priority to tackle within 2020, BLEES will appreciate our partners technical and financial support.

**preparation** phase for ICDP midterm review, beginning with conducting TOR, and hold several meetings with proposed external evaluators, finally contracted with COPTICAD Institute. The purpose of the review,

Analysis and review the progress of" Integrated Community Development Program" ICDP, in the targeted communities, during the period from 2018 to mid-2019, in addition to reviewing the progress of the communities that started with the Comprehensive Integrated Development CID, and completed by ICDP. through,

- Study Bless partnership framework and scope, with other community development service providers (GO's and NGO's).
- Study how far ICDP contribute to achieve BLEES strategic directions.
- Provide recommendations to adjust ICDP direction and performance, to be able to achieve the targeted strategies by the most effective approaches.

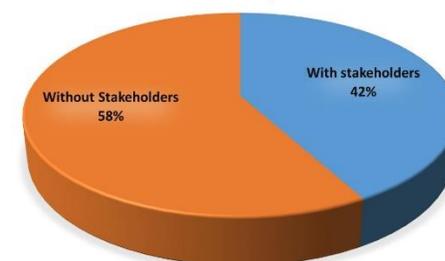
\* The key review findings and recommendation, will be discussed in the coming partner meeting.

**Monitoring** system progress, an extensive effort was done throughout 2019 to update the monitoring digital system to be more effective for users (field staff and components staff), to monitor implemented activities, and develop digital monitoring indicators. Along with enhance ICDP components member's capacities, as well as field workers to use the updated digital Monitoring system, specially monitoring indicators parts, and tools. By the end of 2019, field were able to reflect on 93% of the implementation through digital system, 71% of monitoring digital indicators system. Components staff were able to reflect on their implementation by85%, and 87% of monitoring digital indicators.

**SALEMO** Project, during 2019, came into execution phase with emphasis to build strategic partnerships and ensuring common understanding, with the "Ministry of Islamic Endowments (AWKAF)", As well as build the capacity of three local CBO's partners in the targeted communities.

**Resilient** Productive Communities (RPC), The Coptic Association of Social Care (CASC) is a sister organization of The Bishopric of Public Ecumenical Social Services (BLESS). CASC (lead applicant) will cooperate with the Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)(co-applicant) in implementing the project. RPC is a serious trial for improving environmental status and maximizing the benefit of available environmental resources in 3 target communities, (2rural communities and one Underserved Peri-urban community. RPC is meant to enhance the civil society as well as the local authorities' capacities to governance and development processes. way that will result in more resilient productive communities, with emphasis to engage women and youth as well as other key stakeholders.

Stakeholders contribution in implemented activities



## ICDP targeted communities in 2019:

No	Region	Villages	Diocese	Governorate	Village Chose	Start	Exit
1	Upper Egypt	Ezbet Gad*	Luxor	Luxor	Jan. 2014	Jul. 2014	Dec. 2019
2		El- Gheriara	Arment and Asna	Luxor	Dec. 2015	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
3		Qomaer	Luxor	Luxor	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
4		El-Heliala	Arment and Asna	Luxor	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
5		El-Mamaria	Aswan	Aswan	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
6		El-Hager	Aswan	Aswan	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
7	South Upper Egypt	El-Maadi	Kos and Nekada	Qena	Nov. 2018	Jul. 2019	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
8		Awlad Yeiah	Gerga	Sohag	Jan. 2016	Oct. 2016	Dec. 2022
9		El- Berba	Gerga	Sohag	Jan. 2016	Oct. 2016	Dec. 2020
10		Anba Shenouda	Akhmim	Sohag	Jan. 2017	Oct. 2017	Dec. 2020
11		El-Salamaia	Deshena	Qena	Nov. 2017	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
12		Awlad Gharieb	Sohag	Sohag	Nov. 2017	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
13		El-Zawatna	Gerga	Sohag	Nov. 2017	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria

\*Exit community in 2019

No	Region	Villages	Diocese	Governorate	Village Chose	Start	Exit
14	Middle Upper Egypt	El-Shanina	Abu Teig	Asuit	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2020
15		El-Habishea	Asuit	Asuit	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
16		El-Sultan and Toom	El- Minya and Abu Korkas	El- Minya	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
17		Kafer Lebs	El- Minya	El- Minya	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
18		Zawiet El-Sultan	El- Minya & Abu Korkas	El- Minya	Oct. 2019	Jul. 2019	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
19		El-Halaki*	Tama	Sohag	Jan. 2014	Oct. 2014	Dec. 2019
20		Bani Khaled	Malawie, Ensena & Ashmonine	El- Minya	Oct. 2019	Jul. 2019	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
21	North Upper Egypt	Ezbet Farcis	Matai	El- Minya	Jan. 2015	Jul. 2015	Dec. 2020
22		Esahk and Blok	Maghagha & El- Adwa	El- Minya	Jan. 2016	Jul. 2016	Dec. 2021
23		El-Khalifa	Bani Suef	Beni Suef	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
24		Samsom	Mattai	El- Minya	Jan. 2017	Jul. 2017	Dec. 2022
25		Ezbet El-Yasmin*	Matai	El- Minya	Jan. 2014	Jul. 2014	Dec. 2019
26		Galiela	Beba and El- Fashen	Bani Suef	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
27		Ezbet Boshera	Beba and El- Fashen	Bani Suef	Sep. 2017	Jul. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria

\*Exit community in 2019

No	Region	Villages	Diocese	Governorate	Village Chose	Start	Exit
28	Greater Cairo	El-Khosos	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
29		Hoad Galal	El- Salam City	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
30		El-Marg El-Sherkia	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
31		El-Marg El-Gharbia	Shebeen El-Kanater	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
32		Zaraib Ezbet El-Nakhl	Cairo	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
33		El Mo'atamdia	Middle Giza	Giza	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
34		Ezbet Khairalla	Cairo	Cairo	Aug. 2017	Jan. 2018	Dec. 2020
35		El-Katawe	Shobra El-Kheima	El- Kalubia	Aug. 2017	Feb. 2018	According to Exit Criteria
36		Ezbet Kheiza	East Giza	Giza	Aug. 2017	Feb. 2018	According to Exit Criteria
37	Delta and lower Egypt	Ard El Soudi	Shebeen El- Kanater	El- Kalubia	Jan. 2015	Jul.2015	Dec. 2020
38		Okab	El- Behaira	El- Behaira	Jan. 2016	Jul.2016	Dec. 2021
39		El-Maraghe and Kherwa'a	Alexandria	Alexandria	Nov.2017	Nov.2017	Dec. 2022
40		Mubark and Beni Salama*	El- Behaira	El- Behaira	Jan. 2014	Jul.2014	Dec. 2019
41		El-Zawida	Alexandria	Alexandria	Jul. 2017	Apr. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria
42		Sekina	Alexandria	Alexandria	Jul. 2017	Apr. 2018	3- 5 Years According to Exit Criteria

\*Exit community in 2019

**Map of activated communities of ICDP 2019:**



## ICDP components progress report from January 1, till December 31, 2019

### 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 as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>1,800 beneficiaries would have attended the vocational and technical trainings</li> <li>70% of the trainees will gain 70% of skills according to the qualifications of the ordinary labor level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>15% of the beneficiaries have basic knowledge without practical experience and 85% of them have no knowledge and no</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,661 beneficiary attended the vocational and technical trainings (743 of the 1,661 beneficiaries have joined the labor market)</li> <li>90% of the trainees have gained skills to be qualified as an ordinary labor according to the internal practical and theoretical evaluation (63.5% of the 90% got</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>55 vocational and technical trainings</li> <li>5 Entrepreneurship training</li> <li>4 Specialized trainings for field workers and volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59 vocational and technical trainings. (attended by 163 men /495 women)</li> <li>5 Entrepreneurship training (attended by 38 men and 106 women)</li> <li>4 Specialized trainings for field workers and volunteers</li> </ul>

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>405 trained local cadres</li> </ul>	<p>practical experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<p>excellent, 23% got good, 13.5% got pass)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>348 trained local cadres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Industrial community Study</li> </ul>	<p>(attended by 40 men / 204 women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Industrial community Studies</li> </ul>
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"> <li>150 youths registered in the job fairs</li> <li>100 beneficiaries joined the labor market from job matching in the seminars or job fairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>220 youths registered in the job fairs</li> <li>302 beneficiaries joined the labor market from job matching in the seminars or job fairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 Job fairs</li> <li>83 Seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Job fairs (attended by 28 men and 192 women)</li> <li>83 Seminars (attended by 849 men / 5107 women)</li> </ul>
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	Improving the standard of income for beneficiaries (15% women and girls) in targeted communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,650 women and men increased their income from the microeconomic projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,380 women and men increased their income from the microeconomic projects and (547 were unemployed before and 833 had improved their income)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>553 microeconomic projects</li> <li>Participating in 6 exhibitions of products marketing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>545 microeconomic projects. (for 279 men /267 women)</li> <li>Participating in 5 exhibitions of products marketing (for 107 men and 170 women)</li> </ul>

Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
daily life in their communities in 45 slum and rural communities.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,000 beneficiaries who have improved their standard of living through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing opportunities for education</li> <li>- Access to health care and treatment</li> <li>- Improve family welfare</li> <li>- increase the quality of the project</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<p>70 projects are rural ( for example: livestock upbringing) which its revenue is gained after period of time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,335 beneficiaries improved their standard of living through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25.5% of them use this increase in Providing opportunities for education,</li> <li>34% of them use this increase in health care and treatment</li> <li>26.5% of them use this increase in Improve family welfare</li> <li>and 18.5% of them use this</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

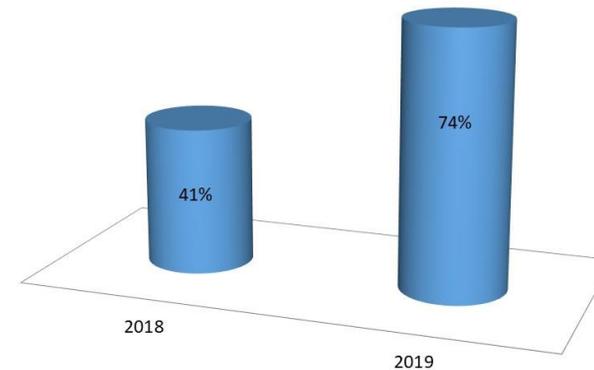
Objective	Outcome	Indicators/3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
				increase to increase the quality of the project		

## Key achievements:

BLESS participate in the economic development pillar of Egypt's vision 2030, "the Egyptian is generating decent and productive jobs", the economic development component in 2019 main theme is restoring dignity by

- Changing the mindset of people who used to take subsidies from charitable organizations. Now, 545 beneficiaries generate their own income; provide better life for their families including health, education and entertainment.
- Empowering beneficiaries (especially women) which reflect on many life aspects as their social and cultural standards. As they became more conscious, skillful, decisive in their households.
- Creating community economic movement, also reviving competitive market inside the local communities. The communities were in real need for essential local services, vegetable, fruit sellers, hairdresser for men and women (specially in South and Upper Egypt).
- Investing in people's talents to come up with revenues "I used to sew since I was a young girl, however I didn't imagine that this talent will generate income for me" quoted by one of the beneficiaries in Alexandria Slums. It turned the spare time into fruitful time, produce become a passion.
- Reducing the percentage of usury (in Sohag governorate usury very common phenomena) beneficiaries stated there is no need for it since microeconomic projects replaced money lending in illegal ways.
- Investing in human beings and supporting them to be entrepreneurs in their communities through loans; BLESS loans' main target is the most marginalized people who seeks for generating their income instead of high interest banking loans (25%). This lead the whole profit go back to the bank (the loan installments), the local revolving loan system become more suitable replacement.
- The component witnessed sustainable development in exit communities (30 villages as a sample) as there are still 619 ongoing microeconomic projects from the repaid loans. On the long run, this sustainability saved the social life in the communities when it contributed in decreasing the percentage of youth migration to outside and economic life by creating competitive markets inside the villages filling the gaps of vocations that the communities were in need for it.
- Providing green jobs, beneficiaries were very intelligent in applying what they learnt in recycling classes (Environmental development component) and selling these products to be profitable for them (recycling of old jeans and produce good designs of bags).
- Decreasing the risk of livestock projects (mortality) by rural component supervision, awareness and follow up.

Percentage of vocational trainees who joined job market



- Vocational qualifying after addiction recovery; Vocational trainings on plumbing and maintenance of appliances were provided for 47 addiction survivor men ranging from 18 to 40 years old. These trainings were provided in the cooperation with church in Alexandria Diocese.

#### **Challenges encountered:**

- Marketing, the local communities are too small to absorb some microeconomic products; such as hand crafts and sheets, on the other side the central city market prefers mass production (lower price), which create very hard competition.
- The sophisticated nature of some vocational training (tailoring and sewing), challenging the trainers.
- The amount of the loan is so small to start a reasonable affordable project, the men youth who doesn't have savings or other recourses especially in slums area.
- Loans phobia, some beneficiaries fear of risk to be responsible for loans contract and installments. Fieldworkers are raising beneficiaries' knowledge about how to start up a successful project and making feasibility studies.

#### **Lessons Learned:**

- The need for local salesmen/women to create better marketing opportunity.
- Social media had an effective role in marketing, especially targeted youth beneficiaries in Alexandria slums. Posting on Facebook for advertising attracted youth customers. Also in holding economic awareness seminars it was a good idea to encourage unemployment youth to have microeconomic projects.
- The component made a pioneer intervention (in El Gharira and El Zawatna villages), by increase the amount of revolving loan, in two villages to start with 6000 Egyptian pounds. and end up with 15,000 Egyptian pounds.

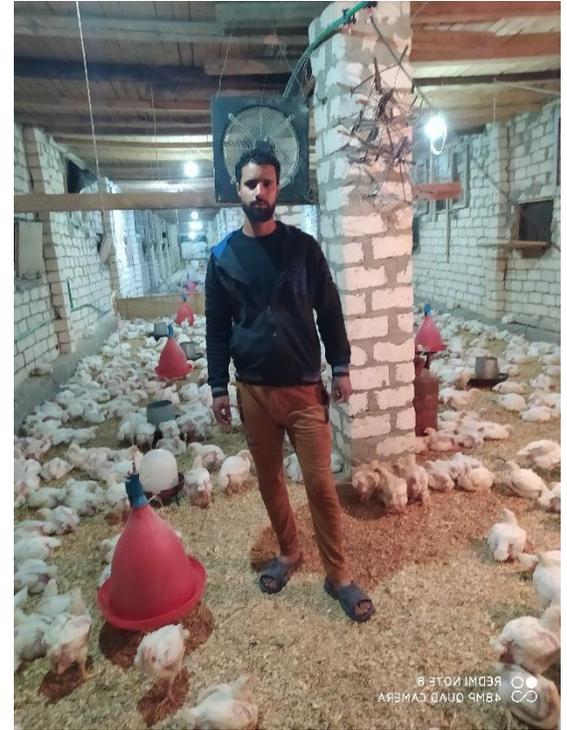
#### **Component adjustments:**

- The component as a respond to the community's high demand, to consider the inflation rate and products high prices, by increase the amount of loans. The component will increase the amount of loan in 2020 work plan, to start with 5000 Egyptian pounds instead of 4000 Egyptian pounds.

