

Fostering Opportunities in Rural Southern Areas- FORSA



Quarterly Report # 1 Year 2014

Submitted to USAID/Egypt on: January 31, 2014
Period from October to December 2013
Q1Y3

Grant Award
AID-263-G-11-00038

Pathfinder International

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List of Abbreviations

CDA	Community Development Association
EWSO	Egyptian Women Speak Out
HH	Household
IPC&C	Interpersonal Communication and Counseling
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoISA	Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs
RR	Raedat Rifiat (Community Outreach Worker)
SFD	Social Fund for Development
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNGO	Umbrella Non-Governmental Organization

Grant Goal/Objectives

The overall goal of this project—entitled “FORSA,” which means “opportunity” in Arabic, is to contribute to poverty reduction among vulnerable youth in rural Upper Egypt by applying an integrated approach that addresses health and wealth improvements, enhancing social protection. The specific objectives are the following:

1. Provide immediate employment opportunities for 1,400 youth in rural Upper Egypt by establishing a network of community health outreach workers to encourage greater access to health delivery services.
2. Build the capacity of women in rural Upper Egypt and assist them technically and financially to start their own businesses (microenterprises).

Executive summary

During this quarter—October to December 2013—the FORSA project maintained the momentum gained during the past two quarters, and activities continued to roll swiftly.

Learning from experience and quality improvement were the focus of concern of the whole project team both centrally in the Cairo office and throughout the implementation sites. Feedback from the implementation of previous field activities has been carefully processed and transformed into measures and procedures to ensure a better quality of subsequent activities. This reflects the very design of the project, where the implementation of field activities was meant to be in successive phases—or batches—to make use of the experiences gained during the implementation of one phase/batch in the improvement of the subsequent batches.

This was clearly evident when the FORSA Project team worked closely with the umbrella non-governmental organizations' (UNGO) staff to develop a system for monitoring and controlling the two tier subgranting process. The system enables UNGOs' staff to monitor the disbursement of transferred funds in reference to the timelines set by the budget plan and creates projections for the future; thus avoiding disbursement delays and smoothing the process of subgranting. This was done in response to the effects of the adoption of the no cost extension plan. After the delay imposed to the startup of the project by the political instability which prevailed in Egypt, the project addressed delays in implementation by rescheduling and concentrating project activities over a shorter period of time, and adding resources and some extra activities, including health awareness seminars in target villages, increasing the number of micro-grants beneficiaries, hiring extra administrative staff in UNGOs, and securing extra equipment to UNGOs and partner Community Development Associations (CDA).

Another area where quality improvement was evident is the household visits conducted by the CDAs' Outreach Workers (RRs), where more focus has been given by the project team to the measurement of the quality of the visits rather than just the number of visits. This focus has been reflected in the development of a checklist that assesses the quality of household visits which is planned to be put into action next quarter. The checklist features best practices in the process of planning for the visit, interacting with the target woman, and feedback from the woman visited, as well as the documentation carried out by the outreach worker in the specific records, establishing a score to measure the actual performance of the Outreach worker in comparison to best practice.

A plan was set for organizing eight Interpersonal communication and counseling (IPC&C) refresher courses for all three batches of RRs, whose performance has been less than satisfactory, to improve their skills for conducting the household visits in order to improve on the quality of the visits. Organizing refresher courses for the Egyptian Women Speak Out (EWSO) workshops trainers—one selected from each partner CDA's Outreach Workers/ Supervisors—was also planned to make sure that all the workshops will be conducted by competent trainers meeting the standards set by FORSA project, given the great influence those workshops have on the subsequent project activities of in-kind micro-granting. Rescheduling EWSO workshops for target beneficiaries was also decided; taking into account the proper



spacing of workshops to permit the thorough evaluation of each conducted training by individual trainers and detects any issues to be corrected before the conduct of the following training.

Finally the results of the analysis of the pre-intervention household survey was finalized this quarter, and the key findings were communicated to the FORSA project manager and the field force, to make use of those findings in the implementation of project activities and tackle areas of knowledge that showed marked deficiencies. Simultaneously, the pre-intervention household survey was finalized in Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDAs.

Meanwhile, funds continued to be transferred to the UNGOs throughout this quarter at a pace to keep up with the pace of implementation of planned project activities.

During this quarter, as Batch 1 RRs continued their monthly visits to all target households to deliver preset health messages pertinent to maternal health, family planning and proper nutrition, Batch 2 and Batch 3 RRs started conducting the awareness raising household visits to the targeted women in the corresponding CDAs. The number of households visited by Batch 2 and 3 RRs in Assiut and Souhag governorates this quarter was **50,128** with **29,519** households visited in Assiut and **20,609** households visited in Souhag.

A total of thirteen Interpersonal Communication and Counseling (IPC&C) training workshops were conducted (five in Assiut and eight in Souhag governorates), during which **521** project staff members from Batch 2 and Batch 3 UNGOs and their partner CDAs in Assiut and Souhag governorates were trained. The average percent knowledge gain among all trainees (Indicator 2a) was **56%**. The knowledge gain was **27%** in Assiut and **80%** in Souhag. This high outcome which exceeds the target set in the PMP is justified by the limited knowledge and skills of potential outreach workers Outreach Workers (RRs) in the disadvantaged areas of Assiut and Souhag.

Three EWSO Training of Trainer (ToT) workshops were also conducted, two in Souhag and one in Assiut, during which 88 CDAs' RRs and RR supervisors were trained on conducting EWSO Workshops for target beneficiaries. Preparatory meetings with selected EWSO trainers and UNGOs project staff were conducted in Assiut and Souhag governorates during this quarter to set the scene for the start of the EWSO workshops for beneficiary women. During those meetings the selection criteria of target beneficiaries for participation in the workshops were communicated, the logistics and financial aspects of the training were also planned. Following these meetings, trainers communicated to CDAs RRs the criteria for selection and worked closely with them to prepare lists of potential participants, which were rechecked and discussed by FORSA project's field implementation specialist in the corresponding governorate. When all lists have been finalized, trainers discussed with potential trainees their preferences regarding the handicrafts they wanted to learn. Further meetings gathering trainers and UNGOs project staff were conducted to fine tune the workshops plan based on the feedback from potential participants.

This quarter also witnessed the start of the EWSO workshops for beneficiary women where overall 15 have been conducted for women targeted by Batch 1 CDAs, 10 workshops in Assiut and five in Souhag



governorates. Those workshops were attended by 462 target women and 282 family members of whom 246 were males.

The preparatory meeting to gather Batch 3 UNGOs board members and FORSA project staff (Project Manager and Technical Coordinators) with their counterparts of the partner CDAs was held in both Assiut and Souhag governorates.

An extended staff meeting was held in Cairo office in early December 2013 gathering the entire FORSA project team including the FORSA project field staff from both Assiut and Souhag governorates to share experiences and discuss encountered problems during the implementation of project activities.

In mid-December 2013, a teleconference was held gathering FORSA project staff and Pathfinder technical staff to conduct a technical review for the FORSA project during which the pace of implementation, achieved milestones, challenges and successes, as well as lessons learned were discussed. It was decided to hold an end of project conference in August 2014, during which, the achievements of the FORSA project will be presented, including results of the pre-and post-intervention household surveys, results of the qualitative research conducted as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, lessons learned during the implementation as well as the successes achieved.

During this quarter continuous communication with USAID was sustained and several meetings with AOTR took place to brief her about the project's achievements and progress of the implementation of field activities. The project's training program's data were fed to the USAID TraiNet website, and project performance indicators were entered into Pathfinder's Online Data System (ODS).

