



Newsletter April to June 2013

Dear Friends

A year ago we wrote to you and mentioned the changes that Egypt had experienced in electing a new president. Now we write to you in the midst of a different change. The Muslim Brotherhood has been removed from power in Egypt. We are very excited about the future for Egypt and we ask that you continue to pray with us as this situation continues to unfold.

Our staff and the volunteers at all of the centres have continued to put in hours of work of EpiscoCare throughout this time of change in Egypt.

April 2013

Mobile Clinic

El Salam Centre with the cooperation of El Salam Hospital has launched a mobile clinic from the hospital to our centre. This spring the visit from El Salam Hospital helped **36** beneficiaries with various medical specialties and doctors. The necessary medicines were distributed for each patient.



May 2013

Health Seminars

Together with the National Population Council three seminars were held to raise awareness about the dangers of female genital mutilation (FGM). For these seminars a priest and a sheikh from Al Azhar were invited to speak about the religious opinions about this issue, as well as doctors and development experts to discuss FGM from all angles. This is so that all of the traditional reasons given for FGM, usually religious and medical, can be explained and disproven by experts. 315 beneficiaries attended these seminars.





June 2013

Cleaning and Planting Campaigns

In collaboration with local businesses and Delta Ministry for Development three cleaning campaigns were held in our community centres. Each of these cleaning campaigns is a daylong event, which includes seminars about the environment. Cleaning the area around the centre and then planting trees along the roads nearby follow these seminars. Our goal is that by participating in the cleaning and planting of the area around the centres the participants take ownership of their community and its care. In the three cleaning campaigns this spring there were 220 volunteers.



Capacity Building



Capacity building is very important to the work that we do at EpiscoCare. Our aim is to be a growing and learning organization and a part of that is continually participating in trainings to stay at the top of our field. The following are the trainings that we were able to participate in with some of our partner organizations.

Some of our EpiscoCare staff, in a partnership with Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, participated in a training workshop, which focused on reproductive health, FGM, early marriage, advocacy, and developmental stages.

Training workshops in cooperation with Minority Rights Group (MRG) that focused on protecting the minority rights, which

included the participation of 30 other organizations.



Training workshop in cooperation with Professional Development Foundation, on the topic of decision-making. This workshop had 20 other participating organizations.

EpiscoCare staff also has participated in seminars with One World Foundation, about The Future of Pro-Democracy and Egyptian Human Rights Organizations under the Crisis of Foreign Funding.

Demographic Center also invited our organization to participate in a seminar that focused on poverty.

Farwell to volunteer

EpiscoCare is continually blessed with people who come as volunteers to help and assist in our work and we are most grateful for that. In June we had to say goodbye to Nanda Navis who had been working with EpiscoCare for a year through the Mennonite Central Committee. Nanda was a very hard and active worker and we will miss her very much and we wish her all the best as she returns to the US. We all pray for her to be blessed and look forward to seeing her again in the future. Good luck dear Nanda!

EpiscoCare always welcome volunteers to help in our work. If you want to know more about volunteering with us, please see the website for more information.



Partnerships

EpiscoCare would not be able to do the work which is does with out our partners here in Egypt and abroad. This spring we signed new protocols or renewed protocols with five organizations. These organizations were Coptic Orphans, Minority Group Rights, the Coalition for the Combat of Female Genital Mutilation, the National Council for Population and Delta Ministry. Thank you to all of these partners for your support and hard work.

Prayer Requests

Pray for Egypt as it yet again enters a time of change and transition, that our leaders will be lead to do what is best for Egypt.

Pray that our centres will be able to continue our work in Egypt despite the protests and uncertainty, as our beneficiaries need our support now more than ever.

Pray for the EpiscoCare centres around Egypt, that they would be able to continue to meet people in their needs.

Thank you



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