## **Success stories:**

### **Capsule of success....**

I am Mr. M.R, I am 28 years old, living in El Zawatna village in Sohag. I am the only responsible for my family. As many of the youth in our village I dreamt of travelling abroad to earn more and guarantee better life for me and my family. I have no time to waste, I spent all the money I had and borrowed more money from relatives and friends in taking visa for travelling abroad. After having many debts, I managed to travel to Kuwait, after arrival there, I discovered that there is something wrong in my papers, they refused my entry and I was obligated to return back home. This moment was the worst ever, Am I in reality or nightmare!! Have I really lost all my money (120,000 L.E)!! How shall I will repay what I have borrowed!! What I will tell to my family!! Life blackened in my eyes and I was depressed. I returned back. My friends insisted that I have to go out of home and start again regardless the loss. I was invited to attend one of economic component's seminars where I knew that there are loans to startup microeconomic project. In my deep mind I was hesitant, reluctant and afraid of loss. I went to the fieldworker and told her that I want to apply for a loan but please keep it secret because I am ashamed of myself. After making the procedures of loans. I bought 500 hens as I had experience in poultry bringing up and marketing. I turned all the energy inside me to a motive for work and success. During managing the project and calculating my expenditures and revenues. I found that I am achieving success and making good profits. My project is improving, I am successful, I was able to do it. Now, I have a big farm for hens, I opened a small shop to provide veterinary treatment for hens and give advices for other farmers regarding poultry upbringing. I supported other youth to work with me so that we can maximize our productivity. And I always give them this capsule of success: *"Bright brain+ determination+ planning+ small loan= successful project"*



*Mr. M.R in his farm*

## 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 indicators as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 73,920 beneficiaries attended the seminars and the health awareness classes</li> <li>• 70% of the beneficiaries have medium level of awareness of the healthy habits and practices</li> <li>• 40% of the beneficiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 50% have poor level of awareness, 24% have medium level and 26% have high level of awareness</li> <li>• 65% of the beneficiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36,130 beneficiaries attended the seminars and the health awareness classes</li> <li>• 14% have poor level of awareness, 24% have medium level and 62% have high level of awareness</li> <li>• 14% of the beneficiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 123 Seminars</li> <li>• 80 Health awareness classes</li> <li>• 5750 Home visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 123 Seminars. (attended by 1,269 men / 10,865 women)</li> <li>• 81 Health awareness classes. (attended by 104 men and 1552 women)</li> <li>• 6059 Home visits</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		adopted medium level of the healthy habits and practices	adopted poor healthy habits, 32% adopted medium level of healthy habits and 3% of them adopted advanced level of health habits and practices	adopted poor healthy habits, 27.5% adopted medium level of healthy habits and 58.5% 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"> <li>• 528 campaigns</li> <li>• 13500 beneficiaries benefited from the campaigns</li> <li>• Number of beneficiary discovered their infection of the disease and were directed to the treatment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 247 campaigns</li> <li>• 42,797 beneficiaries benefited from the campaigns</li> <li>• 2,853 beneficiary discovered their infection of the disease and were directed to the treatment (832 have virus c, 1,723 have optical issues, 257 have breast cancer and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 154 Campaigns</li> <li>• 39 virus C campaign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 141 Campaigns (attended by 8,095 men, 19,188 women and 360 children)</li> <li>• 39 virus C campaigns (attended by 7,501 men and 12,173 women)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of the infected people will get treatment after campaigns (if possible)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<p>41 have cervical tumors)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% of the infected people got treatment after campaigns (465 from virus c campaigns, 1,374 from blindness campaigns, 119 from breast cancer campaigns, and 8 from cervix tumors campaigns) (the component is following up with the other infected people to get treatment.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Blindness campaign</li> <li>41 breast cancer campaign</li> <li>34 Cervix diseases campaign</li> <li>72 Mobile Clinics</li> <li>Establishing a clinic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36 Blindness campaigns (attended by 594 men, 2,232 women and 360 children)</li> <li>38 Breast cancer campaign (attended by 3,489 women)</li> <li>28 Cervix diseases campaign (attended by 1,294 women)</li> <li>68 Mobile Clinics. (attended by 1481 men / 4442 women/ 1826 children)</li> <li>Established clinic in South Upper Egypt</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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 lives and their newborns lives	Decrease mother's and infant mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of 15480 women are aware of the importance of prenatal care</li> <li>15,480 women use family planning methods</li> <li>80% of 2,280 women give birth under medical supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53% of 4678 women have low level of awareness, 37% have medium level of awareness and only 10% have high level of awareness</li> <li>2,105 women used the family planning methods</li> <li>25% of 634 women gave birth under medical supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18% have low level of awareness, 24% have medium level of awareness and 58% have high level of awareness</li> <li>7,591 women use family planning methods</li> <li>50% of 2,891 women gave birth under medical supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Family planning seminars</li> <li>39 Pregnant classes</li> <li>5750 Home visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Family planning seminars. (attended by 46 men, 3,374 women)</li> <li>34 Pregnant classes. (attended by 611 women)</li> <li>6260 Home visits</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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"> <li>3000 children with healthy nutrition indicators as a result of the nutrition classes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>564 aren't meeting the normal standard of nutrition, 250 meet average standard and 110 meet the healthy standard of nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,460 children met the healthy nutrition indicator, BLESS is following up with 275 of the children who has poor nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Nutrition Classes</li> <li>5760 Home visits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 Nutrition Classes. (attended by 544 women, 811 children)</li> <li>6159 Home visits</li> </ul>
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"> <li>450 beneficiaries got the Egyptian Red Crescent certificate or BLESS certificate</li> <li>360 beneficiaries can provide primary health services to their community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>269 beneficiaries got the Egyptian Red Crescent certificate</li> <li>181 beneficiaries can provide primary health services to their community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 First aid trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 First aid trainings (attended by 24 men and 91 women)</li> </ul>

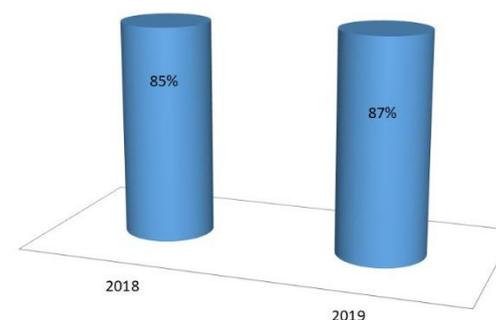
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300 trained local cadres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>290 trained local cadres from the health committee members and the fieldworkers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 Trainings. (attended by 45 men / 215 women)</li> </ul>

## Key Achievements:

Egypt's vision 2030, the social dimension the sixth pillar aims that, "All Egyptians enjoy a healthy, safe, and secure life ... through improving health conditions through early intervention, and preventive coverage. Ensuring protection for the vulnerable", this pillar is pretty much articulate what BLESS contribute to do from several decades till now for targeted communities

- Women are now keeping their annual follow-up appointments, in government hospitals because of getting use to have frequent visits to health units or a doctor after raising awareness.
- Adopting healthy habits, the component succeeded to simplify the health information, so that whenever you go in the targeted communities you will meet simple mother talk about their newly adapted nutrition diet, even with the scientific terminology (vitamins, cryohydrates and protein), and share that experience with their family and neighbors.
- Cracking the taboo wall, one of the component's challenge last year, that women were reluctant to participate in early cervical tumors investigations campaigns according to old tradition that women didn't go to gynecologist unless she goes to deliver or she has a problem of having children. That lack of awareness is about to be cracked with the condensed awareness sessions which produced some initiative women who decided to join the campaigns and specially in South upper and Upper Egypt. (Good incident happened that along the investigation procedures women have to be treated from any vaginal infection, as a result of that some women got pregnant after)
- Young voices says "No", one of the required document before getting married, is the medical checkup for bride and groom, in south upper Egypt one of the most traditional regions, according to the tradition, that wasn't happened actually specially for girls, the Health Care Unit used to give them a stamped document without getting any checkup, the young girls in the awareness class become aware of the importance of such early investigation, they refuse to take the stamped document unless they receive the medical checkup.
- Additional value, throughout 2019 the primary health care component put special focus to adopt strong follow-up system, especially for children who has malnutrition indicators, as a result, a lot of cases are discovered and attached with the governmental services. Sparkling point, health campaigns and mobile clinics activities create a common ground for all community inhabitants (Muslim, Christian, men, women), to start join at other activities for different components.
- Beneficiaries are fighting conservative wrong traditions in Upper Egypt, it was declared from one of the beneficiaries in remote village of Aswan governorate that all the families now who have daughters. The elder ones who were at the age of FGM before the ICDP are circumcised. However, the younger ones who were at the age of FGM during spreading the awareness about the dangers of FGM are not circumcised.

Beneficiaries who adopted middle standard of Healthy practices



2018 Targeted beneficiaries was premeasured, Considering their sustainability of adopting healthy practice, 84% still adopt middle healthy standard

- Providing further medical services for beneficiaries after blindness campaigns as 181 surgeries in eyes were made in addition to 761 glasses were provided with affordable prices.

#### **Challenges:**

- Some of the beneficiaries still holding back from investigations because of fear. In one slum of Cairo, a rumor was spread between beneficiaries that the uterus is excised during investigation which maximized the fear inside targeted women. Thus, fieldworkers worked on illustrating the way of investigation and the benefits of early detection to correct the wrong beliefs.
- There was stereotyping in one of the villages in Beheira that those attending who health awareness seminars and classes are only the poor level class, which discourages medium level class even if they are in need for health awareness.
- There is a real difficulty in finding public places in the village to be rent so BLESS can provide services for the whole community which may affect the number of community partners' numbers in attending health awareness seminars and classes.
- Most of the targeted women in pregnant classes were lactating women due to not availability of pregnant women at the same time during pregnant classes.

#### **Lessons learned:**

- Most of the medical units in the villages are not enough equipped or having qualified physicians to serve habitants which hardens providing sustainable health development after BLESS phasing out from the communities. So, trained local cadres working on achieving sustainability is very important. Indeed, in some communities, they started to make deals with GOs, NGOs and private doctors to offer them medical services and health awareness seminars to guarantee the continuing of health development even after BLESS phasing out.

#### **Component Adjustment:**

- There was a challenge encountered in front of the fieldworkers that they were not able to collect 15-20 pregnant women at the same time, to hold the pregnancy classes. So, the component added a new activity to target the pregnant women all over the year, a medical day for pregnant women, which provide awareness sessions and medical check-up at the community health care unit. accordingly, the period of pregnancy classes will minimize to be two months instead of three.

## **Success Stories:**

### **I will imprison you....**

We get used to serve remote villages. But, El-Gharira village gives us another meaning for remote, it's a village in the middle of nowhere in Esna governorate, the main road in the desert, if you call it so, surrounded by barren hills, the weather in winter is around 30 degrees, the whole neighborhood are one flat white cracked bricks buildings covered by Straw trellis, with no services at all. People are dealing with nature to survive.

In the middle of that desert hot weather, the seeds of development started to bloom, Mrs. M is a middle aged women, one of the fighter women in El-Gharira, she told us about her story which summaries the story of development at that village.

My daughter was the first in the village to go to Cairo to be trained as a field worker. By that time no one wanted to send his/her daughter. Although she gets married soon after, she encouraged me to attend health awareness sessions. I learned a lot, but the most lesson I have learned was FGM. I never thought it was harmful for girls, so I made it for all my three elder daughters, but I will never do it for the younger one. In early May I decided to circumcise my son. The doctor came to my house, he told her: "You have a daughter, let's circumcise her as her elder sisters" I refused by telling everything I learned about FGM danger, but he also reminded me about the tradition. The more I insist, the more he calls: "*you are useless mental retarded women*". By then I told him that I'll report him to the authority and put him in jail. The doctor became afraid and went away without a word. I learned that practice is against the law. From that time, I started to raise awareness of other women in the village, as they all are my clients in my hair dresser shop, which I started earlier in my house, with loan from BLESS to support my family. We cannot forget Mrs. M. the woman with smile and sense of humor that is challenging the whole desert together.



*Mrs. M is raising awareness towards FGM*

## 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 as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 900 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 900 active local cadres</li> <li>• 10000 beneficiaries enrolled in literacy classes</li> <li>• 25% of the total number of beneficiaries will get very good, 60% of them will get</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 39% got weak, 30% got pass, 26% got good and 5% got</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 832 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 680 active local cadres</li> <li>• 6876 beneficiaries enrolled at literacy classes</li> <li>• 10% got weak, 34% got pass, 38% got good and 18% got very good</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Cadres training</li> <li>• 2 Trainings for university students</li> <li>• 1 Developed trainer guiding booklet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Cadres training (attended by 52 men /229 women)</li> <li>• The 2 trainings weren't implemented (Explained in the key achievements).</li> <li>• The component started preparing the</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<p>good and 15% will pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5000 beneficiaries got their literacy governmental certificate</li> </ul>	<p>very good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3774 beneficiaries got their literacy governmental certificates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 177 Public meetings about the importance of education</li> <li>• 40 Public meetings about continuing education.</li> <li>• 24 Furnishing literacy classes</li> <li>• 75 literacy classes in ICDP communities in addition to 133 literacy</li> </ul>	<p>material and it will be finished in 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *99 Public meetings (attended by 1363 men / 4348 women)</li> <li>• 31 public meetings (attended by 133 men/ 1324 women)</li> <li>• 27 Furnishing literacy classes</li> <li>• 63 literacy classes ICDP communities in addition to 128 literacy classes on the national level (attended by</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					classes on the national <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 121 Social activities</li> <li>• 4 Rounds of Exams</li> </ul>	511 men / 1837 women) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 109 Social activities (attended by 316 men / 2638 women)</li> <li>• 4 rounds of exams for 135 men and 420 women.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 1500 beneficiaries continued their education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 729 beneficiaries continued their education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39 Continuing education</li> <li>• 24 Established libraries</li> <li>• 7 computer courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 continuing education classes (attended by 64 men and 317 women)</li> <li>• 27 established libraries</li> <li>• This activity wasn't implemented in 2019 (Explained in the challenges)</li> </ul>

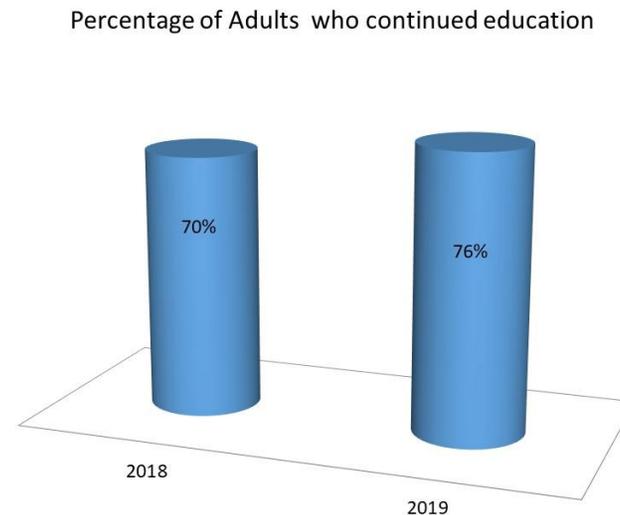
\* Reference of public meetings' number is the components' documents, not from the system.

## **Key achievements:**

BLESS is taking in consideration the seventh pillar of Egypt's vision 2030 education and training, as Egypt is committed to reduce the illiteracy percentage from 28% to 7% by aiming to support the adult illiterate to become more *"proud, creative, responsible, and competitive citizen, who accepts diversity differences, and is proud of his country's history."*

In fact, BLESS is exerting the efforts through adult education component to offer high quality education, along with motivation tools to create an efficient environment for adults. The component considers the most valuable achievement in:

- Generating the sense of broadness and self- esteem in the educated adults, become aware of his/her self needs, and become agent for change in the community. "I used to feel that my mind is a dark room of stubborn thoughts, now I feel it becomes bright" one of the ladies in Awlad Yehia village expressed.
- Educated beneficiaries' ability to deal with the life demands and contact effectively with the community surroundings, such as different GO's services, banks, and local markets as a conscious citizen.
- Enabling adult educated beneficiaries to get job opportunities and have their own projects. women became capable of doing calculations when selling goods to clients, while others managed to write down the names of borrowers.
- Education creates new aspects for social life and family by, changing the perspective of young women towards marriage and selection of their future husbands. "My husband has to respect me and consider my opinion" "preferably educated one", as well as Increasing the family dialogue between husbands, wives and children.
- Gaining writing skills enabled the wives of internal or abroad immigrant husbands to achieve effective communication through social media. Teachers' accumulated skills and experiences, were invested to develop an adult education curriculum for trainers.
- Due to BLESS initiative to train university students to play effective role in illiteracy issue in the community, the current head of the Adult Authority's executive, is investing and widening the scope of such initiative to the national level, by signing a protocol with the majority of Egyptian universities to train university students as illiterate educator's cadres.



### **Challenges encountered:**

- The new protocol with the Authority of Adult Education has less benefits than privileges to get along with the Authority's new strategy, in a way of limiting the teacher's benefits, as well as the location of holding the exam which puts financial and psychological burden on educated adults.
- The unavailability of suitable location for adult computer courses, sometimes houses are used as classrooms.
- Continuing education activity requires local contribution from the educated beneficiaries, sometimes more than what they can afford, considering their income and the other commitments, which led to a lot of withdrawal specially in Upper Egypt.
- In some cases, husbands are complaining about the new arguing attitudes of their educated wives.
- Some beneficiaries have bad experiences regarding adult education as they joined unqualified classes in the past, causing their lack of preference towards Adult education component activities.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Unplanned result for training and developing the skills of adult cadres especially in using problem solving techniques and effective dialogue methods; this was reflected on their own kid's method of study, saving private lessons' money, providing private lessons for students and gaining additional income.
- Motivating beneficiaries to improve their reading and writing skills after receiving the certificate, by designing written and visual competitions to increase learners' experiences, and foster the idea of continuing education.