The Project staff also collaborated with the Job Creation project funded by Social Fund for Development (SFD) which is also working in in Souhag governorate to create employment opportunities. Collaboration focused mainly on the coordination of activities to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts.

Accomplishments

Accomplishments during this quarter focused on fulfilling the following objectives:

- Transfer of funds to UNGOs and monitoring and control of the subgranting process
- Conducting household visits by all three batches FORSA Project CDAs community outreach workers (RRs)
- Training Batch 2 and 3 CDAs' Project Managers, Outreach Workers (RRs) , RR Supervisors and UNGO Technical Coordinators on IPC&C skills and health messages
- Selecting and training a cadre of trainers for the EWSO program from all three Batches, UNGOs and CDAs staff, Assiut and Souhag governorates
- Conducting the EWSO workshops for target beneficiary women of Batch 1 CDA's in Assiut and Souhag governorates.
- Finalizing the pre-intervention household survey in Batch 2 and 3 villages
- Analysis of the pre-intervention household survey data conducted in Batch 1 CDA's in Assiut and Souhag governorates
- Supporting the Kick-start of Batch 3 UNGOs and their partner CDAs field activities
- Follow-up, Monitoring and control of field implementation status
- Communication and collaboration with MoISA at Central and/or Governorate levels
- Organizing an extended FORSA Staff Meeting to share field implementation experience and lessons learned
- Conduction of technical review for the FORSA project in collaboration with Pathfinder International technical staff
- Communication with USAID
- Collaboration with other CAs

A. Transfer of Funds to UNGOs and monitoring and controlling the sub-granting process

Funds continued to be transferred to the UNGOs throughout this quarter to keep up with the fast pace of implementation of planned project activities. The following figure shows the timeline for funds transfer during the quarter.

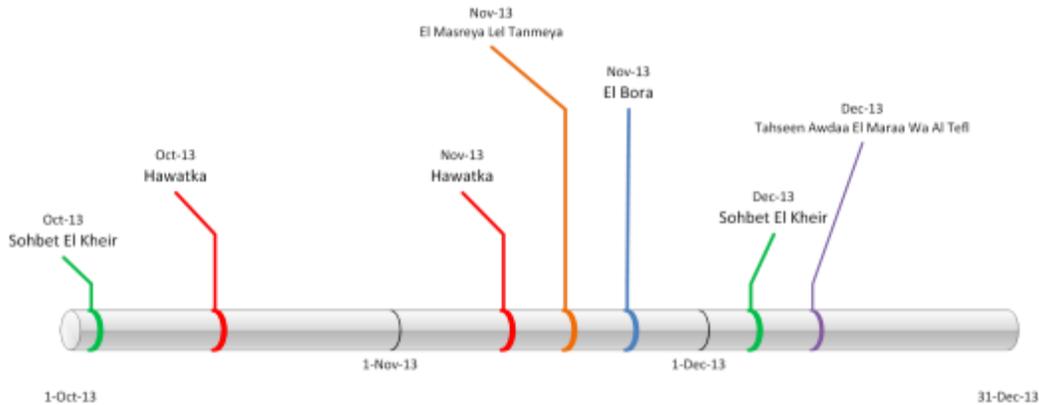


Figure 1 Timeline for funds transfer to UNGOs during the first quarter of FY13

Following the approval of MoISA to the modified implementation strategy of FORSA project and the submission and approval of the no cost extension plan by USAID, field activities had to be implemented over a shorter period of time to fit the new plan timelines.

It was decided to conduct some extra activities to enhance project quality and impact, namely seminars to beneficiaries in target villages addressing the areas of weaknesses highlighted by the report on the pre-intervention household survey, increasing the number of women that will receive micro-grants, allowing the UNGOs to hire administrative staff and providing more equipment to UNGOs and partner CDAs.

Consequently, it was deemed necessary to develop a system to monitor and control the two-tier granting process. In response to this need, the FORSA project manager, Sub-Grants manager and Sub-Grant Financial specialist worked closely with the UNGOs' staff to develop a system for monitoring and controlling of the two tier sub-granting process. The system enables UNGO staff to monitor the disbursement of transferred funds in reference to the timelines set by the budget plan; and creates projections for the future and thus avoids disbursement delays and smoothing the process of sub-granting.

B. Conducting household visits by FORSA project CDAs community outreach workers (RRs)

During this quarter “the squads” of Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDA’s RRs, fully equipped with the health knowledge, the interpersonal communication skills and empowered by the will to serve their fellow women in their communities, started conducting the awareness raising household visits to the targeted women in the corresponding CDAs.



Figure 2 FORSA project CDAs' RRs conducting Household Visit to a target Beneficiary woman in Assiut Governorate

For the FORSA project, household visits were a core and substantial pillar for linking health and wealth. It had a threefold influence on the community. First, it aimed at making an improvement in the health of the community through raising the awareness of women about health issues targeted by household visits. Second, it allowed the RRs to achieve financial independence and increased awareness of the important role they are playing in making a change in their society, and finally it carried to the community members the message that women are capable of changing their communities for the better and helped cultivate a more favorable attitude towards women empowerment.

As the Household visits were going on at the rate of one visit/month to each target beneficiary, the household visits started in November for Batch 2 CDAs RRs and in December for Batch 3 CDA’s RRs. The number of households visited by Batch 2 and 3 CDA’s RRs this quarter was 29,519 households visited in Assiut and 20,609 households visited in Souhag with a total of 50,128 households in both governorates.



Figure 3 A FORSA project CDA's RR conducting a household visit in Souhag governorate

With this number of household visits conducted this quarter, the total number of households visited by all three batches CDA’s RRs reached 95,128, 85% of the 112,500 target. Security issues caused by the heightened political tension in the country and local problems in the form of vengeance crimes which are common in Upper Egypt, put the safety of FORSA project’s team as a top priority, and led the project to postpone the start-up of household visits by Batch three CDAs’ Outreach Workers (RRs) for one week. The household visits continued during the first half of January, and more than 17,000 households have actually been conducted as of mid-January 2014.

In its pursuit for quality improvement, the FORSA project team—focusing not only on the number of visits but also quality of visits—developed a checklist to assess the quality of the household visit by the outreach workers. The project plans to begin using this in evaluating household visits next quarter. These forms will be used by, UNGOs’ TCs to evaluate the performance of CDAs’ RRs during the conduct of the household visits to be used as a feed-back on the quality of visits.

C. Training CDA Project Managers, Outreach Workers (RRs) , RR Supervisors and UNGO Technical Coordinators on Interpersonal Communication and Counseling (IPC&C) skills and health Messages

During this quarter, 13 IPC&C training workshops were conducted (5 in Assiut and 8 in Souhag governorates), during which **521** project staff members from Batch 2 and Batch 3 UNGOs and their partner CDAs in Assiut and Souhag governorates were trained on IPC&C. All project staff from batch three UNGOS and their partner CDAs successfully received the training during this quarter. Some rehires from Batch 1 and 2 were also trained during this quarter. Those re-hires were replacements for some RRs who withdrew from working with FORSA project. The following table shows the distribution of attendees of the workshops by governorate and batch:

	Batch 1	Batch 2	Batch 3	Total
Assiut	21	100	92	213
Souhag	10	12	286	308
Total	31	112	378	521

By the completion of those 13 workshops, the FORSA project successfully completed a substantial objective and achieved the target set in the PMP. The total number of people trained on IPC&C reached **1,468** which exceeds the target set in the PMP of 1,365 by 108%. The extra number of trainees represents the re-hires replacing withdrawn outreach workers immediately following training or after joining the field force.

