



HSBC Egypt and Misr El Kheir team up to build 350 community schools in Egypt

The three -year agreement is to help children access education in remote areas

Cairo: December, 16, 2015: HSBC Bank Egypt and Misr El Kheir Foundation signed today, Wednesday 16 December 2015, a three- year protocol to build 350 community schools. The schools will be built in remote areas that have no schools, with an aim to make education available to 12,000 children ageing between six and fourteen, across Egypt. This project will bring school dropouts back to the educational system and employ 700 teachers throughout Egypt.

Community Schools are an initiative created to provide an opportunity to children who have missed out on education by gathering children under one hub and providing them with relevant education to help further their personal development. This project is an integral part of HSBC's Corporate Sustainability drive in cooperation with leading charities to support community projects with a primary focus on education, environment and community development. HSBC Egypt has been leading projects such as building local schools complexes, local communities development, children's reading programs, and similar initiatives.

Jacques-Emmanuel Blanchet, Deputy Chairman and CEO of HSBC Egypt said: "We are delighted to stand behind such an important project in Egypt. Education is the top focus area in HSBC's Corporate Sustainability projects, and we have a strong track record in fostering education in Egypt. Providing basic education helps communities advance and develop, and education is a sustainable means of tackling poor living conditions and gaining long-term economic prosperity for individuals and their families. From a macro perspective, education is also a substantial investment in Egypt's future supporting the country's economic development and this is where HSBC plays a major role, as one of the largest international financial institutions and foreign investors in Egypt."

The Foundation's Managing Director for the Board of Trustees Abdel Aziz Ali said: "This project will offer quality education and is a cornerstone for developing skills of individuals and an important factor that determines the behavioral trends. Community education offers non-traditional ways for education, which pushes students into creative thinking and enables them to self-develop. Such education offers flexible studying hours that suits the conditions of students, also it does not require certain uniform, among other facilitating factors."

Head of the Education section in Misr El Kheir Nashwa Ayoub said: "Preliminary research locally and internationally has proven that children are prevented from accessing education which effectively means they are deprived of this right. Such a trend is known as "school dropouts" which is the major reason for widespread illiteracy in Egypt. Enrollment rates in primary schools are 95.4 percent and the dropout rate is 1.6 percent, meaning that 6.2 percent of children aged between six and 14 are not accessing education."

About the Community School Programme

In order to address the school drop-out rate and provide basic educational services to the neediest governorates of Upper Egypt, the curriculum, which had been specially developed by UNICEF for community schools, is delivered by a facilitator and not a teacher.

This creates a more interactive learning environment that emphasises creativity and participation rather than remote learning. The school calendar is especially tailored to the needs and seasonal lifestyle of the villages and rural communities, where holidays and weekends are customised according to market days, harvest seasons and other locally relevant holidays.

The basic goals of community education are the following:

1. Providing high quality education
2. Reach target groups in remote and deprived locations
3. Reduce the gender gap in education between males and females
4. Activating community participation in the educational decision making process
5. Development within the community through education.

HSBC Bank Egypt S A E

HSBC Bank Egypt S.A.E. was established in 1982 as Hongkong Egyptian Bank S.A.E. and adopted its present name in April 2001 following an increase in shareholding by the HSBC Group from 40% to 94.5%.

HSBC Bank Egypt S.A.E. is one of the largest multinational banks operating in Egypt, providing a comprehensive range of banking and related financial services through a network of more than 70 branches and outlets in prominent cities in Egypt.

About Masr al-Kheir

Misr El Kheir Foundation is a non-profit organization registered with number 555/2007 according to Law 84/2002. The organization aims to serve, develop and empower the Egyptian society for a better livelihood everywhere in Egypt. The organization also aims at transforming the Egyptian people from living in the state of extreme poverty to subsistence, from subsistence to sufficiency, and from sufficiency to efficiency. This would enable humans to positively contribute to a self-growing, solidarity society through working in five development sectors including health, education, scientific research, social solidarity and other walks of life. Misr El Khei Foundation is based on scientific thinking in presenting developmental services accessed by more than seven million beneficiaries during eight years.