### **Component adjustments in 2019:**

- Adding new activity; introductory classes to qualify certified adult educators to know the basic subjects, which eases joining preparatory formal education.

### **Success story:**

#### **"A good chance doesn't come twice"**

Walking proudly while holding her "Golden framed certificate", the middle aged married lady, showed us the true meaning of the quote "a good chance doesn't come twice". Fawzia is an Egyptian woman who lives in El-Habaysha village and unfortunately didn't get the chance to receive proper education, due to being the eldest daughter who had to help her mother with housework. Surprisingly, all her siblings are educated except her. Therefore, when she heard about BLESS literacy classes, she didn't think twice to join them. Asking her about the motivation to learn, she



*Fawzia holding her certificate*

answered comfortably and confidently: “I can help my children to have what I couldn’t get”. They can see me now reading, signing documents and visiting my relatives in Cairo by myself. In the past, I used to fear getting lost in strange places. But now I can.” As she continued her speech, Fawzia told us that she is now able to read the Holy Bible and assist her kids with study. But what has led us to become extremely astonished was Fawzia’s next words: “You know? I regularly visit a nutritionist in the central town by myself” “Actually I lost 12 kilograms, I was getting a medical checkup and figured out that I had extra fat over liver. So, I decided to lose weight to have better health”. She ended her words by telling us how she used to speak recklessly and without caring about others, but now she speaks respectfully. Fawzia is a great role model for her children and us, a woman who sticks to the second chance, able to learn in each moment of her life, about herself and society.

**Community Empowerment and Sustainability Component progress report:**

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 500 trained and active volunteers</li> <li>• 20 communities will meet BLESS exiting criteria</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero (however, 80% of them are volunteers in the church but they didn't use to be a volunteer on the community level)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 771 are trained volunteers and 1067 are active volunteers</li> <li>• 7 communities meet BLESS exiting criteria</li> <li>• 421 youth(18-30 years old) who weren't active in community development, have taken a leading role in the development process in their communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Public meetings</li> <li>• 7 Volunteering campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Public meetings (attended by 96 men/ 521 women)</li> <li>• 7 volunteering campaigns (attended by 214 men/ 316 women)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>60% of 45 local committees activate the administrative mechanisms and basic financial procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Capacity building trainings</li> <li>810 Development committee meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Capacity building trainings (attended by 26 men and 50 women)</li> <li>801 Development committee meetings (attended by 317 men / 787 women)</li> <li>1401 technical support hours</li> </ul>
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"> <li>20 communities developed initiatives to handle their problem</li> <li>40 stakeholders or partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>49 communities developed initiatives to handle their problems</li> <li>59 local stakeholders or partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 Local initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>98 local initiatives</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participate in the initiatives</li> <li>100 volunteers participated in the initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>participate in the initiatives</li> <li>204 volunteers participated in the initiatives</li> </ul>		
By the end of 2020, the institutional capacity (technical, financial and administrative) for 12 regional associations would be built in the targeted communities.	Create levels of regional qualified associations and committees to sustain the developmental process after exiting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 trained local associations' members on Documentation financial, administrative and technical mechanisms in each region</li> <li>20 local committees supervised by regional associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 local associations have the knowledge and effectiveness (2 of them work on projects)</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 trained local associations members on Documentation financial, administrative and technical mechanisms in each region and the rest of the associations will join during the period of the project</li> <li>17 local committees supervised by regional associations in Middle Upper Egypt and lower Egypt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Capacity building trainings</li> <li>7 Regional round tables</li> <li>Exiting for 4 communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Capacity building trainings (attended by 11 men and 1 woman)</li> <li>7 Regional round tables (attended by 80 men and 82 women)</li> <li>Exiting for 3 communities</li> </ul>

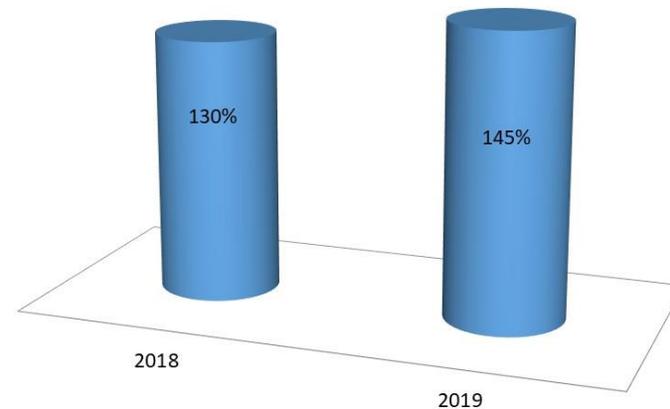
### **Key achievements:**

Egypt's vision 2030 *"Developing the communication mechanisms between the government and citizens"*. BLESS always consider sustainability as a corner stone aspect, to create a community capable of solving its own problems and getting better governmental services through networking with GOs and NGOs. This objective goes in harmony with Egypt's vision 2030, through community empowerment and sustainable development component along with Field community staff and ICDP components, which succeeded to develop a package of interventions, summarized in the following,

- Create changing agent; the component along with the field workers planted the passion of community volunteerism. In each community there is a human task force to accomplish a certain mission or activity, along with conveying the rule of "finding at least one GO or NGO partner to implement an activity". The communities were able to sustain and implement needed activities (awareness sessions, vaccination campaigns) beside reaching basic services and rights, such as, obtaining personal IDs, medical insurance and pensions. Two development committees, in North Upper Egypt region, were able to include community partners as members. This contributed in consolidation of ties between Christians and Muslims, as well as among the village's people especially clergymen. Two others created "Junior committee" from community students to guarantee next generation involvement and sustainability in the community.
- Build local community based initiatives, through strong teamwork trained local committees. Communities were able to sustain and discover needs, come up with appropriate solutions, alternatives, contact local entities and to mobilize community inhabitant's efforts and resources to reach their needs. Throughout 2019, there were 28 local initiatives implemented under the supervision of the component and other 70 initiatives under the leadership of the local committee members.

#### **(Annex 1: Local committees Initiatives)**

Percentage of communities who adopted initiatives



- Build Regional Entities Capacity, to create regional entity and strong relations with Exit committees within region and to facilitate the interaction with GO's and NGO's. Since 2018, the component has worked with eight CBOs, in four regions. Through 2019, it attracted three CBO's in Cairo slum region which created a challenge in 2018. The involved CBOs are varying in: how much they are responding to the trainings and involvement with targeted communities within region,
- **(Annex 3: Regional Community Based organization (CBO'S) Contribution with ICDP community in 2019)**. Generally, we consider three CBOs which indicate a progressive action towards enhancing Exit communities (2 in North Upper Egypt, and one in South Upper Egypt), one in Delta but it works within community not at region level.
- ICDP components sustainability; although Empowerment and sustainability is the main actor for sustainability in communities, each component is a stick holder in that process. In 2019, three new components achieved gradual progress towards sustaining their intervention after exit, (Unleashing the potential of new generations, Environmental Development, Rural Development), in addition to the previous ones (Economic Development, Primary Health Care, and Community Empowerment and Sustainability).
- Post Exit follow up, the component made a good contact and follow up with exit communities in 2017 and 2018. Communities are still running development work. **(Annex 2: Sustainability situation in Exit villages 2017-2018)**.

#### **Challenges encountered:**

- The unavailability of nominated CBOs in South Upper Egypt region to foster the idea of sustainability and community empowerment, due to the church leader's opposition and negative experiences of dealing with CBOs before. This results in lack of networks with local councils and other associations.
- Lack of men volunteers' numbers, due to being busy in work or study.

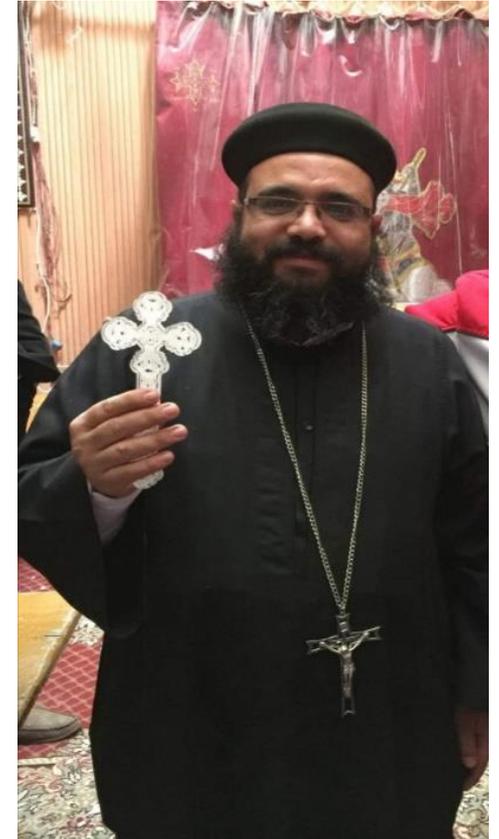
#### **Lessons learned:**

- The component is creating accumulated experience about dealing with each CBO as well as evaluating the whole situation in each region.
- Presence of development committee members, who have strong connections with GOs and NGOs in villages, contributes in the ease implementation of activities, elimination of obstacles and sustainability guarantee.
- Adopting a good documentation system within local committee meetings, creates a good level of transparency and democracy.
- Involving all community partners in development works motivates the whole society towards sustainability. (within communities who has a suitable context and open minded religious leaders from both sides)

## **Success story:**

### **“Source of light”**

“It was like the pool of Bethesda’s paralyzed man”. This was the situation in Al- Hallaqi; one of the villages which considered as a challenge for BLESS because of the unsuccessful experience of its intervention in the neighboring villages. Al- Hallaqi, is a poor village in Middle Upper Egypt region, where there isn’t any true leader who has the ability to change this social stagnation. The village was a repellent source for youth who resorted to internal migration to get jobs. This caused many problems, especially for women and children who didn’t have the chance to enjoy some quality time with their fathers. The most common type of agriculture was seasonal and practiced by old people only. Al- Hallaqi also used to suffer from FGM and minors’ marriage. The majority of families were living in very poor conditions and used to depend on the church’s subsidies. Out of this darkness, a source of light emerged. Father Mikhaeel Thabet was a true believer of comprehensive development. He wasn’t satisfied with what Al- Hallaqi was going through. That’s why his enthusiasm and determination motivated him to form leaders of the people’s village and networks with important organizations. He managed to reach an agreement with Catholic and Protestant priests about disapproving any minor marriage cases and reporting any violation. This resulted in the decrease of minor marriage’s numbers. His emphasis on the disadvantages resulted from FGM during holy masses and rites of baptism, led to the disappearance of this hideous habit. Another achievement was encouraging discussions between spouses, after opening an entertaining club in the church. “There were about 70 poor families who depended on the church to receive money, but now reduced to 20 only through generating microeconomic projects” as spoken by Father Mikhaeel. He succeeded in spreading awareness regarding importance of equality between sons and daughters in bequeathing lands. By changing the type of agriculture from seasonal into annual, he managed to solve the problem of youth’s internal migration. So, instead of planting crops that don’t need continuous care like wheat, he convinced farmers to plant crops which require daily watering such as vegetables. This contributed in offering job opportunities to sell harvest in Tema and Nagaa Hammadi regions. Father Mikhaeel ends his speech by saying: “I wish there were an association in Al-Hallaqi to become a source of fund and a development office to spread the idea of development to all the near villages.” This is the kind of local cadres BLESS aspires for reaching through the component’s trainings; a cadre who could be a symbol of sustainable development and a source of light to others.



*Father Mikhaeel; the champion of El-Hallaqi village*

## 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%)
  - good (61-70%)
  - excellent (84-100%)
  - pass (50-60%)
  - very good (71-84%)
- The ranking of the tutoring classes according to the component criteria:
  - weak (can't recognize the letters and the numbers)
  - 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)

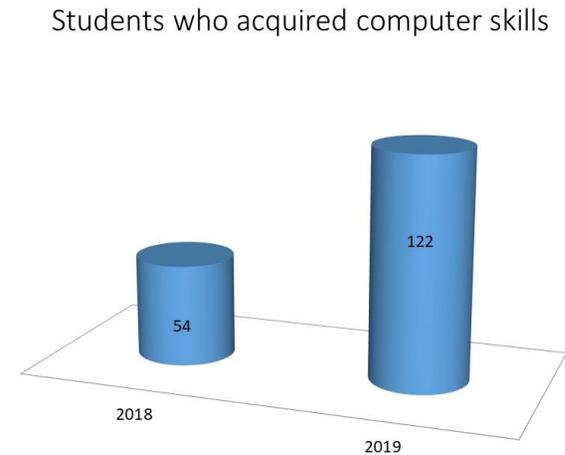
The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the level of education for 4500 students in compulsory education (primary and preparatory) would be improved in 15 target communities of	Reducing the phenomenon of illiterate learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,500 students enrolled in the support classes</li> <li>• 75% of the targeted students would improve their education levels by getting 70 % in the formal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 10% of the students got weak grades, 37% got pass, 25% got good and 28%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,295 students enrolled in the support classes</li> <li>• 9% of the students got weak, 20% got pass grades, 30% got good, 26% got very good, and 15% got excellent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 66 Support classes in 15 communities</li> <li>• 2 Teachers Trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 Support classes in 13 communities (attended by 1,060 children)</li> <li>• 2 Teachers Trainings. (attended by 46 men / 38 women)</li> </ul>

The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
the Integrated Program for Community Development to qualify them to improve their reading and writing skills and pass their school tests by at least 75%.		<p>governmental exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>225 trained local cadres for support and tutoring classes</li> </ul>	<p>got very good Zero</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>248 trained local cadres (48 teachers of support classes and 75 teachers for tutoring classes)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a curriculum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The curriculum was developed and is distributed to the tutoring classes</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>720 enrolled students in the tutoring classes</li> <li>75 % of children have improved their reading and writing skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>24% of the students got weak, 28% got pass, 27% got good and 21% got very good</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,952 enrolled students in the tutoring classes</li> <li>7% of the students got weak, 20.5% got pass, 31.5% got good, 24.5% got very good and 16.5 got excellent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 Tutoring classes in 15 communities</li> <li>Establishing a library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64 Tutoring classes in 15 communities (attended by 751 children)</li> <li>1 Established library</li> </ul>
	Acquisition the skills of dealing with computer applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>180 students participated in computer courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>201 students participated in computer courses</li> <li>176 children gained the basic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 computer laboratories</li> <li>5 computer courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 computer laboratories</li> </ul>

The objective	The outcome	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>180 children gained the basic computer skills</li> <li>450 researches and presentations made by the students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint and surfing internet)</li> <li>156 researches and presentations made by 277 students as a result of the library and computer lab activities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 computer courses (for 147 children)</li> </ul>
	Increasing the beneficiaries' self-confidence and the ability to integrate in the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4500 Student participate in social activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,297 Student participate in social activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 Social activities in 14 communities</li> <li>14 trips in 14 communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 Social activities in 14 communities (attended by 744 children)</li> <li>14 trips in 14 communities (attended by 848 children)</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

- Computer courses are the real success the component achieved this year. There is a real progress in the computer skills that children gained during this year. 147 children from different communities were able to surf internet, make researches in different topics; space, insects, plants. Then, presenting them on PowerPoint in front of their teachers and friends with confident and joy of learning. Children walked a mile further and started to use computer (PowerPoint and word apps) in their social activities as parties and celebrations. This year, children in the targeted communities opened a new window towards the entire world, opened a window towards innovation and technology. (Ninth goal in SDGs: Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants).
- The students' level of education was raised through joining tutoring classes. Students started to love writing, reading and calculating after learning with easy and creative ways. It was quoted from one of the parents: "Our children were waiting for summer days to learn and play in the coaching classes."
- As support classes fostered education offered for children in Upper Egypt and slum communities, initiatives were implemented in some communities to support students without BLESS contribution but under its supervision. In one of Cairo slums, a volunteer gathered labored children in a group called "Be the best", encouraged them to be educated, taught them and fought for enrolling them in schools. This made a huge difference in those children's lives and assisted in shaping better life for them. In addition, more support classes for additional primary and preparatory stages are opened in some communities by beneficiaries' contributions.