During this quarter, the training continued to emphasize the importance of health messages for the trainees to make sure they will be qualified to conduct quality household visits which can positively affect targeted beneficiaries knowledge and future health related behavior. Through the partnership which started last quarter with the SMART project—a USAID-funded MCHIP project that focuses on improving maternal and neonatal health and nutrition—the project is now adopting some of the health



messages during the training of our outreach workers and involving some of the physicians affiliated with the SMART project in the training of the FORSA project outreach workers.

The standard procedure of measuring the effectiveness of the training through administration of pre and post-tests to the trainees revealed that the outcome of the training was as high as the trainings performed during the past two quarters. The average percent knowledge gain among all trainees (Indicator 2a) was **56%**. The knowledge gain was **27%** in Assiut and **80%** in Souhag. This high outcome which exceeds the target set in the PMP is justified by the limited knowledge and skills of potential RRs in the disadvantaged areas of Assiut and Souhag.

In each CDA, two trainees were selected to be nominated RR supervisors based on their past experiences, potential, overall achievement during the training, and on the achievements on the post-test and performance during the pre-hiring interview. A specifically designed scoring sheet has been developed by the FORSA project team to ensure objectivity and fairness of the selection process.

In its focus on quality, the FORSA project team decided to plan for eight refresher courses for RRs whose performance was not satisfactory as evidenced by their lack of knowledge in some areas or their poor communication skills noted on their visits to households. Those courses are planned to start during early Q2Y3. This decision was based on the feedback from field implementation specialists in the two governorates highlighting some areas of weakness in the performance of some outreach workers. This decision was one of many decisions taken based on feedback from the implementation of project activities—a key focus for the FORSA project is to ensure the project learns and adapts from experience to improve performance.

D. Selecting and training a cadre of trainers for the Egyptian Women Speak Out (EWSO) Program

The EWSO workshops are an important pillar in the project—not only helping to prepare the selected women to receive in-kind microgrants to start their own microenterprises but contributing to the empowerment of the women through training in useful lifeskills. Selecting and training a cadre of trainers to conduct those workshops was a focus of attention for the FORSA project team. By giving them the necessary lifeskills, business skills and introducing to them some simple handicrafts that might be the basis of a future microenterprise, the trainers will increase the probability of the women's success both in life and in a potential prospective business.

After the first ToT workshop was conducted last quarter, three more ToT workshops were conducted this quarter. The first workshop was conducted in Souhag governorate in October 2013 and was attended by 26 participants from Batch 1 and Batch 2 CDAs staff. The second workshop was conducted in Assiut governorate in November 2013 and was attended by 36 participants from Batch 2 and 3 CDAs. Finally the last workshop was conducted in Souhag governorate in December 2013 and was attended by 26 participants from Batch 3 CDAs. The policy of widening the pool for selection of trainers was continued during this phase of training. All outreach workers were subject to selection for the training

rather than only RRs supervisors, taking into consideration that some RRshave shown exceptional capabilities and skills.



Figure 4: EWSO-TOT trainees participating in group assignments

The administered pre and post-tests to the participants revealed that the outcome of the training was far beyond expectations—the average percent knowledge gain was **221%**. The knowledge gain was **217%** in Assiut and **223%** in Souhag. These numbers are beyond the targets set in the PMP and are justified by the fact that the concept of ToT was totally novel to this category of trainees in the markedly disadvantaged areas where the project is implemented; and thus their baseline knowledge was practically insignificant. Similar findings were observed during the first ToT conducted in the past quarter which was attended by the FORSA project manager who observed the extent to which the participants were surprised by the novelty of the concept and the contents of the training.

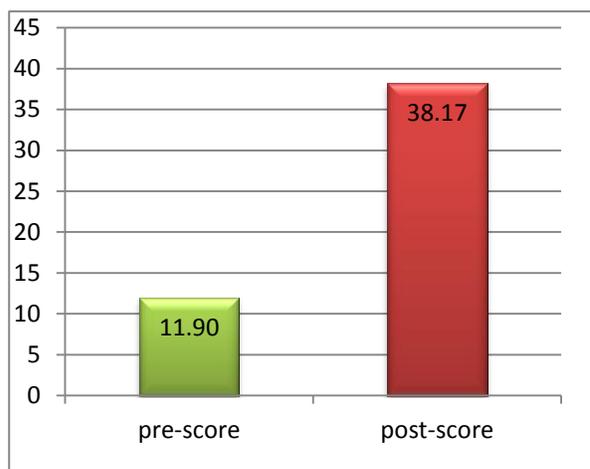


Figure 5 Pre-test and post-test scores of EWSO workshop participants

The training report includes individual evaluations for each trainee and recommendations on whether or not she is capable of administering the EWSO workshops at the local level. Based on the evaluations some RRs and RRs supervisors may be laid off or re-trained.

However, concerns that have been raised about the quality of EWSO workshops' trainers has urged the FORSA project team to make a decision of organizing refresher trainings for EWSO trainers, whose performance was not up to the set standards; and reschedule the EWSO workshops, to make sure only competent trainers whose performance meets the standards set by the project will be allowed to train the participants. Refresher courses will be conducted during the next quarter.

E. Supporting the Kick-start of the EWSO activities in Assiut and Souhag

Before the start of the conduct of the EWSO workshops in Assiut and Souhag governorates, it was deemed necessary to set up meetings involving FORSA project staff and the partner UNGOs and CDAs project staff to guide them through the implementation of the activity. During those meetings, the importance of the quality of the activities has been highlighted, and the criteria set by the project team for selecting the beneficiaries to participate in the workshops has been presented, as well as the criteria for selecting the participants who will be granted in-kind micro-grants. It was also stressed that those criteria served as guidelines, and that flexibility to meet the needs of specific communities can always be considered. The necessity of setting criteria for selection of participants in the workshop and subsequent grantees, raised from the concerns of the FORSA project team that the CDAs outreach workers and UNGOs staff would be inclined to the selection of the beneficiaries based on one single criteria—financial needs—neglecting important criteria that might contribute to the success of the potential enterprise such as potential and enthusiasm for running a personal business and support of the household decision maker. Granting a needy beneficiary who is more likely to have a successful enterprise paves the way for the sustainability of the intervention. For example, in the disadvantaged communities where the project is working, needy beneficiaries might use the in-kind micro-grant to support financial need through liquidation, rather than establishing an income generating sustainable micro-enterprise as intended. During those meetings, logistical and financial planning for the workshops was also drafted.

Following the meetings, trainers communicated to the CDAs' RRs the selection criteria and worked with them closely to prepare lists of potential participants. Those lists were reviewed and checked by FORSA project field implementation specialists who conducted visits to a random sample of selected potential participants.

When the lists were finalized, trainers discussed with the potential trainees their preferences for the timing of the training and the handicrafts to be learned during the workshops, and MoISA selected a skilled trainer for those handicrafts to participate in the conduct of the workshop. Further meetings involving FORSA project staff and the partner UNGOs and CDAs project staff particularly the EWSO workshops trainers were held to fine tune the workshops plan based on the feedback from the potential participants and final workshops plan was developed for guiding the implementation.