### **Challenges:**

- There was a need for developing a curriculum for students in tutoring classes to follow up with the teachers, component started to make deals with other NGO to develop this but it did not end successfully. The staff overcame this challenge by designing their own curriculum and it will be published by 2020.
- Because of the component budget adjustment, the activity of libraries was paused till providing sufficient budget so it is a subject of fund to complete the great change that happened through this activity, especially in villages with week internet access.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Making networks with non-Christian teachers encouraged non-Christian students to be enrolled so BLESS can be able to serve the whole community. Making trainings for teachers in neutral places encourage non-Christians.
- BLESS provides support classes with affordable local contribution, which gave impression for some beneficiaries that the teachers in these classes are not qualified. Despite of private lessons is a burden on the parents. The component gets used that the first term in a community is the minimum number of student participating, until parents learn it's totally different education methods.

### **Component adjustments:**

- According to the high demand for the component interventions, and considering the poor educational level of pupils in upper Egypt, BLESS is aiming to widen the scope of coaching classes to more than 15 ICDP communities in 2020.

### **Success story:**

#### **I want you to hear, excel and live.**

Getting informed that your child can't hear, can turn a parent's world upside down. Philomena is a deaf born girl. Her family believed that early intervention can contribute in her progress. So they took decision of conducting cochlear implant surgery when she was 2 years old. They were told by her doctor that she will start talking after at least two years. So, while applying for school, she was not able to talk properly or even hold the pencil to write. Her mother did not give up; she began to support her just as Edison's mother who was believing in her son regardless any circumstances. When Philomena's mother was informed about BLESS support classes, she did not hesitate to enroll her. At first, Philomena faced difficulty in keeping up with her teachers and colleagues. Few months later, Philomena proved that disability is not a burden towards progress. She excels her colleagues in same conditions. Now, she can interact with the surrounding environment, memorize Arabic and English letters, can form Arabic and English words in addition to formulating simple mathematical calculations. The combination of early intervention and the tremendous support of Philomena's mother and BLESS has allowed her to move a further step towards her cure and to learn without burdens.



*Philomina studying with her colleagues*

## Unleashing the Potentials of the new Generation Component progress report:

\*This component was activated in 26 communities

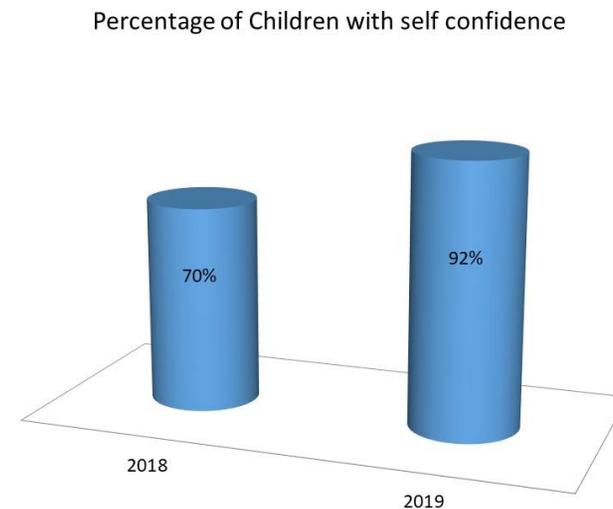
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, 2400 children (2-18 years) would be able to be raised, enjoy their childhood, discover and develop their skills through interactive 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"> <li>• 500 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 80% of the targeted children gain self-confidence</li> <li>• 70% of the targeted children can express themselves</li> <li>• 70% children participate in activities with all categories of society (males and females, Christians and Muslims)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 20%</li> <li>• 40%</li> <li>• 18%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 366 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 81% of the targeted children have self-confident</li> <li>• 71% of the targeted children can express themselves</li> <li>• 71% children participate in activities with all categories of society (males and females, Christians and Muslims)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Trainings for talent school teachers</li> <li>• 25 Talent school</li> <li>• 2 Trainings for summer school teachers</li> <li>• 10 Summer school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Trainings for talent school teachers. (attended by 25 men / 78 women). A basic training for 11 talent schools and an advanced one for 14 talent schools which were activated last year.</li> <li>• 23 Talent school (attended by 1,979 children)</li> <li>• 2 Trainings for summer school teachers (attended by 9 men and 56 women)</li> <li>• 20 Summer school for 2,206 children</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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"> <li>• 350 adolescents participated in the adolescents' course "your heart is yours"</li> <li>• 80% of adolescents participating in the course can express themselves</li> <li>• 70% of adolescents have self confidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 20%</li> <li>• 13%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 224 adolescents participated in the adolescents' course "your heart is yours"</li> <li>• 80% of adolescents participating in the course can express themselves</li> <li>• 76% of adolescents have self confidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Your heart is yours course "adolescent's course"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Your heart is yours course "adolescent's course" (attended by 153 children)</li> </ul>
By the end of 2020, the institutional and technical capacity of 54 nurseries in the targeted communities would be built to the extent that they would provide a suitable environment for building the children physically, mentally and	Creating a safe environment adopting interactive methods to build the child capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54 nurseries will be established or developed in according to the component specifications (36 nurseries will be establish, and 18 will be developed)</li> <li>• 35 nurseries will be committed by the component methodology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 nurseries established or developed according to the component criteria and specifications</li> <li>• 27 nurseries were committed by the component methodology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Established nurseries</li> <li>• 2 nurseries teachers' trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Established nurseries (382 enrolled children), 8 developed nurseries (466 enrolled children due to receiving extra fund for them.</li> <li>• 3 nurseries teachers' training (attended by 65 women about: - the psychology</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
educationally.					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 123 Medical Care including Medical follow ups and laboratories investigations</li> <li>• 172 Periodic nutrition supplies for Nursery children</li> </ul>	<p>of the child and how to deal with each stage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Montessori methodology</li> <li>- the daily program of the nursery</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111 times for medical services for 1,352 benefited children</li> <li>• 156 times for average 1,434 children</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 1500 parents attended the courses</li> <li>• 70% of knowledge was gained by the parents</li> <li>• 75% of parents apply positive parental education methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 25%</li> <li>• 26%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,829 parents attended the courses</li> <li>• 73% of knowledge was gained by the parents</li> <li>• 70% of parents apply positive parental education methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 99 Parent Meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 89 Parent Meetings (attended by 21 men and 1,128 women)</li> </ul>

## Key achievements:

- In accordance with the social pillar of Egypt's vision 2030, which aims for *"respecting diversity and differences. Enabling citizens to access knowledge, building their capacity to interact with modern developments"*, Unleashing the potentials of new generations was able in 2019 to bring up new generations on the basis of accepting differences and interacting with diversities.
- Talent school "the kite"; has two wings to fly towards civilized future as ancient Egyptians' history,
  - First wing, is accepting diversities; Children's mindset became more open to interact and play in teams regardless any differences. For example, one of the villages schools, there were two water taps: one for Muslim students and another for Christians. It was impossible to change this tradition, but after playing and learning together in talent school, children didn't care from which tap they will drink. They started to think more objectively; there are more common grounds rather than meaningless taboos.
  - Second wing, is discovering children's talents; children surfing internet, made inventions using cartoons (safe case, cage for dog, washing machine), sang, acted, drew and recited poems. Many of the children declared that talent school was a way to spread the world with beauty and prosperity.
- Nurseries are not only for learning alphabetical letters and numbers. They deliver other practical lessons in child's life such as: commitment, respect rules and timing since day one. Also develop children cognitive skills, as children explore the world and use their hands in Montessori projects and motion (play, express passion), they live rich childhood.
- The component succeeded in adopting sustainable strategy with gradual withdrawal, for the 14 talent schools that were activated in 2018, by, provide periodic technical support sessions, advanced training for talent schools facilitators, and partial financial support to cover snack break for children. The facilitators salary was totally covered by beneficiary's contribution.
- "Your heart is yours" course is implemented for the first time in Upper Egypt regions, after achieving success in Cairo Slums 2018. Such success can be witnessed in the number of adolescents who tried to change their attitudes and saved the course's messages on their phones and rooms' walls. This sentence was kept on one of the beneficiaries' phone: "all my feelings are natural whether it is positive or negative, I can express them without hurting myself or anyone else."



### **Challenges encountered:**

- There are security issues that took place in two villages which led to stopping the activities there.
- The high percentage of turnovers for nurseries' teachers because of the low salaries provided to them by dioceses. BLESS is trying to sign a protocol with Bishops to improve their salaries standards. Despite such a process is not common between Bishops and BLESS. BLESS is still reinforcing the idea.
- One of the communities (Awlad Ghareeb) allocated unprepared a basement to be the nursery, and that's not acceptable according to the component specification, as that could harm the children health, so component postponed the furniture and the activities until making better arrangement for hosting the children.

### **Lessons learned:**

- T.O.T training is provided to the component's staff to enable them to provide "Your heart is yours" course instead of external trainers. This was more effective and cost efficient.
- An integration between peace building component and unleashing the potentials of new generations component to expand the scope of benefit in targeted communities and develop appropriate curriculum for parents' meetings activity due to the real need.
- Parents' priority is to teach their children only reading and writing skills in nurseries. However, the nurseries' teachers are raising the parents' awareness about focusing on additional life skills.

### **Success Story:**

#### **David the mighty...**

Two hours from Assiut Station across along with the old eastern road, across the villages and fields cemeteries, faced by Assiut mountain, which embrace El-Habaysha village. The village church a cement walls and roof under construction but clean organized, all community members enter it with reverence. The main aim of our team to find examples of success walking on the ground. We meet almost all committee members talk about their success, until we met Ms. Marian the talent School facilitator and asked her what change is made by that course, at once answered meet David, a boy no one can be safe from his hand or tongue, he surprised us all by all the massive talent we discovered.

David, about 11 years old thin boy, stable as a mountain. Asking him friendly about what if one of the children hits or beat you?" Nobody can beat me" interrupted David, yes I'm changed, I'm no longer feel easily anger as used to be, as I used to hit, annoy, insult my colleagues in the school, neighborhood, even grownup men and teachers, but still nobody can beat or hurt me, if annoying action happened, I'll warn him or her twice explain what bothering me but I can defend myself.



*David holding his handcrafts*

What makes that change, the talent school, it wasn't easy to agree to join, my mother tried to convince me, as her last hope to become different, she used to make that tries from now and then, like join me in clergy to encourage me to be good church boy, but I used to runaway to play with my gang in the street. That time when she told me about the talent school, I said to myself I'll go once and runaway, but I didn't. The teachers respect me, asked me to design a house dog for creative show, they involve me to act in David play as king David k I made the crown, sword, and the gown by myself with Cartoon. They taught me a song about how valuable am I, and how to make borders, and control my angry, all that with soft, kind, firm way. I can't run away and I changed.

We can't say a ward, valuable each effort from Unleashing Generations team effort to train talent school's facilitator, consider each facilitator who has that impact in each child, faith of mother's praying and trials for her children to become better. We all feel blessed to meet such wonderful young boy "The Mighty David".

**Youth Development Component progress report:**

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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 ICDP.	Youth play an active role in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 204 active youth in their communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 145 active youth in their communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Seminars</li> <li>• 2 Art workshops (Graphics, directing, drawing with oil pastels, origami acting and decor)</li> <li>• 1 Course of leadership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 seminars attended by 394 men and 696 women. In addition to a course about creative methods for presentations was given for the youth as there was a big need for this (attended by 10 men and 15 women)</li> <li>• 2 Art workshops on drawing with oil pastels, acting and decor (attended by 4 men and 2 women)</li> <li>• 1 specified course of leadership for 15 men and 20 women in addition</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
						to specialized Technical trainings attended by 494 enrolled volunteers and 203 newly volunteers.

\*The Youth Development component has a cross-cutting features implemented by ICDP components such as: Economic Development component (seminars), Peacebuilding component (public meetings for young men), Community empowerment and sustainability component (local initiatives) and Health component (health awareness classes for young men and women).

### **Key achievements:**

- The eighth pillar of Egypt’s vision 2030, it is stated: *“Enabling citizens to access knowledge, building their capacity to interact with modern developments, while recognizing their history and cultural heritage. Giving them the wisdom of freedom of choice and of cultural creativity. Adding value to the national economy, representing Egypt’s soft power at regional and international levels”*. Contributing to the national aim, BLESS support youth and participate in building their capacities as following:
- Agents of change; with the cooperation of community empowerment and sustainability, 98 initiatives were leaded and implemented by youth’s hands in the targeted communities, aiming for better future for their communities in particular and Egypt in general.
- In cooperation with the Bishopric of Youth, representatives from ICDP villages and participated in “Creativity light” festival that is organized by and for youth to invest talents through acting, singing and leading.

### **Challenges encountered:**

- Decreased number of young men in villages due to travelling outside for working. There is a need for leaders from both genders (not only young women) in the targeted communities.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Social media is the generation’s language, the component started to using It, to attract youth is a very good method and achieves good results.
- After implementing youth activities, it was found that there are more efficient and led to effective communications that address youth directly as competitions.



*Youth drawing after art workshops*

**Community Peace Building Component progress report:**

\*This component was activated in 13 communities

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 2000 students are aware of peaceful livelihood principles</li> <li>• 72 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 4000 students participated in the awareness sessions (male and female, Muslims and Christians)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50%</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 936 are aware of peaceful livelihood principles</li> <li>• 95 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 1,219 students participated in the awareness sessions (male and female, Muslims and Christians)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 Awareness campaigns in schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Awareness campaigns in schools (attended by 210 children) (According to the available fund this activity will be implemented in one village till now)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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"> <li>• 720 women participated in women’s club</li> <li>• 10,000 men and women attending seminars</li> <li>• 720 women who can deal positively with the upbringing issues in their families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 80</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,684 women participated in women’s club</li> <li>• 13,536 men and women attending seminars</li> <li>• 510 women who can deal positively with the upbringing issues in their families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 Women's club established</li> <li>• 180 sessions for interactive activities</li> <li>• 39 Seminars about reproductive health</li> <li>• 30 positive parental courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 Women's club established (for 1486 women)</li> <li>• 136 sessions for interactive activities for 1486 women</li> <li>• 37 Seminars about reproductive health attended by 44 men and 1,141 women)</li> <li>• 27 Positive parental courses. (attended by 18 men and 381 women)</li> </ul>

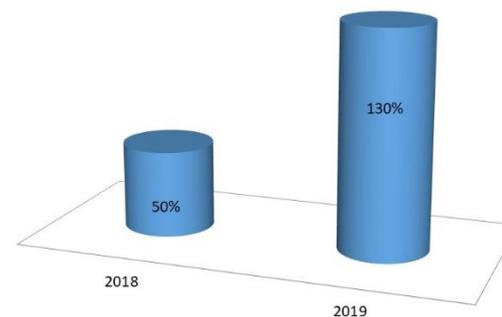
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 Public meetings for young men</li> <li>• 6 Workshops for religious leaders about reproductive health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 54 Public meetings for young men attended by 1688 men)</li> <li>• 5 Workshops for religious leaders about reproductive health attended by 128 men.</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

Egypt includes social justice as the fifth pillar in its vision 2030 “A society that provides protection, and support to marginalized and vulnerable groups”. Community peace building component targeted women as a vulnerable group who need to have control over their bodies and lives. additional to Gender crosscutting approach BLESS contribute to combat violence against women and children through Peace Building component, which succeeded to achieve the follow:

- Increase women use of contraceptives, in Upper Egypt villages due to raising awareness through women’s club. Women started to decide how many children they will deliver commensurate with their life conditions.
- Develop targeted women awareness and skills, to adopt many peaceful strategies to overcome domestic verbal and physical violence, as well as men and women became aware of the Psychological differences between each other.
- Reducing the rate and level of violence against children “Listening and controlling anger are the solutions for many family disputes”. This was quoted by various beneficiaries after attending positive parental classes.
- Economic women empowerment, in cooperation with Environment component and economic component, participants in “women’s club” applied what they learnt during recycling classes, and 25 of them started up their microfinance recycling projects, which increased their income and self-confidence.
- Create unity and common ground between Muslim and Christian religious leaders, against women and children violence, through discussion and mutual respect for each side ethnic background.