F. Conducting the EWSO for target beneficiary women of Batch 1 CDAs in Assiut and Souhag governorates

During this quarter the EWSO workshops for target beneficiary women of Batch 1 CDAs. This activity is the cornerstone for wide scale capacity building and empowerment of women in the project target sites. In those workshops, the participants learn over six days useful lifeskills such as decision-making, prioritization, negotiation, utilizing social safety networks, basic business management such as developing basic feasibility studies, as well as simple handicrafts and small scale food processing that maybe the basis of a potential future microenterprise.

Based on preset selection criteria, 30% of the participants in EWSO workshops will be given an in-kind micro-grant to start their own microenterprises. The criteria set forth by the FORSA project team for

selection of grantees include a focus on creating opportunities for youth, potential and enthusiasm for running a personal business, support of the household decision maker and the rest of family members, and finally the overall performance of the candidate in the EWSO workshop. Those criteria will guide the Micro-enterprise committee (which has already started undertaking its responsibilities in Batch 1 UNGO and its partner CDAs in Assiut).



Figure 6 attendants of one of the EWSO workshops in Souhag Governorate

To guarantee the endorsement of the household decision maker, each participant is asked to invite the decision-making member in her family to attend one day of the workshop during which he or she is briefed about the knowledge and skills the participant gained throughout the workshop and is oriented about the importance of women's role in the society and given examples to pave the way for creating advocacy to support women's empowerment.

This quarter, 15 EWSO workshops have been conducted for women targeted by Batch 1 CDAs, 10 workshops in Assiut and five in Souhag governorates. Those workshops were attended by 462 target women and 282 family members of whom 246 were Males.



Figure 7 A group activity during an EWSO workshop

The following table shows the details of the attendees of EWSO workshops conducted during Q1Y3:

Table 1 Distribution of EWSO participants by governorate and gender

Governorate	Target women	Family members		TOTAL
		Females	Males	
ASSIUT	363	28	197	588
SOUHAG	99	8	49	156
TOTAL	462	36	246	744

G. Finalizing the pre-intervention household survey in Batch 2 and 3 villages

Immediately following the completion of the training on interpersonal communication and health messages, the FORSA project Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDAs outreach workers started mapping their catchment villages to identify the target women for receiving household visits and health messages. Immediately following this process, six target beneficiary women were randomly selected from the list of each CDA to receive a visit by an RR supervisor during which women were interviewed through the questionnaire survey. A convenience control sample of women from non-targeted villages, with similar social and demographic characteristics were also visited and interviewed to fill up the same questionnaire. RR supervisors were trained through role play on interviewing the survey women to avoid interviewer bias during the conduct of the survey. They were also supervised on site by the FORSA project Monitoring and Evaluation specialist to perform a preliminary check on data quality.

The following table describes the numbers of targeted and control women interviewed in each governorate by RR supervisors of Batch 2 and 3 CDAs:

	Batch two		Batch three	
	Targeted women	Control women	Targeted women	Control women
Assiut governorate	90	135	30	45
Souhag governorate	60	90	90	135
Total	150	225	120	180

H. Analysis of the pre-intervention household survey data collected by Batch 1 CDAs in Assiut and Souhag governorates

During this quarter, data entry for the pre-intervention household survey in Batch 1 CDAs has been successfully accomplished, followed by data analysis. An analysis report was submitted to the FORSA project manager with key findings and recommendations for the implementation of the household visits.

The report revealed that there were no significant differences between the target group and the control and group of women interviewed regarding the background social and demographic characteristics or the base line knowledge about key health issues that are supposed to be tackled during the household visits by the project's outreach workers. This finding may help to highlight the role of household visits in raising the awareness of targeted women when the post-intervention survey is conducted at the end of the project, with the goal to see a significant increase in their knowledge as compared to the control group.

As a monitoring and evaluation tool, the household survey does not only aim at demonstrating the effectiveness of behavior change communication activities undertaken by the project's RRs, it also gives feedback to the project stakeholders and field implementation team to customize the implementation techniques in order to achieve the utmost results with the highest level of efficiency.

For example, the report also has shown some significant differences between the target group of women in Assiut and that in Souhag governorates, where the educational level of women in Souhag governorate was significantly higher than that of their counterparts in Assiut governorate. This finding was communicated to the project's field staff in Souhag governorate, so that they can customize their household visits to suit the high level of education of target women.

In addition, despite the fact that in both governorates (Assiut and Souhag) the pre-intervention level of knowledge of both targeted and control women about some key health issues was relatively high, other key knowledge areas represented valuable opportunities for improvement, namely the knowledge about the danger signals of pregnancy and puerperium, post-partum family planning, the proper use of lactation as a means of family planning, the proper timing for weaning and diet planning.

With this concept in mind, the key findings of the analysis report and their implications for the implementation of behavior change communication activities were summarized and distributed to the

field force of outreach workers to fine-tune their action plan to maximize the impact of the household visits by targeting the knowledge areas identified by the report as lacking. This closes the feedback loop.

I. Supporting the Kick-start of Batch 3 UNGOs and their partner CDAs field activities

An important step in the initiation of field activities in Batch 3 villages was the preparatory meeting held in both Assiut and Souhag governorates to gather UNGOs officials and FORSA project staff with their counterparts of the partner CDAs. Both meetings were successfully conducted during this quarter and were both attended by FORSA field implementation specialist in the corresponding governorate.

During the meetings the project was introduced to CDAs staff, the planned project activities were presented, and each CDA presented a map of the its target village, reviewing their expectations for the organization and planning of the subsequent mapping process and field work later on. During the preparatory meeting, the public hearing meetings in the target village of each CDA were planned. The public hearing meetings are an important opportunity to introduce the project in the target villages'. During those meetings, CDA board members invited local community leaders and introduced FORSA project activities and staff to them, thus gaining their endorsement of the project. An important topic which is covered during the preparatory meetings is the orientation of the UNGOs and partner CDAs on the selection of community leaders to be involved in the public hearing meetings. Building on the experiences gained from the implementation of public hearing meetings in Batches 1 and 2, a checklist for the selection of community leaders has been developed by the FORSA project team and has been communicated to the UNGOs and partner CDAs staff during the preparatory meeting.

J. Follow-up, Monitoring and Control of field implementation status.

During this quarter, the FORSA project team continued to monitor and follow-up the implementation status of field activities. This was not only conducted through the field implementation specialists working closely with the UNGOs and CDAs in the project's target governorates but also several regular field visits were conducted by the Cairo office project staff to get direct feedback from the implementation sites both at the level of the UNGOs and the partner CDAs. Meetings with regional MoISA officials, MoH officials and other community development organizations were also conducted to coordinate implementation activities and overcome obstacles as well as to boost efforts for networking between partner CDAs and other community development organizations at the local level.

K. Communication and collaboration with MoISA at Central and/or Governorate Levels

In Assiut governorate, collaboration with MoISA continued through regular meetings between the FORSA project field implementation specialists and the undersecretary of MoISA in Assiut. The meetings helped update the undersecretary about the latest activities of the project at the field level in order to gain his support in coordinating activities with other governmental and non-Governmental entities and helping in neutralizing some of the potential obstacles met during the implementation of the project's field activities.

Throughout this quarter, the FORSA Field Implementation Specialists continued their efforts in coaching and mentoring of UNGOs to fulfill the supervisory and reporting requirements of MoISA through working closely with the UNGOs staff in the preparation of mandatory reports submitted to the MoISA central and local governorate level.