Percentage of women who can deal positively with the upbringing issues in their families



### **Challenges encountered:**

- In spite of the good result of student awareness campaigns, to increase peaceful channels and accept each other, budget adjustment, allow its implementation in only one community. BLESS considered as a subject of fund.

- Stereotyping to RH, GBV and sexual topics is deeply found and inherited through generations in Upper Egypt societies (e.g. It is normal for women to be hit by their husbands, having a lot of children is pride, beating children is an important method of their bringing up, sexual topics are very sensitive to be publicly discussed).

### **Lessons learned:**

- During follow up visits, it was observed that there is a need for widening the scope of community peace building component to reach more beneficiaries because of the high percentages of family problems and violence against women.
- Conducting family planning seminars in the medical units activates their role in communities.
- Religion is an important aspect in Egyptian’s life hence, eliminating FGM, GBV through religious leaders achieves better results and convinces beneficiaries.

### **Success story:**

#### **Saying “No” is power.**

Mrs. M.N is a 28 married woman residing in a small house with her husband’s family including in laws, in El-Yasmeen village, Beni-suef governorate. Unlike most women at her age, she is not happy in her marital life. All the time is wasted in quarrels and fighting with her in laws, to the extent that they may hit her. She feels threatened; describing her life: *“I do not feel safe”*. Mrs. M.N though that being independent that will bring her safety. So, she tried to open a microeconomic project at home but, her in laws refused telling her that it is not your house to do such business. She did not give up, established her project and started to improve her family’s economic standard. After deep thinking, Mrs. M.N found that independence is not the only solution. However, uniting and caring for her family wisely is the further mile that she must go for. Hence, she joined women’s club and started applying what she learnt there. Mrs. M.N became strong and calm enough to control her anger especially after noticing her child suffering from Enuresis (bed-wetting). She asked



*Mrs. M.N with her kid*

experts in women's club and was advised her, to observe the relation between fighting with her husband and this incident. Indeed, her child was psychologically affected by these fights as fear expressions appeared on his face and body. Motherhood urged her to provide safe environment for her children. Starting from this point, she was empowered to say no for fights in front of her children, say no for escalating small issues.

Saying no for instability, hatred and moodiness, protected her family from worse consequences. Mrs. M.N is persistent in restoring dignity, putting healthy limits with her in laws, experiencing better life with her husband and taking decision in providing safe environment for her children. She is smart to do a positive action not a negative reaction towards the violence she exposed to.

## Rural Development component progress report:

\*This component was activated in 20 communities

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 180 trained local cadre</li> <li>• 125 local community leaders participated in implementing the component plan</li> <li>• 10 rural initiatives implemented by local community leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 115 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 87 local community leaders participated in implementing the component plan</li> <li>• 47 rural initiatives implemented by local community leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Basic training for volunteers</li> <li>• 2 Specialized trainings for farmers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Basic training for volunteers about cultivation of summer fodder, wheat diseases and signs of maturity, health care for livestock, and teaching them some food industries. (attended by 33 men and 1 woman).</li> <li>• 2 Specialized trainings for farmers (attended by 51 men and 6 women)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 1000 farmer attended the agricultural</li> <li>• 400 farmers increased their productivity of agricultural crops by 10%</li> <li>• 400 farmers are able to maintain their livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1238 farmers attended the agricultural crops and animal nutrition awareness sessions</li> <li>• 675 farmers increased the productivity of agricultural crops (wheat, corn, chickpeas, sugar cane and bananas) by average 11.2%</li> <li>• 1,948 farmers are able to maintain their livestock for 8,737 cattle and 13,177 poultry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 108 Agricultural seminars</li> <li>• 108 Animal nutrition seminars</li> <li>• 74 Field visits</li> <li>• 7 Pilot fields</li> <li>• 5 Agricultural services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 108 Agricultural seminars (attended by 7135 beneficiaries;1469 men/5666 women)</li> <li>• 108 Animal nutrition seminars (attended by 7,847 beneficiaries; 1,559 men/6,288 women)</li> <li>• 74 Field visits (attended by 734 men/4 women)</li> <li>• 7 Pilot fields</li> <li>• 5 Agricultural service (grain crusher machine, seed driller, providing seeds)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Veterinary services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>and vital fertilizers)</li> <li>3 Veterinary services for 3,843 livestock owned by 909 farmers</li> </ul>
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"> <li>2,160 farmers attended the agricultural waste recycling sessions</li> <li>200 farmers adopted eco-friendly techniques</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,071 farmers attended the agricultural waste recycling sessions</li> <li>609 farmers adopted eco-friendly techniques through composting(55 models), recycling wastes (22 models) and rationalizing the fertilizers and pesticides (532 models).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Agri-Recycling awareness seminars</li> <li>6 Waste recycling models</li> <li>6 Compost model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Agri-Recycling awareness seminars (attended by 2,866 beneficiaries; 616 men and 2,250 women)</li> <li>6 Waste recycling models (attended by 119 men and 22 women)</li> <li>6 Compost model (attended by 119 men and 22 woman)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>1080 women attended the seminars</li> <li>162 women established their own projects</li> <li>240 Women applied the food industries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1014 women attended the seminars</li> <li>47 women established their own projects</li> <li>909 Women applied the food industries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86 Food industries seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86 Food industries seminars (attended by 6,335 beneficiaries;349 men/5,986 women)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>20 farmer members in each correlation (network)</li> <li>6-9 correlations</li> <li>15-20 opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average of 18 farmer members in each correlation</li> <li>6 correlations in Samsoum, Habaysha, Kafr lebs, Shanayna, Yasmine and Galila villages</li> <li>19 opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Importance of correlations and products additional value seminars</li> <li>4 models of Providing farmers with agricultural and animal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>37 Importance of correlations seminars (attended by 2804 beneficiaries;635 men/ 2169 women)</li> <li>4 models of Providing farmers with agricultural and animal needs with reasonable</li> </ul>

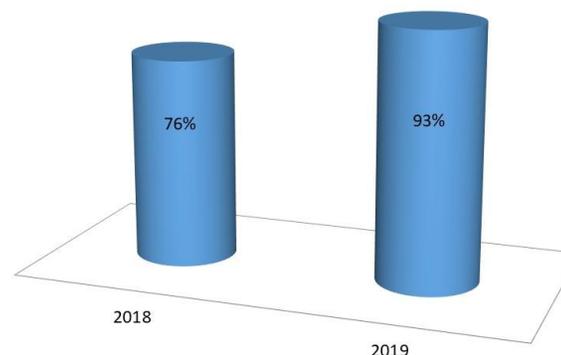
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		created by the correlations		created by the correlations the first was about fair marketing, buying seeds and fertilizers with reasonable prices.	needs with reasonable price <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 rural clubs</li> <li>• 4 cultural libraries</li> </ul>	price through the farmers' correlations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 rural clubs</li> <li>• 4 cultural libraries</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

Agriculture is considered as one of the main pillars on which Egypt's economy depends. Thus, the government is looking forward to modernizing agricultural practices, developing agricultural areas and supporting agro- industry, through its vision 2030, to “*ensure the developmental value of knowledge and innovation.....to face challenges and meet national objectives*”. That's how BLESS, through rural development component, updates farmers' knowledge and skills in villages, to adopt productive, environment safe methods and techniques, offering a prosper life for farmers through,

- Farmer correlations in progress, 2019 witnessed the first sparkle of unity and take collective actions, for example,
  - Adopting a mini model of contract marketing; farmers began to select a member of the correlation to be responsible to deal with wholesalers. This led to high revenues, and reduced wholesalers' control over the market.
  - Using Agri-technology; rural component provides community farming projects for farmer's correlation, aiming to ease farming process. Middle Upper Egypt region farmer's correlation was a pioneer in asking for a seed driller to save farmers' time and effort.
  - In North Upper Egypt region, seeking knowledge by communicating with agricultural consultant (best places to get pesticides and seeds, and to agree with one of the committee's members to market products in exchange of a daily wage).
- Disappearance of animal wastes, due to farmers' applying compost models, which impacted in the community clean standard and, decline the illness rate.
- Inspiring the innovation skills in farmers to overcome obstacle; one of the rural committee members, invented a water irrigation machine” operated by using natural gas, instead of diesel because of its high cost. The machine now irrigates more land, saves time and facilitates water flow.

Percentage of farmers who increased their production by at least of 10%



- Recycling the remains of maize crops into animals feed led to increase the nutritional value of animal feed, saving money, and protecting the environment, as farmers used to burn such agriculture wastes.
- Due to the high need of compost models, rural development committees managed, through networking with Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency and Faculty of Agriculture in Cairo University, to implement 55 heaps in all communities.
- 47 rural initiatives implemented by local community leaders, including compost and waste recycling models, planting Moringa trees, livestock vaccination, soap industry and upbringing American Pekin ducks.
- Crop diversification and grafting new kinds of trees and crops, such as Moringa trees and new kinds of Mangoes led to the increase of lands' productivity and farmers' income. Rather than planting only seasonal crops like wheat and corn, farmers learned how to plant new vegetables and fruits like cauliflower, pepper and eggplant. In El-Halaky village, planting vegetables transformed the total life, as internal immigration was common among youth, it was a village without youth. Planting vegetables needs daily care, elders can't have afforded, eventually attract youth to return to the village, as there was employment opportunity in farming and marketing products. villages became a place of attraction, not aversion.
- Reclamation of heath piece of land; 30 acres of saline soils, after attending awareness seminars and consulting expertise. The land productivity rate reached 70%.

**Challenges encountered:**

- High costs of irrigation machines push farmers to use ones owned by near associations with twice the price.

**Lessons learned:**

- Forming partnerships and signing contracts with exporters help farmers avoid financial loss due to crops' fluctuation of prices throughout the year.

**Success story:**  
**“the great master”**

*“Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”* Said by Bernard Shaw, the famous playwright and political activist. This is the concept in which the great master, protagonist of our story, believed. Shokrallah, is a farmer from Al-Yasmine village, who used to burn the residue of crops in “The Prince” farm where he worked. He also used to buy compost for 30,000 L.E every year, which cost him a lot of money. After BLESS’s intervention, the master, as called by the village’s people, enrolled in activities implemented by the rural development component. He learned how to change plant wastes into organic materials to be used as fertilizers for the land. Unlike other beneficiaries who could like the idea but don’t apply it, Shokrallah decided to continue attending trainings to know more about new agricultural techniques. He has his mind set not to follow the negative widespread methods in the village only, but also to teach farmers what he had learnt. Thus, he succeeded in implementing 2 piles of compost in Dr. Nashed Gergis’s farm after conveying his experience to farmers there. Progress didn’t stop at this point. What causes surprise is the following: three counselors “A. I., H. I. and M.I.”, who own a one hundred–acre farm in Teeba village, asked Shokrallah to benefit from his experiences in doing compost. So he managed to compost 7 acres of anise’s residues, which led to the environments’ protection from emission of toxic gases and money saving. It’s clear that true change comes from changing way of thinking in the first place. This is how the true master followed in the footsteps of his trainers to achieve true progress. He actually embodied the true meaning of the word “master” as he spread knowledge and raised awareness in the whole village. Now Al-Yasmine enjoys a clean environment, because of Shokrallah and other farmers’ efforts who transformed the negative results of burning crops into something positive. Due to the transformation in their economic status, Al-Yasmine farmers have now a better life.



*Shokrallah with rural supervisor in the field*

## Housing Improvement Component progress report:

\*The component was activated in 16 communities.

- **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 as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 150 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 1050 families will be supported by the local committee cadres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 trained local cadres</li> <li>• 835 families were supported by the local committee cadres in the targeted communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Basic training for local cadres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Basic training for local cadres. (This training to empower them from the component policies and procedures (attended by 25 men / 23 women)</li> </ul>

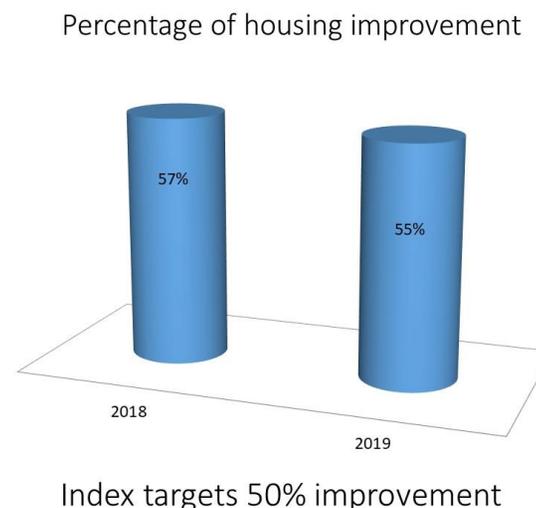
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Refresh trainings for local cadres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Refresh training for local cadres to develop their technical and housing budget skills (attended by 23 men and 22 women)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>900 families in 45 communities receive housing improvement services</li> <li>The houses of the targeted families will be improved by 50%, according to the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>27%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>723 families in 30 communities received housing improvement services</li> <li>The houses of the targeted families were improved by 56%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1740 Home visits</li> <li>14 Public meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3781 Home visits</li> <li>12 Public meetings about personal cleanse, regular maintenance, and local initiatives about to connect public sewage. (The main</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicators as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		component ranking			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 192 Reparation of houses</li> <li>• 192 Providing furniture</li> </ul>	<p>target are beneficiaries who got their houses repaired. attended by 72 men and 651 women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 163 repaired houses for 155 men, 110 women and 213 children, (included 18 urgent cases)</li> <li>• 185 Providing furniture for 164 men, 119 women and 205 children</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

Housing improvement is aiming to reach dignified life for the neediest families, contributing to provide them with better places for living and to improve the quality of their lives. In 2019 The component was able to attain the following key achievements:

- Reducing people’s feel of inferiority. They began to restore their dignity due to receiving better life conditions. They now are able to live in well-furnished houses, provided with electricity and fixed floors and ceilings. This resulted in children’s ability to study better, reduction of flies spread and health protection. Because of education improvement, people became more open to the world. Young generations started to think of their future; they want to live in better circumstances compared to their parents’,
- Effective suitable interventions, discussions held between regional civil engineer’s consultants, and beneficiaries to apply the most effective economic methods to overcome ecological barriers, as example El-Gherera village. They found that heavy cement ceilings make a fast huge cracker in the walls. So, the most appropriate is wood ceiling; it’s light, and if the wall cracked, it’s easy to renew the walls and install the same woods after.
- In Upper Egypt, it’s usually to find scorpions go around, and because of the strew ceilings and dust floors, it was so hard to recognize scorpions. So a lot of people got stung by scorpions. Actually the partially improved El-Gharera houses saved lives, protected people from diseases, and made them feel that there is a hope for change, and made them having a dignified kind of life.
- Central and regional networking with authorities like “Holding Co. For Water & Sanitation” and “Ministry of Environment” to install water pipes, and raise people awareness.
- The component local cadres mobilized village human resources, as they provide job opportunities for unemployed skilled young people, so the benefit is shared equally between the house owner and the worker who makes such improvement.



### **Challenges encountered:**

- The inflation rate and constructing materials high prices, seem to be an everlasting obstacle.
- Some houses aren't able to be repaired; they needed to be collapsed totally. The component can't deal with such houses despite the family need, for the high cost intervention. In some cases, component was able to reach other NGO's to support, but some of them did not.

### **Lessons learned:**

- In cooperation with health component, raising awareness seminars were held to focus on the importance of hygiene, safe storage water containers, and water consumption, as some beneficiaries used to put drinking water in pesticides containers after cleaning them.
- The inability of some beneficiaries to pay local contributions. However, the problem was overcome by people's cooperation to collect the required amount of money.

### **Success story:**

#### **Back to water.. Back to life**

Imagine waking up one day, going to bathroom to wash your face but no water?! Searching for the least amount of water but all attempts are useless? This is indeed what happened to one of the blocks in Sakina community, slums of Alexandria region. Water was cut off from 5 families for 15 days, due to the owner's violation of the law and providing the block with water without installing meters. This resulted in filing suits against everyone in the block including the owner himself. To avoid problems, he managed to evade the law causing a lot of trouble to residents. "we had to go to our neighbors to get the needed amount of water for drinking and eating only." Things also got worse as some neighbors refused to lend them water, causing lack of residents' personal hygiene and spread of bacteria. They tried their best to search for a solution, but all in vain. Luckily, they were able to get in contact with BLESS's servants to discuss the issue and prevent all these negative consequences resulted from water outage. So, a reconciliation was reached and a water meter was installed for each family with a total cost of 70,000 L.E, as a result of residents' and the church's contribution. Now, Sakina residents don't have to beg for water or face any legal problems. They aren't forced to knock at their neighbors' doors asking for water. Due to their determination to end this issue, they were able to get free clean water at their own apartments and enjoy the blessing of having water as the source of life.