L. Organizing an extended Forsa Staff Meeting to share field implementation experiences.

In its thrive for continuous improvement, the FORSA project highly values the importance of experiences learned from implementation of its field activities and makes sure that proper feedback is given to the concerned field staff to take the necessary actions towards improving the processes of implementation. From this perspective, an extended staff meeting was held in Cairo office early December 2013 gathering the entire FORSA team including the FORSA project field staff from both Assiut and Souhag governorates. During the meeting, staff shared experiences, discussed problems during the implementation of project activities, and brainstormed to develop standing yet flexible solutions. During the meeting, important issues pertinent to the obstacles encountered during the implementation of the project field activities such as the need to re-train some of the outreach workers, and some of the EWSO trainers were raised.

It was decided to conduct some extra-activities, namely seminars to beneficiaries in target villages addressing the areas for potential impact highlighted by the report on the Pre-intervention Household survey (where the surveyed women showed marked lack of knowledge pertinent to some areas specially danger signals of pregnancy and puerperium and balanced diet), increasing the number of women that will receive micro-grants, allowing the UNGOs to hire administrative staff and providing more equipment to UNGOs and partner CDAs.

After the delay imposed to the startup of the project by the political instability which prevailed in Egypt, the project addressed delays in implementation by rescheduling and concentrating project activities over a shorter period of time. Discussing this challenge was a crucial step in the process of development of the system for monitoring and controlling the sub-granting process by the UNGOs. Additional details are discussed under the challenges section of this report. The importance of the quality of the household visits conducted by the CDAs RRs was raised and the development of a checklist for assessing the quality of visits was also discussed.

The project staff discussed the importance of setting objective criteria for selecting micro-grant recipients. In deciding about the criteria set forth for the selection of grantees, the FORSA project team also highlighted the importance of the performance of the women during the workshop and the extent to which they succeed in gaining business management knowledge and skills, as well as in establishing an enterprise or community project and the support demonstrated by the decision-making kin who attended the workshop.

It was also highlighted during the meeting that enterprises granted would cover a wider range than the few handicrafts introduced during the workshop, where a woman having a specific interest in or

experience in a particular handicraft or enterprise not taught during the EWSO workshop can be granted an in-kind microgrant, such as establishing a literacy class by one of the grantees.

In mid-December 2013, a teleconference was held gathering FORSA project staff and Pathfinder technical staff to conduct a technical review for the FORSA project. During the teleconference the pace of implementation, achieved milestones, challenges and successes, as well as lessons learned were discussed. It came up that the influence of the project on people's lives in the implementation sites was significantly remarkable and there was common agreement that the results achieved by the project need to be disseminated to stakeholders and other people interested in project related technical areas such as community development, women empowerment, maternal health, family planning and population issues. It was therefore decided that the project will hold an end of project conference in August 2014, to which will be invited stakeholders from MoISA, MoH, representatives from the Population Council, UNFPA and other entities interested in the above mentioned areas. During this conference, the achievements of the FORSA project will be presented, results of the pre-and post-intervention to household surveys, results of the qualitative research conducted as part of the monitoring and evaluation activities, lessons learned during the implementation as well as the successes achieved will be outlined. This will help interested entities to build on the successes realized by the FORSA project and establish for the sustainability of the interventions.

M. Communication with USAID

During this quarter continuous communication with USAID was sustained and several meetings with USAID staff took place. Monthly update meetings with the USAID AOTR took place to brief her about the project's achievements and progress of the implementation of field activities. The USAID Mission also conducted a Data Quality Assurance audit, to ensure the integrity of the original sources of data used to develop the project's performance indicators.

During this quarter the project's training program's data were fed to the USAID TraiNet website, and project performance indicators fed into the Pathfinder International Online Data System (ODS) which helps better monitor the project's performance.

N. Collaboration with other CAs

During this quarter a significant collaboration with the Job Creation project funded by SFD acting in the field of creating employment opportunities in Souhag governorate was achieved. With an overlap in geographical distribution and some health awareness raising activities in Souhag governorate, several meetings were held with SFD staff, the MoH Outreach Workers' Director at the governorate level and Batch Three UNGO Chairperson. Those meetings aimed at coordinating the implementation activities of both project to avoid duplication of effort and to maximize the benefit of both projects to the local community.

Coordination between FORSA project and SMART project which started during the past quarter by the adoption of some of the health messages of the SMART project during the IPC&C training of CDAs

outreach workers and the involvement of some of the physician affiliated to the project in the training activities continued successfully during this quarter.

Table 2 Project activities during Q1Y3

Activities	Expected results	Quarter Achievement	Comments/Challenges
Batch One (30 communities)			
Result 1: Jobs created among local CDAs in intervention areas			
2.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	With completed capacity building of recruited CDA staff, home visits to implement project activities started and continued in intervention communities.	Batch one CDAs' Outreach Workers (RRs) are continuously performing the Household visits to targeted women , at a rate of one monthly visit to each target household	
Result 2 Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas			
2.2.1 Identify and train a cadre of trainers for the Egyptian Women Speak Out (EWSO) program	The Project will select one RR supervisor from each CDA to receive the EWSO TOT. The training will be held by consultants specializing in EWSO program implementation on field levels	Outreach Workers (RRs) /RR supervisors have been selected from Batch 1 UNGO and its partner CDAs in Assiut governorate and participated in a 6 days EWSO ToT training late September 2013.	
2.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	Batch one UNGOs and their partner CDAs are aware of the criteria for the selection of EWSO participants and workshops actually started	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants have been communicated to the UNGOs and partner CDAs and the workshops have actually started.	The conduct of EWSO workshops have been rescheduled to allow some trainers to have a refresher course for quality assurance and to space workshops to be able to better monitor the quality of the trainings
2.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants who will receive In-kind micro-grants developed and communicated to UNGOs and Partner CDAs	The criteria have been set and communicated to UNGOs and Partner CDAs and the enterprise committee has started to undertake its responsibility	
Batch Two (25 communities)			
Result 1: Jobs created among local CDAs in intervention areas			
2.1.5 Provide UNGOs and partner CDAs with IPC&C Training	All batch two, UNGOs'TCs, PMs, and all CDAs' PMs, and Outreach Workers (RRs), RR supervisors trained on IPC&C	All batch two, UNGOs'TCs, PMs, and all CDAs' PMs, and Outreach Workers (RRs), RR supervisors have been trained on IPC&C	
2.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	With completed capacity building of recruited CDA staff, home visits to implement project activities started and continued in intervention communities.	Batch two CDAs' Outreach Workers (RRs) have actually started the conduct of Household visits	
Result 2 Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas			
2.2.1 Identify and train a cadre of trainers for the Egyptian Women Speak Out (EWSO) program	The Project will select one RR supervisor from each CDA to receive the EWSO TOT. The training will be held by consultants specializing in EWSO program implementation on field levels	Outreach Workers (RRs) /RR supervisors have been selected from Batch 1 UNGO and its partner CDAs in Assiut governorate and participated in a 6 days EWSO TOT training late September 2013.	
2.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	Batch two UNGOs and their partner CDAs are aware of the criteria for the selection of EWSO participants and workshops actually started	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants have been communicated to the UNGOs and partner CDAs and the workshops have actually started.	The conduct of EWSO workshops have been rescheduled to allow trainers to have a refresher course for