### **Emergency component,**

Emergency component aims to, empower the local community leaders in the most affected communities with disaster, with relief knowledge and skills.

### **Key achievements:**

This year the component conducted its first training, in cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent, for 28 local cadres represent Greater Cairo, Delta and lower Egypt and Middle Upper Egypt regions. The training included, catastrophe psychological healing, First Aid, and how to behave in a fire using proper evacuation methods. Leader's main assignment was implement step down seminars in their communities for raising the awareness of beneficiaries towards catastrophes and how to deal with them.

BLESS were invited from Red Crescent in El-Minya Governorate, to participate in a simulation for flood emergency. During the simulation, leaders learnt how to build up tents for affected people and how to contact governmental authorities for guidance and quick assistance.

In November 2019, further networks with Red Crescent were built, as representatives from BLESS staff visited Alexandria branch. Some volunteers from BLESS were nominated to join membership of Red Crescent clubs' (so that they can have life insurance), this insurance will be activated while involving in any emergency activities.



*Flood emergency simulation organized by Red Crescent*

**Environmental Development component progress report:**

\*This component was activated in 15 communities

**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 componen

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 9000 beneficiary participates in environmental awareness seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11,098 beneficiary participates in environmental awareness seminars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 cadres’ trainings</li> <li>• 60 Seminars about safe disposal of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 cadres’ trainings (attended by 32 men and 75 women)</li> <li>• 60 Seminars. (attended by 770)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of beneficiaries adopted eco-friendly practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79% of beneficiaries adopted eco-friendly practices</li> </ul>	<p>wastes, improving the environmental conditions, increasing the environmental awareness and how to have an ecofriendly community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 Environmental Carnivals</li> <li>5,400 Home visits</li> </ul>	<p>men / 4,848 women)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>29 Environmental Carnivals. (attended by 1,808 children)</li> <li>5,656 Home visits</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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"> <li>80% of beneficiaries get rid of garbage with clean &amp; safe method</li> <li>4500 participating in cleaning and tree-planting campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% of beneficiaries get rid of garbage with clean &amp; safe method</li> <li>12,575 participate in cleaning and tree-planting campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45 Cleaning and tree-planting campaigns</li> <li>30 Recycling awareness classes</li> <li>30 Rationalizing consumption workshops</li> <li>15 Established Libraries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>43 Cleaning and tree-planting campaigns (attended by 1,781 men / 3,157 women and 2,152 children)</li> <li>30 Recycling awareness classes (attended by 659 women)</li> <li>30 Rationalizing consumption workshops (attended by 8 men and 613 women)</li> <li>15 Established Libraries</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 2025 beneficiaries participated in ecological interventions adopted by the community</li> <li>• 90 ecological interventions adopted by 45 community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,995 beneficiaries participated in ecological interventions adopted by the community</li> <li>• 57 ecological interventions including Solid waste management intervention, beautification of entrances and streets of the communities, getting rid of garbage with safe methods, coating of electricity poles, participation in environmental initiatives and improving the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 lighting poles campaigns</li> <li>• 1 internal lighting poles campaign</li> <li>• 2 Biogas models</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 lighting poles campaigns for 4 men and 12 women</li> <li>• 1 internal lighting poles campaign</li> <li>• There was a delay caused by the government in implementing this activity.</li> </ul>

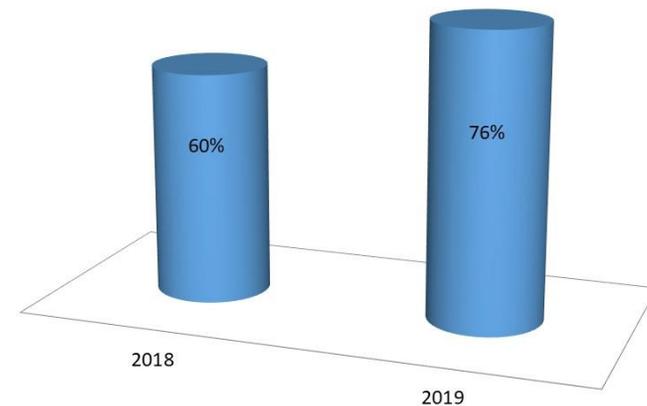
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
				quality of canals and drains.		

### **Key achievements:**

Climate change is a global issue which impact the whole ecological system. Thus, Egypt managed to “jump up four places in the Climate Change Performance Index for 2019 to rank 24th out of 57 evaluated countries”, according to an article released by Egypt today magazine in 2019. Another international issue, taken seriously by the State, is water scarcity and its poor quality in many villages due to rising populations, rapid economic development and Renaissance Dam Crisis. Egypt has been holding negotiations with Sudan and Ethiopia to find the best solution, without reducing each country’s share of water. On the local level, Egypt tires hard to decrease the consequences of these two problems in the future, through achieving its vision 2030; *increasing the current value percentage of hazardous wastes, safely disposed (treatment, recycling, final disposal) from 7 to 30%*, to protect the environment and *decreasing the ratio of total water consumption from 100% to 80%*. Following in Egypt’s footsteps, BLESS managed to spread the useful practices among people through the following key achievements:

- Raising awareness regarding water scarcity during rationalizing consumption workshops and plumbing trainings. People began to apply what they had learnt and fix their taps to save water. Due to such success, this activity will be generalized in unleashing the potentials of new generation and improving education components to reach different ages of beneficiaries.
- Disappearance of animal wastes, used to be spread all over streets in rural villages. In cooperation with the rural development component, beneficiaries learned how to change these wastes into compost heaps or biogas.
- Increase of knowledge regarding importance of saving energy and rationalizing its consumption. In fact, people began to unplug electrical devices like refrigerators for some hours and to take part in “Earth Hour” initiatives to reduce electricity consumption.
- Adoption of new practices, due to awareness classes and seminars. For example: replacing the habit of baking “Shamsi bread” on materials made from animal wastes into healthy ones. Local cadres also managed to spread the idea among the rest of the village and invest it in projects to increase people’s income.
- Reviving the essentiality of bringing garbage trucks’ in villages, as people used to pile domestic wastes in front of their houses. This problem was solved through agreements with local councils and payment of fines in case of breaking the law.

Beneficiaries who get rid of garbage with clean safe method



- Providing Green jobs; Recycling wastes' classes haven't led to protect the environment only, but also to provide job opportunities protecting environment and raising income for people. For example, beneficiaries in Middle Upper Egypt region was capable of reusing wastes as school bags and selling them.
- Networks with associations contributed in many results such as the ones between:
  - The Holding Company for Drinking Water and Sanitation and the component to run rationalizing consumption workshops and train BLESS team.
  - The engineering company for energy systems(ESD) and the component to purchase streetlights.
  - Coordinator of "we will beautify it" initiative and the component, under the auspices of President Abd El Fattah Al Sisi, to plant fruitful trees.
- Cleaning one canal and a two-meter bank in slums of Cairo and North Upper Egypt regions. This resulted in decreasing percentage of diseases and offering a healthy atmosphere for people there.

#### **Challenges encountered:**

- Despite of the component's ability to defeat wastes' issue in rural communities, it is still facing such problem in slums of Cairo region.
- Many procedures of Egyptian red tape caused delay in implementing biogas models. As a consequence, the activity is postponed to 2020.
- Because of sheep grazing, most of small trees are destroyed. The component solved the problem by using plastic pipes to protect trees and allow them to grow.
- Distance between some villages and The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency led to lack of employees' presence in activities.
- Some villages suffer from sectarian intolerance especially in Middle Upper Egypt and slums of Cairo regions, which led to forming hostile banners against others and discouraging community partners to take part in activities.

#### **Lessons learned:**

- Visits done by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency to local councils encourage them to act faster and harder.
- Communities which plant trees by themselves are the most persistent afforestation ones.
- Activities that include skills and crafts learning are always successful, as they satisfy peoples' needs.

#### **Component adjustments in 2019:**

- Integration between the component and (unleashing the potentials of new generation, improving education and adult education components to hold awareness classes and seminars regarding importance of environment protection). This contributed in spreading knowledge and saving budget.

#### **Success story:**

**"Together we stand"**

Feeling disgusted by its ugly view full of garbage piles, being frightened of reaching it and risking one's life to cross it; this is how people in Galila village used to face every single day while trying to go to the near villages to do their daily routines. In fact, they had to put their children's life at stake to accompany them to school. *"A lot of accidents happen to our kids as the road is like a high way and has only one direction"*. Expressed by Galila people who didn't know how to protect their families or solve the problem. As a consequence, environmental development component started to implement trainings and seminars regarding changing the village to become eco-friendly as well as getting rid of wastes using safe techniques. Since then, development committee members thought of solving the village problems by themselves. They believed in the concept of "united we stand.... divided we fall". So, they all decided to meet the local council representatives to discuss the issue. After the meeting, people were told that the Glader can't be used except in governorates only. Some could think that the story ended here and that Galila raised the white flag. It is easy to lose hope and surrender to reality, but this is



*During paving the road in Galila*

not the case with North Upper Egypt region. With persistence and efforts, the committee members succeeded in convincing the council. Indeed, the street was not only paved, but also extended from 3 to 6 meters to include two directions. This definitely led to ease traffic and time saving. Galila people didn't stop there, they also were able to persuade the council to place industrial speed bumps to prevent accidents. This is the story of persistence and determination; a story of people who managed to prove how team work could contribute in changing the situation in their own favor and that nothing is impossible. Due to their efforts, Galila now enjoys a safe clean road, with less number of accidents.

**Community Studies and Research Component progress report:**

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicator/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 25 studies will be produced</li> <li>• 25 Communities meet the entry criteria</li> <li>• 25 Communities meet the exiting criteria</li> <li>• The studies will contribute by 100% to define the developmental intervention</li> <li>• The study will be efficient by 80% to indicate the appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 studies were produced</li> <li>• 8 communities meet the entry criteria</li> <li>• 8 communities meet the exiting criteria</li> <li>• The studies contributed with 80% to define the developmental intervention</li> <li>• The study is efficient by 63% to indicate the appropriate program and interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Training for needs assessment studies</li> <li>• 1 Training for exiting villages studies.</li> <li>• 4 Community needs assessment studies</li> <li>• 8 new communities' studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Training for needs assessment studies (for 5 men and 6 women)</li> <li>• 1 Training for exiting villages studies. (for 8 men and 14 women)</li> <li>• 3 community needs assessment studies in Middle Upper Egypt and South Upper Egypt</li> <li>• 8 new communities' studies</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicator/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		program and interventions of ICDP new communities		of ICDP new communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 Studies of exiting villages</li> <li>• 4 follow ups on studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 Studies of exiting villages</li> <li>• 3 follow ups on studies</li> </ul>

\*Community studies and research component is directed to focus on new communities' need assessment and evaluation of exit communities

### **Key achievements:**

Sustainable development can't be reached without analyzing the status of communities and determining their real needs. That's why community studies and research component is the base on which all BLESS's activities rely. It is responsible for identifying elements of strengths, challenges and opportunities in each community, to set the appropriate intervention for each component. As Egypt studies the current and future barriers it might face in its vision 2030, BLESS conducts the required studies, through the component to have a background about the villages; in which one they should intervene or exit from. So, here are some of the component's key achievements in 2019:

- Raising awareness of field workers, concerning assessment of communities' needs, through trainings to use the right tools.
- Providing exit committee with knowledge and skills to use exit criteria tools to assess exiting communities.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Following up exiting villages contributes in continuing the development process there.
- Receiving nominations from targeted communities at an early date helps in saving time and efforts.



*During conducting exit community studies*

## 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 as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 340 trained BLESS' staff</li> <li>• 42 trainings held for different categories</li> <li>• 75% of BLESS staff get B in the annual employees' assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero (This system of employees' assessment is new)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 377 trained BLESS' staff</li> <li>• 29 trainings held for different</li> <li>• 34 employees got outstanding, 205 got B, 95 got C and 1 got D</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Training curriculum</li> <li>• 1 Documentation for events</li> <li>• 2 Meetings for BLESS staff</li> <li>• 1 Basic training for the newly added communities and fieldworkers' replacements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Basic training curriculum</li> <li>• 1 Documentation for events</li> <li>• 1 Meetings for BLESS staff attended by 142 BLESS member (implemented within the annual refresher training)</li> <li>• 1 Basic training (attended by 5 men and 6 women)</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Refresher training</li> <li>16 Technical trainings for BLESS staff ( managerial, developmental, specified trainings for each category) according to the needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Refresher training attended by 41 men and 101 women</li> <li>16 Technical trainings for BLESS staff (senior staff, financial staff, secretary, support services and technical supervision (attended by 179 men and 198 women)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>4 faith-based institutions participated in the developmental trainings</li> <li>50% of the local cadres will interact in the trainings</li> <li>6 faith-based associations adopt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 faith-based institutions participated in the developmental trainings</li> <li>70% of the local cadres interacted in the trainings</li> <li>3 faith-based associations adopt</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Clergy workshop</li> <li>1 External organization trainings upon their request</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Clergy workshop of self-learning (attended by 34 clergy men)</li> <li>1 External organization trainings for preparing developmental cadres (attended by 21 men and 11 women)</li> </ul>

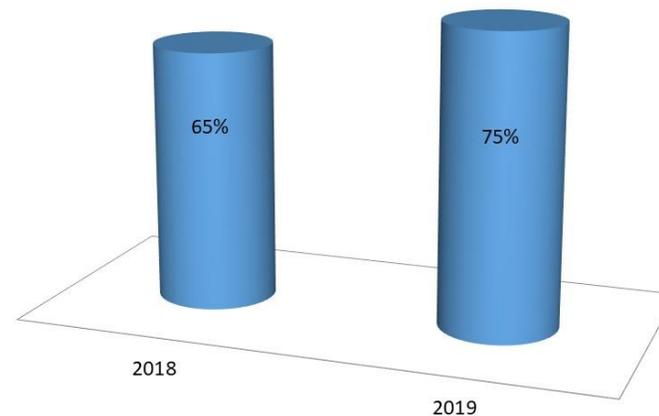
Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		developmental approaches whether inside or outside the church		developmental approaches in poor communities in Greater Cairo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Transformational training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Transformational training for 1 men and 2 women</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

Following the seventh pillar (Education and training) of Egypt's vision 2030 "Providing the necessary skills to trainees to think creatively, and empower them technically and technologically". Human resources development component managed to build the staff capacities this year and empower them to think creatively for achieving better performance using available resources.

- Evolution in BLESS documentation; Three from BLESS staff participated in movie making course (writing scripts, photographing and montaging). This course enabled participants to use available resources in professional documentation. At the training closing event, one of BLESS staff won the best montage prize after presenting his documentary movie about "Females' Inheritance Issue in Upper Egypt".
- Succeeding in shifting the leaders' mentality; there is a remarkable change in some religious leaders' mentalities regarding serving all the community (Muslims and Christians) and the importance of having studies for good planning process.
- Iron fieldworkers; fieldworkers proved their efficiency and persistence in facing obstacles. (some opened their houses for implementing the activities and female fieldworkers broke taboos preventing women to go outside the village to attend trainings).
- Enhancing computer skills for staff; HRD component built networks with two reputable computer centers to improve staff's skills in using computer applications with efficiency.

Local leaders' interaction in trainings



### **Lessons learned:**

- Designing assessment tool for measuring needed skills to achieve high effectiveness of the training provided.
- Two types of trainings will be provided for BLESS staff; general behavioral and specific technical trainings.