			quality assurance and to space workshops to be able to better monitor the quality of the trainings
2.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants who will receive In-kind micro-grants developed and communicated to UNGOs and Partner CDAs	The criteria have been set and communicated to UNGOs and Partner CDAs	
Batch Three (20 communities)			
Result 1: Jobs created among local CDAs in intervention areas			
2.1.5 Provide UNGOs and partner CDAs with IPC&C Training	All batch two, UNGOs' TCs, PMs, and all CDAs' PMs, and Outreach Workers (RRs), RR supervisors trained on IPC&C	All batch two, UNGOs' TCs, PMs, and all CDAs' PMs, and Outreach Workers (RRs), RR supervisors have been trained on IPC&C	
2.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	With completed capacity building of recruited CDA staff, home visits to implement project activities started and continued in intervention communities.	Batch two CDAs' Outreach Workers (RRs) have actually started the conduct of Household visits	The household visits for batch there have been rescheduled to start late December instead of early December because of some security issues in the implementation sites
Result 2 Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas			
2.2.1 Identify and train a cadre of trainers for the Egyptian Women Speak Out (EWSO) program	The Project will select one RR supervisor from each CDA to receive the EWSO TOT. The training will be held by consultants specializing in EWSO program implementation on field levels	Outreach Workers (RRs) /RR supervisors have been selected from Batch 3 UNGO and its partner CDAs in Assiut governorate and participated in a 6 days EWSO ToT training late September 2013.	
2.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	Batch three UNGOs and their partner CDAs are aware of the criteria for the selection of EWSO participants and workshops actually started	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants have been communicated to the batch 3 UNGOs and partner CDAs and the workshops have actually started.	The conduct of EWSO workshops have been rescheduled to allow trainers to have a refresher course for quality assurance and to space workshops to be able to better monitor the quality of the trainings
2.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Criteria for selecting EWSO participants who will receive In-kind micro-grants developed and communicated to Batch three UNGOs and Partner CDAs	The criteria have been set and communicated to Batch 3 UNGOs and Partner CDAs	

Challenges

During Q1Y3, FORSA project encountered substantial challenges yet determination, devotion and professionalism enabled the project team to successfully handle each and every one of them and set forth preventive measures to neutralize the potential hazards they might have on the implementation of project activities in the future. Some of the challenges encountered this quarter included:

Security hazards in the implementation environment

The sites where the FORSA project chooses to work in featured significant hazards to the implementation of a community development project. Security of transportation in the target villages is markedly jeopardized by the frequent vengeance crimes accentuated by the tribal norms prevalent in those rural communities. The security situation was worsened by the unstable political environment which still prevails over the whole country and is reflected negatively on the security status, with Upper Egypt suffering the most.

The FORSA project managed to handle the situation skillfully by rescheduling planned activities to implement those that would fit the existing security situation limitations in order to minimize their adverse effect on implementation pace. Field staff were advised to move in groups to overcome the threats to the safety of transportation. Alternative means of transportation were also strategized as part of the project contingency plan. The safety of the project team was always the top priority.

Implications of the No Cost Extension Plan on the Budget

After a long period of delay due to the prevailing political instability in the country, and further delays due to the implications of political situation on the security conditions on the field, the FORSA project received approvals granted by MoISA for the new project strategy for implementation including the UNGOs. The project activities have been rescheduled in a no cost extension plan submitted to the USAID.

Field activities had to be implemented over a shorter period of time to fit the new plan timelines. The FORSA Project Team addressed this issue during the staff meeting conducted early December 2013 where it was decided to concentrate activities, adding resources and conducting some additional activities, namely seminars to beneficiaries in target villages addressing the areas of weaknesses highlighted by the report on the pre-intervention household survey, increasing the number of women that will receive micro-grants, allowing the UNGOs to hire administrative staff and providing more equipment to UNGOs and partner CDAs. The FORSA project manager, Sub-Grants Financial specialist and the Sub-Grants Manger discussed those proposed additional activities with partner UNGOs during field visits. Consequently, it was deemed necessary to develop a system to monitor and control the two-tier granting process. In response to this need, the FORSA project team worked closely with the UNGOs staff to develop a system for monitoring and controlling the two tier sub-granting process. The system enables UNGOs staff to monitor the disbursement of transferred funds in reference to the timelines set by the budget plan, and creates projections for the future and thus avoids disbursement delays and smoothing the process of sub-granting.

Limited Quality awareness of the UNGOs and CDAs' staff:

Due to the limited baseline knowledge and skills, of the UNGOs and CDAs staff in the disadvantaged implementation sites, it was observed by the FORSA project team that despite the trainings provided, the performance of some of them was not up to the standards set by the FORSA project. Coaching, guidance and continuous monitoring was effective in improving the quality of performance of UNGOs' staff, yet concerns about the quality of performance of RRs were the focus of attention of FORSA

project's team. Worries were growing that the focus of the RRs on quantity expressed by the number of conducted household visits markedly outweighed their focus on the quality of the visits performed. Those worries were emphasized when considering the conduct of EWSO workshops by the RRs who received the ToT training. This substantial activity is the cornerstone of the subsequent process of awarding the participants in-kind micro grants. Proper preparation of the grantees during the workshops is a crucial factor not only to the preparation of successful microenterprise owners who have the essential basic skills in business management but also for the generation of a sector of empowered women with substantial and useful like skills in the community.

In response to this challenge, the FORSA project team took specific correctional measures. First of all, it was decided to conduct refresher trainings for all three batches RRs on the interpersonal communication skills during January 2014 and to develop a tool for monitoring and assessing the quality of the household visits that will be put into action during Q2Y3. The tool consists of a checklist for assessing the quality of the household visit conducted by each RR.

Regarding the EWSO workshops, it was similarly decided that the selected EWSO trainers chosen from the RRs and RR supervisors would take a refresher training that will be held during Q2Y3 and to reschedule the EWSO workshops, to make sure that all of them will be conducted by competent Trainers whose performance is satisfactory and meets the standards set by the FORSA project.

Success Stories

FORSA project continues to empower women in Upper Egypt

The FORSA project RRs are the immediate product of the women empowerment activities. By giving them the opportunity to achieve self-actualization and financial independence, they are better enabled to stand up against the social stigmatization imposed to them by the community in which they live. Their feeling that they can have an active role in changing their community for the better fills them with self-confidence and helps them overcome their personal hardships.

Essmat overcomes the stigma of disability

When we asked to take her photo, Essmat Ahmed, FORSA outreach worker in Assiut Governorate could not stop her tears. She explained that, like many other things she does for the first time in her life after joining the workforce of FORSA, it is her first time to take a photo.

Essmat has been suffering three-fold discrimination since early childhood. Not only is she discriminated against as a female in the disadvantaged community of Upper Egypt, but also poverty and disability due to polio accentuated her sufferings. As a disabled female she was regarded in her community as useless and sexually dysfunctional.



Figure 8 Essmat, FORSA project Outreach Worker

When jobs were announced by FORSA project in her village, her parents convinced her to apply for the post of an outreach worker. Essmat attended the interview, with a strong belief that she will NEVER be selected because of her disability. When she was informed that she HAD been selected, she burst into tears, both feeling the satisfaction for being treated as a NORMAL person, and the uncertainty about her ability to perform this job, which necessitates visiting households all over the village (previously never wanting to leave her house or see people).



Figure 9 Essmat preparing for Household visits

The support of the FORSA project team gave her the courage to attend the training on interpersonal communication and counseling and to actually participate in the mapping process of households in her village. This time, the mocking laughs of children did not stop her; on the contrary, they made her more determined to continue what she has begun.

Essmat's new beginning started with her work in FORSA project. With a smile on her face, she says: **"Today, for the first time in my life, I am going to attend the wedding ceremony of one of my colleagues in FORSA team. I have never attended weddings before, it has always been an occasion to remind me of my disability, but today, my colleagues give me all the support."** She then added with a satisfied smile, **"And I have even bought a new attire with my first salary for this occasion."**

Essmat's perspective of the future has been changed. She now thinks about how to continue working even after the end of the project. When women she visits look at her with pity and ask her, "how can you do such a demanding job with your difficult conditions, when lots of men in the village are staying at home?" she simply replies with a confident smile.

Mona saves her family and pursues her study

Like many other girls in her village, Mona was obliged by her family to get married at an early age, while she was still in her first college year. Although she had lots of obligations towards her husband she was full of determination to pursue her university degree. Her husband who worked abroad and gained enough money to support his young wife and provide for health education was supportive for her to pursue her dream in the beginning.

As customary in the village, early pregnancy was an urgent need by her mother in law. She could not resist the



Figure 10 Mona, FORSA outreach worker conducting a household visit

pressures imposed on her by her husband's family as well as hers, and she got pregnant very soon after the marriage. Pregnancy could not hinder her from pursuing her studies, yet a premature labor obliged her to miss the final exams, costing her one full year of college studies.

Just as she was about to catch up for the lost year, her life got more complicated as her husband lost his job and returned jobless to his home village. With no source of income, he was unable to support his family and could not pay for the costs of his wife's education. The condition got worse when he failed to get a job in his village which was reflected badly not only on his psychological condition but also on the way he treated his wife. The situation was aggravated by the chronic illness of her son, who needed an urgent eye surgery that his father could not pay for.

When jobs were announced by FORSA project in her village, she thought she could help herself and her family and play a role in improving her community. She promptly applied for the post of an outreach worker. Motivated by a strong determination to succeed, she excelled in her job. She demonstrated a high degree of ability in time management, by being able to coordinate her job responsibilities, her domestic responsibilities and her scholarly duties. Because of the money she earns from the work, she was able to pay tuition and will obtain her degree next year. Although her husband was reluctant and unsupportive at first, he soon became grateful to his wife's job for saving his family as he is still unable to find a job.

"I am also currently saving money for my son's operation; I owe FORSA my college degree and my new life," summarized Mona.

Mayada gets a second chance

Mayada's story is one worth contemplation. Diagnosed as a cancer patient in the final year of her college study, she went through lots of pains that could destroy her dreams in the future, and even her life. Several courses of chemotherapy and radiotherapy adversely affected her health as well as her self-confidence. She became intimidated by her own reflection in the mirror after she lost her hair, the sign of femininity in her community. The look of pity in the eyes of her family, friends, and neighbors was even more intimidating than the cancer itself.

Contrary to the expectations of her family, Mayada decided not to quit. Her way of fighting back cancer was to hold on to the future, and have hope in a better tomorrow. She decided to pursue her studies against the advice of all the people who know her, and even to go to the campus to sit for the final exams while she was hospitalized for receiving her radio and chemotherapy. What she hated most during her journey to the campus was the looks of pity in the eyes of her colleagues.

Luckily enough, Mayada's battle ended well. Her doctor announced to her that she was officially cured from cancer; she received the results of her final exams and she was granted her college degree with honors.

Mayada thought that all her troubles were over, after her cure from cancer and her brilliant success in the final exams, but she discovered that her real troubles had only begun. For eight whole years she stayed at home doing practically nothing. People in the village still treated her as a terminal patient and the looks of pity have never changed to looks of admiration or appreciation for her efforts. Unfortunately, in the disadvantaged community of Upper Egypt, cancer is a life time stigma. She has always been regarded as useless and even sexually dysfunctional. As time passed, Mayada's hope for change gradually diminished until the day came when the jobs were announced by FORSA project in her village. She thought that this might be a new beginning for her and she applied for the job of an outreach worker. She burst in tears when she knew that she was accepted as a FORSA project RR, and joined the IPC&C training fueled by the desire to make her life better.



Figure 11 Mayada, FORSA project RR supervisor in Assiut

In the training, her performance was remarkable and she qualified to be one of the two RR supervisors in her village. This filled her with more determination to excel in what she is doing and sincerely help her fellow women in the village. Her belief that she can contribute to improving her community made her feel her own worth and augmented her sense of self-confidence.

Mayada started thinking about the future again—she is thinking of establishing a community development association that can provide sustainable help to the people in her village, and she thinks about starting a business to make her feel independent.

“I got two opportunities in my whole life, the first was when I defeated cancer, and the second was when I joined FORSA project.” said Mayada with tears in her eyes.

FORSA Project endorsed by senior officials in implementation governorates:



Figure 12 FORSA project consultative committee meeting headed by the Governor of Souhag

A few months after the start of the FORSA project field activities, the project gained popularity in all implementation sites. The influence of the project implementation on the target populations made news that spread to the governor of Souhag who was impressed by the results achieved and the role of the project in serving the local community in the governorate and its participation in the reduction of poverty.

In line with the government's policy to provide support for community development efforts, the governor decided to endorse the project and establish a consultative committee headed by himself with the membership of the undersecretary of MoISA and the director of Souhag health directorate. The main aim of the committee is to support the project activities, and coordinate between MoISA and the MoH directorate to neutralize the obstacles met during the project implementation.

FORSA project builds the capacity of partner UNGOs

One of the most important focus areas of FORSA project is building the capacity of its partner UNGOs and the second-tier project implementers the CDAs. The process started very early during the project's life when the UNGOs were first selected through training the board members on proposal writing to submit technically sound proposals for receiving grants from pathfinder international to the MoISA. The capacity building activities of the FORSA project did not stop there, but continued through providing guidance and coaching to the board members during the actual preparation of the proposal, reviewing what has been written and giving advices about possible modifications.

After the approval of the proposals by MoISA, board members and accountants of the UNGOs received their financial and managerial trainings to be able to manage the partner CDAs during the implementation of the project activities including the management of the sub-granting process. Again the FORSA project did not stop there, the project's finance team and grants specialist worked closely with UNGOs board member and accountants throughout all steps of implementation, giving advice and coaching to ensure that by time, they will be competent in managing the grants, and transfer their new capacities to their partner CDAs

“Al Bora” submits a successful proposal

Al khairyeya Al Islamia is the oldest community development Non-Governmental Association working in Al-Bora village in Assiut governorate, being established in the seventies.

For years it has been working in the development of their local community, and gained the trust and support of the local residents, as well as MoISA officials at the local level. That's why due to word of mouth, the association was always involved in all development projects implemented in the village. The board members however, did not actively pursue the process of seeking a grant from international or local donors; on the contrary they were contacted when a project needs to be implemented in the village, being the



Figure 13 Nawal Mahmoud executive director of Al Bora UNGO

oldest and most established community development association. This status was continued even after Mrs. Nawal, an ex MoISA official, took charge as executive director of the association.

After the association has been selected to be the FORSA project partner, to act as an UNGO partnering with batch three CDAs in Assiut governorate, things have started to change a bit. The proposal writing workshop that Mrs. Nawal together with board members of the association attended; produced a paradigm shift in the management policies.

The board, impressed by the knowledge and skills they gained during the proposal writing workshop, decided to seek granting from the SFD. They utilized all the new knowledge and skills to prepare a proposal for 1,000,000 pounds project to be funded by the SFD. The proposal was accepted and the association was granted the fund to start implementing the project.

“I really appreciate the effort done by the FORSA project team who trained us on proposal writing, the training was highly professional, and despite my vast experience working at MoISA and non-governmental community development agencies, I really felt that I benefited greatly from the training and the results of the effort spent in the training are beginning to show with this grant from SFD” concludes Mrs. Nawal.