## **Success story:**

### **From the womb of pain to heal others...**

*“One who suffered is able to support whom are suffering”*; Mariam is a newly joined fieldworker to BLESS staff who is living in Bani Khaled village in El- Minya governorate. Mariam is brought up in a medium level family in Upper Egypt that adheres to conservative customs, traditions and limiting the role of girls in social life. Mariam’s mother is infected by kidney failure (ESRD) so Mariam spends most of her time serving her ill mother and accompanies her while taking treatment. In addition to that, she was helping disabled people in her village. These timings taught Mariam how to feel and respect people’s pain, she considers this circumstances as blessing. One day, BLESS recommended Bani Khaled to be served in ICDP. Mariam was notified and wished to join BLESS. However, she was worried about not giving her mother all her time. The priest advised her to go and support hundreds of people, her mother also motivated her to go for supporting others and enhance her career. Mariam applied for the job and got accepted. Despite her love and sacrifices in serving others, she lacks confidence in herself and could not express her thoughts and feelings easily. After attending the basic training, she became able to make presentations in front of many audience including senior staff. Her ambition, passion and concentrating in BLESS training enabled her to develop her skills. BLESS trainers testified that



*Mariam with Bishop Yolos during her graduation ceremony*

Mariam’s soft skills and technical knowledge were improved during the training and all of them were impressed by her while presenting an initiative for eliminating early marriage; the matter which affects her life and the lives of girls in her village. She was presenting with encouragement and confidence. She returned back to her village started to plant developmental grains, water them with persistence and is waiting for harvesting.

## Rise Up and Walk Component progress report:

### Guiding Points for the speech disabilities according to Stanford Beneh 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> edition measurement

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>• 180 trained local cadres</li> <li>• The local cadres apply the training by 70%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 162 trained local cadres</li> <li>• The local cadres apply the training by 80%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Trainings for parents and people working in disability field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Training attended by 4 men and 16 women.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 6000-8000 speech sessions</li> <li>• 90 children receive speech sessions</li> <li>• The children's performance would be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• Zero</li> <li>• 23% of the children have mild disability, 62% have</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4077 speech sessions</li> <li>• 145 children receive speech sessions</li> <li>• The children with mild disability have been</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2500 Speech sessions for children</li> <li>• 2500 Side to side training sessions for parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2077 Speech sessions for children for 80 children</li> <li>• 2077 Side to side training sessions for parents*</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
		developed by 75%	middle disability and 15% have severe disability	developed by 73%, the children with middle disability have been developed by 63% and the children with severe disability 48%		
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"> <li>150 disabled participated in the vocational trainings</li> <li>20 disabled beneficiary joined the labor market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33 disabled participated in the vocational trainings</li> <li>6 disabled beneficiaries joined the labor market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>96 Vocational workshops for people with disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27 Vocational trainings for people with disabilities for 6 men and 7 women on accessories, icons and perfumes</li> </ul>
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"> <li>90 trained children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>135 trained children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2500 sessions for children</li> <li>2500 Side to side sessions for parents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2130 Direct sessions for 75 children</li> <li>1180 Side to side training sessions for parents*</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 times Medical check-ups for children</li> <li>• 100 specified evaluations for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 times Medical check-ups for 31 children</li> <li>• 127 specified evaluations for 69 children (11 semi-annual evaluations for 11 children)</li> </ul>
By the end of 2020, 150 girls and women with blindfolds and their families would have been rehabilitated.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 rehabilitated girls and women (the project will end by 2019)</li> <li>• 150 girls and women are capable of managing their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 74 (This number has been collected from a former phase of the project)</li> <li>• 40 (This number has been collected from a former project)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 135 rehabilitated girls and women</li> <li>• 75 girls and women are capable of managing their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Blind girls and women meeting</li> <li>• 2 Training workshops on English language for blind women and girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly meeting (attended by 135 blind girls and women)</li> <li>• 3 Training workshops on English language for 32 blind women and girls in three partner CBOs in Alexandria, Al-Anaam and</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 144 meeting for the companions of blind girls and women</li> <li>• 2 training workshops for leaders of external organizations</li> </ul>	<p>Mallawi Diocese.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly meeting for the companions of blind girls and women</li> <li>• 4 training workshops and closure meeting attended by 7 organizations</li> </ul>
By the end of 2020, 250 beneficiary with physical disabilities would have been rehabilitated.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 disabled beneficiary will receive compensatory devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 134 disabled beneficiaries received compensatory devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 Compensatory devices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 68 Compensatory devices(for 30 men, 22 women and 16 children including wheel chairs, artificial limbs, medical shoes, Knees, arms and paralysis devices.</li> </ul>

\* side to side trainings and sessions are technical support sessions for parents to teach them how to deal with their disabled children.

### **Key achievements:**

Real disability doesn't mean impairment but inefficiency. That's why Egypt exerts all efforts to integrate disabled to be effective citizens and enjoy equality with others. One of Egypt's Vision 2030 objectives includes: "Integrating slightly disabled students in schools." BLESS always believes in the same approach, through rise up and walk component, to develop the potentials of disabled and empower them to manage their lives independently. Some of the key achievements reached by the component this year are:

- Using technology to facilitate daily routines of disabled. This was witnessed in transforming 25 issues of "El Keraza Magazine" into MP3 audio files throughout the year.
- Improving blind girls' educational skills through giving them English language courses and printing 3 textbooks in Braille to ease the educational process for them.
- Supporting facilitators to control children's behaviors and handle problems wisely. This was seen in implementing a "behavior modification" training by the component's specialists for 25 talent school teachers of unleashing the potentials of the new generation component for 2 days.
- Developing the management techniques of disability centers and CBOs through conducting a "management techniques and approaches" training by the component's specialists for beneficiaries of "Ana Simone Center" in Asyut (the center's manager and 2 assistants).
- Enhancing the skills of practitioners to implement activities professionally through carrying out a specialized training for 23 servants of the component, from different churches, from 28/10/2019 to 28/11/2019.
- Increasing connection between family members as well as exchanging experiences about the right methods to deal with disabled children. This achievement was reached by carrying out trips and social activities along with providing parents with lectures. (such as the unplanned trip in family empowerment department, on 10/9/2019 to "The Princess Farm" for 80 beneficiaries).

### **Challenges encountered:**

- Lack of specialists in the sector of learning disabilities, considering the huge need of needy children to have these sessions.

### **Lessons learned:**

- Certain types of crafts, which need high concentration and manual skills were replaced with other routine ones such as wood polishing and paints.
- Inability of some disabled beneficiaries to pay local contribution. This problem was partially solved by the contribution of church.
- Integration with other components leads to conveying knowledge to the largest number of beneficiaries.
- Offering trainings to develop the various skills of disabled help in achieving balance between their needs and labor market's needs.

## **Success story:**

### **“outside the walls”**

Living in his own world, looking for a way out, wishing to break these chains and become free, but all in vain; this is how autistic children spend most of their time trying to search for a means of communication with the outside world. One of these kids is the hero of our story “M.” who suffered from many problems including: attention deficit, not responding to FAQ, lack of social interaction and inability to do simple calculations. However, he succeeded in overcoming all barriers with the help of his supportive mother, who deeply believed in her child’s ability to learn. So, she did her best to find a solution as she accompanied M. to Rise Up and Walk Center. There, he was evaluated and the appropriate program was planned in order to suit his reading, writing, math and cognitive skills. The component also set attention activities for him to partially improve his disability. After regular visits, M. mastered math skills through learning by imagination. M. also was able to stop repeating words and answer all questions in a right way. Surprisingly, he began learning social studies and science subjects, due to the program’s adjustment for him along with conducting evaluations every 6 months to develop his abilities. Now, M. is enjoying his life more. “His skills were greatly improved, especially the social ones as he now interacts and communicates with others”. Expressed by his mother who is always committed to attend the sessions and apply what she hears at home, because she has faith in her own son’s determination to improve. This is how Rise Up and Walk component leaves a great impact, not only on the disabled children, but also on their families.



*Disabled making perfumes*

### **“Sight to my eyes...vision to my future”**

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision”. Said by one of the greatest American authors “Helen Keller”, who was blind and deaf as well. This means that the real disability is not in blindness, but in lack of vision and education. However, some could suffer from both and one of these persons is “E. A.” who didn’t have the ability to see or receive proper education. “I am 29 years old and I live with my parents. They always know how to take good care of me, but because of being poor and illiterate, they didn’t allow me to study or go to school.” However, she was able to learn numbers and memorize a lot of information due to support received from church servants. Thus, things started to get better and luck began to smile at her. Ms. Mary, the church servant, encouraged E. to enroll in the blind care project. Since then, E. was motivated to attend education classes, learn crafts making and even live with other people. “I learned how to dress, eat, talk, work using my hands and make friends”. On the other side, something had a great impact on E., which fostered her a lot during her success path. E. decided not to get satisfied only with education, but to search for more. Her internal motivation induced her to plan a vision for herself. So, she managed to do a small business at home. “I started to do perfume bottles to sell them for others in the village, to make my own money”. That’s how E. was able to become an educated, independent lady rather than being a burden on society because of her disability. She took the hard decision of not giving up to achieve a bright future for herself and people around her. E. managed to get something better than sight to her eyes. She was able to change her life, with the help of BLESS staff, into a complete new colorful one.

**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 as of December 31, 2019	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"> <li>Number of new and old comers</li> <li>Number of surviving from addiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2988 new and old comers</li> <li>1825 surviving from addiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Home visits</li> <li>Individual sessions</li> <li>Group therapy lead by survivors</li> <li>Holly mass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>102 Home visits</li> <li>369 Individual sessions</li> <li>262 Group therapy lead by survivors</li> <li>3 Holly mass</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Number of families who adopt with their addicted relatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1920 families who adopt with their addicted relatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spiritual Activity</li> <li>Family meetings</li> <li>Individual sessions</li> <li>Primary sessions for rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Spiritual Activity</li> <li>40 Family meetings attended by (160 families)</li> <li>9936 Individual sessions</li> <li>65 Primary sessions for rehabilitation</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Insight sessions</li> <li>● Family counseling sessions</li> <li>● Hotline services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 152 Insight sessions</li> <li>● 77 Family counseling sessions</li> <li>● 2500 Hotline services</li> </ul>
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"> <li>● Number of beneficiary receive service from Better Life Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 3700 beneficiary receive service from Better Life Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness seminars</li> <li>● Mental Health and Combating Addiction committee meetings</li> <li>● Tools of demonstration developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 21 Awareness seminars (attended by 260 men)</li> <li>● 12 Mental Health and Combating Addiction committee meetings</li> <li>● 317 tools of demonstration developed</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators/ 3 years	Baseline	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities/ 1 year	Implemented Activities
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"> <li>Number of trained volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zero</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>888 trained volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centers managed by trained volunteers</li> <li>Courses in Cairo and Giza</li> <li>Follow-up meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 Centers managed by (320 volunteers)</li> <li>167 Courses in Cairo and Giza, (Average attendance by 250 audios every meeting)</li> <li>Follow-up meetings with the servants and the responsible Priest (119 meetings)</li> </ul>

### **Key achievements:**

#### **Combating Addiction component updated two activities for beneficiaries:**

First: Recovery home for addicted beneficiaries who seeks recovery. During the reporting period, (77) beneficiaries came to the home of rehabilitation; (37) of them not continued the cure trip and (24) retreated.

Second: Behavior Modification sessions for children: This activity targeted children of the addicted who may behave the same as their parents. During the reporting period, (200) awareness sessions for the children families were given to (40) children.

### **Key achievement:**

- Combating Addiction Component providing its services in several fields:
  - Providing services through Better Life Center for (5760) addicted beneficiaries and (497) addicted survivals
  - Developing a unit for modifying the behavior of (40) addict's children through 210 individual sessions for children and 200 individual sessions for children's families.
  - Unusual efforts in preparing and working on obtaining licenses from the state to establish a convalescence for mental health and addiction in the Nasr City building.
  - A team of 6 girls asking for recovery attended and joined Better Life center in the presence of 8 social partners.
  - Organizing (3) sports events for psychological health of the recovered
  - Use of social media platforms to reach the largest number of target people with aim to raise awareness either directly or indirectly on a daily basis. In this area we made (274) media publishes including (17) YouTube videos (broadcasted on Better Life Center channel), (67) awareness posts on Facebook and (75) Photoshop design

### **Challenges encountered:**

- One of the most urgent current needs is the inauguration of the hospital in the center due to the increase of the number of psychological cases and the withdrawal period spent by the patient in an external hospital costs beyond the family's ability to pay and this leads to disruption of work with the cases to go to rehabilitation or follow-up within the center
- Future dreams of Better Life Center:
  - Complete the furnishing, registration and inauguration of the psychological health and addiction rehabilitation center
  - Build a second floor in the addiction rehabilitation house of Wady El Natroun to cover long waiting list
  - Pay for the needed supplies of the Better Life Center in order to present a better service for those in need.

**The Prisoners Care component:**

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
By the end of 2020, the psychological, spiritual and health conditions of 1050 prisoners (men and women) would have been improved.	Prisoners adapt to prison conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The level of interaction of the Prisoners with the spiritual and social activities provided to them</li> <li>Number of prisoners served (men and women)</li> </ul>	Number of prisoners conditions have been improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Periodic visits for prison</li> <li>2 Holly masses</li> <li>120 Meals for prisoners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Periodic visit for prison (for 63 prisoners)</li> <li>1 Holly Mass for 63 prisoners</li> <li>75 Meals for Prisoners</li> </ul>
By the end of 2020, the living standard (health and social) of 150 families would have been improved.	Preserve humanity standard of living for prisoners' families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of families receive care</li> <li>The percentage of families able to deal with prisoner</li> </ul>	Number of families preserve their health and social living standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 microeconomic projects for prisoners after setting free</li> <li>20 microeconomic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Microeconomic economic projects for 10 men including toktok cars, tailoring curtains, selling gas cylinders, and tricycle motorcycle</li> <li>11 microeconomic</li> </ul>

Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators	Progress towards indicator as of December 31, 2019	Planned Activities	Implemented Activities
				projects for prisoners' families	projects for 10 women and a man including tailoring, selling clothes, grocery and embroidery

### **Key Achievements:**

- Providing Second chance, it's not easy for former prisoners to find job opportunity, for his/her historical background, as well as having loan, which create a closed cycle end up with returning to prison, for a former prisoner the component offered a living opportunity not just a loan.
- Life can be continued, for the prisoner's families, usually they have a lot of debts., can't afford the lawyers' fees, and in most cases can't afford the prisoners visit requirements (transportation, some food for prisoner, and some personal stuff for prisoner), that in addition of the basic living requirements (food- education- house rent). The small loan made a different to alleviate prisoner family's' suffering.

### **Challenges encountered:**

- All churches NGOs serving prisoners families providers charity service. Which made them get used to that type, the component finds difficulties to find targeted families who has the take a responsible step towards building a new life.
- Irregular payment of installments. according to the life demands, or sometimes the prisoner's attitudes for not pay back money easily.

### **Lesson Learned:**

- The component learned a lot about the most needed stuff for prisoner visit, as well as the prisoner sociology.

### **Success story:**

#### **The trap...**

Nearly two years ago, Mr. M.E was thinking about burdens of responsibility. He is a 29-year-old married man with two children. M.E was working 16 hours/day (8 hours of them driving a toktok car and the other 8 hours working in a pharmacy) and yet, his expenses is greater than revenues. One day, M.E met an old friend and told him about how life is hard, unstable and insecure due to difficulty of earning money. whilst, his friend informed him that he bought a toktok car now and can afford living expenses. M.E was excited to know the secret behind this sudden wealth. His friend added that he works as a courier in a pharmacy, delivering certain medicines to certain clients. M.E lost his mind and said: *"What!! You are working in DRUGS!"*, his friend replied peacefully: *"It called medicines!!"*. His friend beautified the truth saying: *"You'll earn a lot of money, sometimes you have to make some risk for your family, you will just invest your time smartly, neither the owner of the pharmacy nor police will doubt you"*. Then he left him alone to think carefully.

For almost three days, M.E was not able to sleep feeling guilty that he is not providing better life for his family, there was a painful conflict inside him between circumstances and this tempting offer. After deep thinking, he pulled himself together, rang on his friend: *"I accept your offer"*. Despite his good intentions, he fell in a trap.

After only four days working in that field, M.E lived a nightmare. He was arrested and got 3-year sentence. Fortunately, M.E was released from prison because of good conduct after half of the period (February 2019). He has always been remorseful for the mistakes that he has made in the past, but he does not let his past define who he is today. He searched for a genuine way to restart his life. When he listened about loans provided by BLESS, he applied for one, learnt how to make feasibility studies, got the loan and bought the toktok car that he dreamt for. M.E started earning from 7 to 9 thousands Egyptian pounds/ month. He learnt that twisted ways are the worst and he can chase for his dream till accomplishing it.

## Overview of 2019 beneficiaries:

Component	Men	Women	Children	Community partners (Muslims)	Total
Economic Development	1,485	6,368	0	322	7,853
Health Primary Care	11,189	41,443	3,142	13,981	55,774
Adult Education	2,727	11,683	0	678	14,410
Community Sustainability and Empowerment	1,822	3,638	0	111	5,460
Improving the Standard of Education	46	38	6,397	798	6,481
Unleashing the Potentials of the new Generation	48	1,334	13,945	283	15,327
Community Peace Building	1954	6540	210	396	8,704
Rural Development	5,689	22,414	0	1,535	28,103
Housing Improvement	493	949	446	25	1,888
Environment Development	3,967	10,991	11,395	11,467	26,353
Community Studies and Research	312	563	0	28	875
Human Resources Development	281	318	0	0	599
Combating Addiction	77	6	40	8	123
Rise up and walk	40	212	271	0	523
Prisoners Care	10	11	0	0	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,140</b>	<b>106,508</b>	<b>35,846</b>	<b>29,632</b>	<b>172,494</b>

## Annex 1:

### Local committees Initiatives supervised by community empowerment and sustainability component:

Region	Village	Initiative	Details
North Upper Egypt	Fransees	Lighting and beautification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 4 dark streets and garbage piles.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council</li> <li>• Result: maintenance of 10 lighting poles, installing 10 lamps and putting 2 waste containers.</li> </ul>
		Housing and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: rickety houses and bathrooms owned by 17 families.</li> <li>• Networking with: Royeet Hayah and El Orman NGOs and some business men.</li> <li>• Result: repairing bathrooms of 6 families, providing furniture for 6 families and repairing walls for 11 families.</li> </ul>
		Better protection and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 40% of children suffer from diseases due to garbage piles.</li> <li>• Networking with: El Batal CBO and Royeet Hayah</li> <li>• Result: implementation of awareness classes and children activities to teach them self-protection against diseases and importance of cleanliness.</li> </ul>
	Eshaq wel Block	Improved regularity of electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: power outage and poor electricity.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council and the electricity company</li> <li>• Result: replacing 2 lighting poles with new ones and installing 12 new lighting poles in main streets.</li> </ul>
	Samsoum	A safe healthy house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: rickety bathrooms and lack of water meters for 12 families including 11 unchristian.</li> <li>• Networking with: El Batal CBO and Royeet Hayah</li> <li>• Result: repairing 7 bathrooms for 6 unchristian families and installing 5 clean water meters for 5 unchristian families.</li> </ul>
		Double benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: spread of animal wastes in 50% of the village's streets.</li> <li>• Networking with: El Batal CBO and Royeet Hayah</li> <li>• Result: implementing 5 biogas stations from which 40 persons benefited. This led to the total disappearance of wastes.</li> </ul>

Region	Village	Initiative	Details
		Safe roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: poor lighting poles.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council and the electricity company</li> <li>• Result: maintenance of 50 lighting poles and installing energy saving lens to turn on lights at night only.</li> </ul>
	Galila	I have the right to live in a clean village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: garbage piles and spread of flies and snakes.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council</li> <li>• Result: conducting a cleaning campaign and planting 10 trees offered by the local council.</li> </ul>
		Hand in hand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 60% of women suffer from low income.</li> <li>• Networking with: CARE</li> <li>• Result: funding microeconomic projects to empower women.</li> </ul>
	Boshra	I will learn and teach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: inability of working youth to use computers.</li> <li>• Networking with: the village's church</li> <li>• Result: providing an appropriate place and opening a computer class for 25 beneficiaries.</li> </ul>
Slums of Cairo	Al Khosous	Losing weight without noticing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 100-120 women suffer from obesity.</li> <li>• Networking with: Dr. peter Naeem, a bariatrician</li> <li>• Result: conducting awareness seminars and medical checkups to help women fight obesity.</li> </ul>
	Khayr Allah	Pronounce it right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: poor reading and writing skills of 30 children in English.</li> <li>• Networking with: a volunteer from Saint Moses church</li> <li>• Result: teaching 15 children the basics of English language.</li> </ul>
	Houd Galal	Be the best	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 70 children dropped out of school. This caused their inability to read and write well.</li> <li>• Result: renting a place, doing tests to evaluate children's level and recruiting a teacher.</li> </ul>
	Ezbet Kheza	I want to live in peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: an unclean and dark scary tunnel, serves 2500 families.</li> <li>• Networking with: Kerdasa neighborhood</li> <li>• Result: providing loaders and cleaners to clean and lightning the village's tunnel.</li> </ul>

Region	Village	Initiative	Details
	El-Maraghy	A happy family and a mentally stable child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: adopting wrong upbringing ways and marital conflicts.</li> <li>• Networking with: counseling specialists and lecturers</li> <li>• Result: holding awareness seminars and counseling sessions for parents.</li> </ul>
	El-zawayda	Young for ever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: old women suffer from depression and aging diseases.</li> <li>• Networking with: medical lab and the health unit</li> <li>• Result: assigning doctors and lecturers to teach women self-care and how to fight aging diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Middle Upper Egypt</b>	Kafr Lebs	Lighten your life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 8 families suffer from lack of electricity.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council and Abu Qerqas electricity company</li> <li>• Result: installing lighting poles.</li> </ul>
	Assultan Wal Thoum	Springs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: unclean water and high percentage of chlorine.</li> <li>• Networking with: Water Egypt Company</li> <li>• Result: reduction of filters' costs from 2400 to 1100 L.E and installing about 250 filters.</li> </ul>
	Ashanayna	A new vision and life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 15 beneficiaries suffer from glaucoma.</li> <li>• Networking with: El Berba CBO and an ophthalmic hospital</li> <li>• Result: conducting medical checkups and operations to provide patients with better eyesight.</li> </ul>
	El-Habaysha	A safe road without dirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: A ruined road leading to the village.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council and an engineer</li> <li>• Result: purchasing paving materials and paving 2 Km.</li> </ul>
		The best for farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: high cost of diesel used in irrigation.</li> <li>• Networking with: an agricultural equipment manufacture company</li> <li>• Result: innovating water machine, operating by natural gas instead of high cost diesel, in addition saving effort.</li> </ul>
	El=dayr Asharqi	Protect her, don't harass her	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: Young girls getting harassed by youth.</li> <li>• Result: awareness seminars and classes to teach youth and their parents the negative impact of harassment on children.</li> </ul>

Region	Village	Initiative	Details
South Upper Egypt		Educational awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: lack of interest in higher education (institutions and colleges) and being satisfied only with diplomas.</li> <li>• Networking with: Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Result: implementing education and awareness classes to encourage more girls to complete their education.</li> </ul>
	El-salameya	No harassment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 26% of children suffer from harassment causing their dropout of school because of their bad behaviors and spread of sexual harassment.</li> <li>• Result: awareness seminars and home visits to teach children, how to protect ourselves, and their parents the negative impact of harassment.</li> </ul>
	Awlad Yehia	Don't touch me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: 40% of children suffer from harassment due to lack of awareness and children's sleep in parents' bedrooms.</li> <li>• Result: conducting 4 awareness seminars for parents.</li> </ul>
Upper Egypt	Al Memareya	Water connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: continuous water outage in houses of 300 families.</li> <li>• Networking with: local council and National Authority for Potable Water and Sewage</li> <li>• Result: connecting water and replacing old pipes with larger ones.</li> </ul>
	Komer	Local council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem: lack of a piece of land owned by the government.</li> <li>• Networking with: local leaders</li> <li>• Result: collecting local contributions with a value of 360,000 L.E, purchasing the land and constructing the local council.</li> </ul>

## Initiatives of 2019 exiting villages:

Region	Village	Initiative	Details
Upper Egypt	Ezbet Gad	Streets lighting	Inexistence of lighting poles caused complete darkness and stop of activities at night. In cooperation with the local council, lighting poles were installed.
Delta and Lower Egypt	Ezbet El-Saayda	Opening an educational class	A volunteer managed to open a class to teach 16 worker children, reading and writing skills, using methods of teaching.
		An awareness class about addiction	A volunteer succeeded in opening a class to train beneficiaries on caring for addicted people. Some cases now are treated due to this such class.
	Mubarak and Bani Salama	Connecting clean water pipes	Providing families with clean water and diseases' reduction
Middle Upper Egypt	Al- Hallaqi	Connecting sewage	The village used to suffer from water outage and poor water pipes. In cooperation with the local council, sewage was connected in all houses, leading to pollution reduction.( with cooperation with what)
		Streets lighting and wires renovation	Reduction of devices' burning and increasing tailors' productivity, (the village is famous with Galabia Tailor)s.
North Upper Egypt	Al- Yasmine	Removing garbage	The village used to suffer from garbage piles. Due to local contributions, garbage was removed and cleanliness and environment protection are progressed in the village
		Streets lighting	Reducing harassment on streets due to darkness

## Annex 2:

### Sustainability situation in Exit villages 2017-2018

Region	Village	Exit year	Number of active volunteers	Continuing Activities
North Upper Egypt	Ezab El – Fant, Hafez and Marco	2017	15	<p><b>Community empowerment and sustainability component:</b> the committee, along with the village’s priest, managed to network with many organizations which offer financial support to achieve sustainability of components’ activities. Some of funders include: Diocese’s office in Fashn, Bishop Abraam service, General Authority for Adult Education, the Shepherd and Mother of Light associations.</p> <p><b>Housing improvement component:</b> the committee was able to get funds to construct bathrooms for 25 houses.</p> <p><b>Health care component:</b> awareness seminars and classes are continuously held (1 seminar every 3 months)</p> <p><b>Adult education component:</b> a cooperation protocol was signed to open a class for 20 students. Classes also were opened to reduce girls’ dropout, through encouraging them to join school and learn handicrafts. This is because one of the dropout reasons is poor economic conditions.</p> <p><b>Unleashing the potentials component:</b> the nursery is still continuing its activities. It includes 80 children and is divided into 3 stages.</p> <p><b>Economic development component:</b> economic projects were implemented as a result of repaid loans, such as manufacturing houses’ thresholds, groceries and sewing. 80 women also were employed to work in a project of sewing bags. Those women also managed to make a deal</p>

Region	Village	Exit year	Number of active volunteers	Continuing Activities
				with a factory where: they will be taught sewing, provided with materials and machines and get their products marketed and sold for 5 years.
Upper Egypt	El-Sebaeya and El-Eslah	2017	10	<b>Community empowerment and sustainability component:</b> As for Al Sebaeya, sustainability is proceeded through networks with “Hope” organization to implement a sewing factory. On the other side, committee members of Al Eslah succeeded in networking with the organization and paying their contributions for one year.
	El-Wajjak	2017	8	<b>Unleashing the potentials component:</b> the nursery is still proceeding its activities. <b>Economic development component:</b> microeconomic projects are still conducting their activities through repaid loans.
	El-Sheikh Shebeka	2018	10	<b>Adult education component:</b> classes are run through efforts of Malawi Diocese and in servants’ houses. <b>Unleashing the potentials component:</b> the nursery activities are run through monthly local contributions of children. <b>Economic development component:</b> due to networks with Misr El-kheir Foundation, 28, 000 L.E were allocated to implement microeconomic projects. <b>Improving education component:</b> under the supervision of the committee members, the village managed to

Region	Village	Exit year	Number of active volunteers	Continuing Activities
				participate in “teach your child” project to improve education.
Delta and Lower Egypt	Ezbet El-Saayda	2018	25	<p><b>Community empowerment and sustainability component:</b> activities in the village are supervised by Father Misaeel Saeed and Maria Milad, a servant there. Committee members hold meetings every month to proceed implementation of activities.</p> <p><b>Health care component:</b> some activities are funded equally by the church and beneficiaries’ local contributions. The component is proceeding its activities: seminars, classes, mobile clinics, awareness campaigns, sending medical checkups to hospitals and treating patients.</p> <p><b>Adult education component:</b> the component is proceeding its activities through: awareness classes about the importance of education, opening classes, holding exams and handing certificates.</p> <p><b>Economic development component:</b> the component is proceeding its activities through microeconomic projects and youth recruitment.</p> <p><b>Environmental development component:</b> awareness seminars are still run according to the village’s needs.</p>

Region	Village	Exit year	Number of active volunteers	Continuing Activities
				Cleaning campaigns and planting trees were also implemented in front of houses.
South Upper Egypt	El-Shaikh Marzouk	2018	5	<p><b>Economic development component:</b> microeconomic projects succeeded in increasing peoples' income and satisfying their needs.</p> <p><b>Unleashing the potentials component:</b> the nursery is still proceeding its activity due to local contributions.</p>

### **Annex 3:**

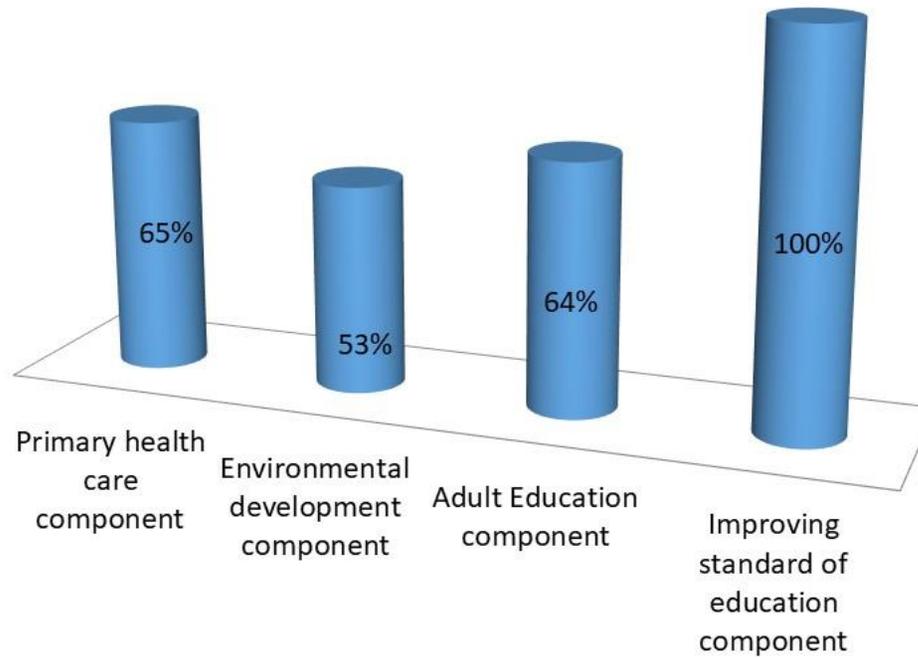
#### **Regional Community Based organization (CBO'S) Contribution with ICDP community in 2019:**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>CBOs application of trainings</b>	<b>Contributions</b>
North Upper Egypt	El- Batal	All CBOs are committed to attend community empowerment and sustainable development component's meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in round tables.</li> <li>• Participation in El- Yasmine environment day 2018</li> <li>• Supporting Francise' committee members to present a proposal to "Royeet Hayah" association and get funds to conduct "better health and protection" initiative.</li> </ul>
	El- Ekhlal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in round tables.</li> <li>• Exchanging experiences with the development committee members about its activities, how to get funds and procedures of establish CBO.</li> </ul>
Upper Egypt	El- Amal		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connections with El- Sebaeya committee members to achieve sustainability.</li> <li>• Implementing a sewing project, in cooperation with Al- Eslah committee members</li> </ul>
Delta and Lower Egypt	Mizan Al-Qoloub		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in round tables.</li> <li>• Achieving sustainability in Mubarak and Bani Salama village.</li> <li>• Having a nursery that serves Mubarak and Bani Salama and Ezbet El-Saayda villages.</li> <li>• Conducting mobile clinics</li> <li>• Supervising a clothespins factory</li> <li>• Offering financial support and funds for poor families.</li> </ul>
	Maan Ala El-Tareeq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a nursery that serving Mubarak and Bani Salama and Ezbet Assayda villages.</li> <li>• Conducting mobile clinics</li> <li>• Offering financial support and funds for poor families.</li> <li>• An agreement with the Egyptian Food Bank to provide families with services.</li> </ul>	

Region	Village	CBOs application of trainings	Contributions
Middle Upper Egypt	El-Dowair Agricultural Community Development		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in round tables.</li> <li>• Conducting awareness seminars for El- Shanayna youth.</li> <li>• Providing farming machines.</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 4:**

Percentage of fieldworkers records in Digital Monitoring System per component



## **Annex 5:**

### **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

The existence of a supportive entity to sustain development process.