A locally organized refresher course in Al-Hawatka UNGO

Batch 1 UNGO in Assiut, Al-Hawatka, has been working in the implementation of FORSA project activities for six months during which they have gained lots of knowledge and skills enabling them to value quality improvement of the implementation processes. The UNGO's FORSA project managers in Al-Hawatka decided to conduct a locally organized refresher course for their partner CDAs outreach workers.



Figure 14 Batch one CDA's outreach workers in Assiut governorate during the refresher training

FORSA project in the Media

“Al Youm Al Sabea- (the seventh day)” writes about FORSA project.

On the morning of the 16 of December 2013, the FORSA project team received with contentment the issue of one of the best-selling newspapers in Egypt “Al Youm Al Sabea- (the seventh day)”. This issue of the newspaper featured an article about the FORSA project, discussing details the story of the project consultative committee established in Souhag governorate and the endorsement of the governor of Souhag, Mr. Mahmoud Ateak who spoke highly of the project and its role in the reduction of poverty in the governorate.

The article also had a picture for the first meeting of the consultative committee where the governor, the undersecretary of MoISA, director of the health directorate as well as the FORSA project field implementation team in Souhag governorate. The article has also been published on [the newspaper's website](#).



Figure 15 the article About FORSA project from Al Youm Al Sabea website

FORSA blog spot

In December 2013 the projects was also highlighted on the [Pathfinder International website](#). The blog features an interview with FORSA project manager in which she highlights the potential impact of the project activities on the local communities in the implementation governorates. She also explained how the project combines health and wealth through creation of job opportunities for outreach workers who can raise the health awareness of the women in their communities and then moves to a second level to teach a sector of the women in the target sites to teach them life-skills, business skills and simple handicrafts and then grants some of them an in-kind Microcredit to start their own enterprises.

She also explains how the project produces a two tier impact on women empowerment in the target communities, first through creation of job opportunities for outreach workers granting them skills training and financial independence then, through granting a group of targeted women micro credits to start their own enterprises after an appropriate training thus achieving self-actualization and financial independence.



Figure 16 A capture of FORSA Blog spot On Pathfinder International website

The blog spot also features the success story of one of the community outreach workers (RRs) who have been hired by the project (Sherine Khallaf), and who has been able to overcome personal hardships imposed by her social status as a divorced woman in the disadvantaged community of Upper Egypt. The detailed story of Sherine appeared in the Q4Y2 report.

The girl effect tweets about FORSA project



The girl effect—a global movement working for the welfare of adolescent girls—also tweeted about the FORSA project on their tweeter account which has more than 70,000 followers and shared the link to the projects blog spot on pathfinder international’s website.



FORSA Project continues to respond to the social needs of beneficiaries

Securing Health Needs

During this quarter, the protocol of long term coordination between Batch 1 UNGO in Assiut, Al Hawatka and Manfalout district hospital was put into action.

A system has been established to refer beneficiary families in need for medical care, to the hospital, accompanied by one of the RRs to follow-up with the hospital administration the case management and the provision of the necessary services.

The system ensures that, with the large number of beneficiaries in need for medical care, the process of referral is coordinated and organized not to interfere with the work of the RRs. One RR from each partner CDA accompanies the referrals from the target beneficiaries one day/week. The total number of referrals from FORSA project beneficiaries in all Batch 1 partner CDAs in Assiut was 76 referrals, all of whom were women.



Figure 17 FORSA project RR accompanying two beneficiary women to the outpatient clinic of Manfalout district hospital

FORSA Project Networks with RESALA

The same UNGO networked with RESALA, a major player in non-governmental community development in Egypt. FORSA project RRs supported a household health awareness campaign organized by RESALA in Al-Hawatka village on the 6th and 7th of December 2013 by promoting the campaign to villagers during their household visits. In return, the campaign addressed important health issues answering important questions arising from the women during the household visits about child care and reproductive health, and responded to their health needs by providing them with medical care. During the campaign medical services were provided to 75 women, 40 men and 45 children from the FORSA project beneficiary households. A fair for selling clothes at nominal prices was also organized during the same period benefiting the whole village including FORSA households

Monitoring and Evaluation

This quarter the project achieved targets will be presented according to the submitted no cost extension workplan and PMP based on the approval granted by USAID agreement officer on the 13th of August 2013.

In addition to the reporting on the performance indicators set in the PMP, it is worth noting that the pre-intervention household survey has been finalized and the data entry is in process, while the interim analysis of the collected Batch 1 CDAs' pre-intervention household survey data has also been finalized and the key findings have been communicated to project's staff to guide the implementation of household visits in target sites based on highlighted areas of need and significant socio-demographic characteristics of the target population.

Planning for the start-up of the qualitative monitoring and evaluation data has also been conducted, where the focus group discussions with males attending the EWSO workshops will start in the second half of January 2014.

As per the NCE workplan and PMP, the following indicators are to be reported on this quarter:

Indicator #2: Average percent change in knowledge gain among FORSA CDAs outreach workers (Raedat Refeyat /RRs) and UNGOs technical coordinators.

Indicator #3: Number of people trained in FP/RH/ maternal/ newborn/ child health/ nutrition during FORSA CDAs outreach workers (Raedat Refeyat /Outreach Workers (RRs)) and UNGOs technical coordinators trainings.

Indicator # 5: Number of households visited by awarded CDAs outreach workers in intervention areas

Indicator # 7: Average percent knowledge gain among UNGO Technical Coordinators and RR supervisors trained in FORSA EWSO TOT

Indicator # 8: Number of beneficiaries trained by CDA RR supervisors through EWSO programs in intervention areas

Table 3 Achieved indicators FORSA Project Q1Y3

Indicator Number	Results Data	Baseline Year:	FY 2					FY 3					Total	Comments (Explanation on a - /+ 10% actual from target)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY1	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY2		
Indicator # 2	Target		--	--	≥ 20%	≥ 20%	≥ 20%						≥ 20%	As FORSA is working with UNGOs and CDAs in unprivileged communities, initial capacity and knowledge of staff was very limited and hence the benefits of the training were huge.
	Actual		--	--	53%	34%	56%							
Indicator # 3	Target		--	--	546	846	1,365	1,365					1,365	Numbers exceed the expected targets as rehires from Batch 1 joined the training. Also, some of Assiut CDAs who were planned to finish their training early October successfully completed it by the end of September.
	Actual		--	--	548	947	1,459							
Indicator # 5	Target		--	--	--	45,000	45,000	112,500					112,500	The startup of household visits in Batch 3 CDAs was postponed for 1 week due to security reasons and the target has actually been achieved by the 15 th of January 2014
	Actual		--	--	--	45,003	95,128							
Indicator # 7	Target					≥ 20%	≥ 20%	≥ 20%					≥ 20%	Attendees of EWSO TOT Training in unprivileged project sites were initially unaware of the concept of TOT and were not interested yet after training went on they became energetic, enthusiastic and devoted.
	Actual					199%	221%							
Indicator # 8	Target							3,250	7,000	7,500			7,500	EWSO workshop have been rescheduled and adequately spaced to ensure satisfactory quality through conducting refresher courses for all EWSO trainers and monitoring the quality of each training individually.
	Actual							462						
Indicator # 9	Target							330	1,680	2,250			2,250	Rescheduling EWSO workshops and planning for the increase of the number of grantees resulted in the rescheduling of the awarding process.
	Actual							0						