

**Fostering Opportunities in Rural Southern Areas- FORSA**



**Quarterly Report # 3  
Year 2014**

**Submitted to USAID/Egypt on: July 31, 2014  
Period from April to June 2014  
Q3Y3**

**Grant Award  
AID-263-G-11-00038  
Pathfinder International  
9 Galen Street, Suite 217  
Watertown, MA 02472 USA**



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### *List of Abbreviations*

<b>CDA</b>	Community Development Association
<b>EWSO</b>	Egyptian Women Speak Out
<b>HH</b>	Household
<b>IPC&amp;C</b>	Interpersonal Communication and Counseling
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoISA</b>	Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs
<b>PM</b>	Project Manager
<b>RR</b>	Raedat Rifiat (Community Outreach Worker)
<b>SFD</b>	Social Fund for Development
<b>TC</b>	Technical Coordinator
<b>ToT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>UNGO</b>	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

This quarter has demonstrated that the project's efforts over the last years have culminated in the successful advancement of health and wealth among the target population.

Early during this quarter, all project activities have been successfully implemented in Batch One UNGOs and their partner CDAs target sites, in both Assiut and Souhag Governorates. All planned Outreach Workers household visits have been accomplished, all Egyptian Women Speak Out workshops have been conducted and all in-kind micro-grants have been awarded to selected beneficiaries as planned. The post intervention household survey was successfully conducted, and data collected and analyzed.

Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDAs' Outreach Workers continued to conduct their recurrent household visits to the target households in their communities at an average rate of one monthly visit to each target household.

By the end of June 2014, an overall of 345 6-days EWSO workshops were conducted across the 75 Project's CDAs. They were collectively attended by 8,604 target beneficiary women of reproductive age. A total of 5,249 family members attended the 1-day orientation of which 4,400 were males. The number of workshops conducted and the number of attendees exceeded the targets set for the project: 300 workshops and 7,500 trainees. The FORSA project team's decision to increase the number of EWSO workshops participants resulted 45 additional workshops in Batch 2 and Batch 3 target sites, at a rate of one supplementary workshop per CDA. As a result, the additional workshops benefitted 1,104 more women. This decision was taken after the positive response received from the community members in the project implementation sites, including men, after their participation in the EWSO workshops and the positive effects it had on the lives of women.

By the end of this quarter, a total of 2,650 project beneficiaries who attended the EWSO workshops were granted an in-kind microgrant, worth 600 Egyptian Pounds each, to start a micro-enterprise. The microgrants covered a variety of trades, including but not limited to the handicrafts introduced during the EWSO workshops: liquid soap-making, accessories-making, establishing small beauty shops, and poultry breeding. The number of women receiving microgrants (2,650) exceeds the target set in the PMP of 2,250 grantees. The decision to increase the number of grantees was made by the FORSA project team as a means to maximize the project's reach to a larger number of women in the target sites.

During this quarter, the micro-enterprise committees in the UNGOs started conducting follow-up visits on the micro-enterprises that were established by project beneficiaries. The objective of the follow-up is to find out whether the micro-enterprise project was still functioning after one month, has maintained adequate bookkeeping, and whether it has generated any income was and has been profitable. A checklist addressing the above mentioned criteria was used by the CDAs project staff to evaluate the micro-enterprises during an on-site visit. Checklists were submitted to the micro-enterprise committees, who discussed the findings with the CDA supervisor who conducted the assessment, documenting the status of the project in their meeting minutes.

During this quarter, a total of 2,110 micro-enterprises were evaluated by the micro-enterprise committees. Of those, 2,109 were reported as functioning and generating income, and only one discontinued for personal family reasons.



The package of trainings (Refresher trainings in Management Skills, EWSO ToT, and Interpersonal communication and counseling skills for Outreach Workers) as part of the project's monitoring and quality improvement, which started during the previous quarter, continued during this quarter with the four training sessions on IPC&C and Health Messages (two in Assiut and two in Souhag governorates). They were attended by 105 CDA FORSA project Outreach Workers who needed additional training in some areas. Three refresher trainings on management skills were conducted (one in Assiut and two in Souhag). Those trainings were attended by 65 UNGO and CDA staff, namely UNGO technical coordinators and CDA Project managers and Outreach Workers' supervisors. Finally, two 6-day refresher trainings were conducted in Souhag, and were attended by 41 EWSO workshops trainers.

During this quarter, a total of 50 seminars were organized in the target communities in both Assiut and Souhag Governorates, 25 in Souhag and 25 in Assiut, and were attended by target beneficiary women of reproductive age. Doctors from local primary health care facilities, local hospitals, NGOs health care facilities, or private institutions were invited to conduct the seminars for participants. The seminars addressed family planning, reproductive health, child rearing practices and nutrition. Some of the seminars covered topics of interest for the target communities including Hepatitis C and breast cancer prevention.

Exchange visits also continued to take place between participating CDAs to learn from each other's experiences..

Over the last quarter, the FORSA project team continued to monitor and follow-up on the implementation status of field activities through the field implementation specialists working closely with the UNGOs and CDAs in the project's target governorates and through regular field visits conducted by the Cairo office project staff in order to get direct feedback from the implementation sites.

All 15 planned focus group discussions (FGD) with men attending EWSO workshops with their spouse/daughter/sister trainees were completed during this quarter and the results were analyzed (See Appendix). Two focus group discussions were conducted with Batch one CDA Outreach Workers, one in Assiut and one in Souhag. Ten in-depth interviews (IDI) were conducted with family members of Batch one CDA Outreach Workers (5 in Assiut and 5 in Souhag). Both FGDs with Outreach Workers and IDIs with their family members aimed at assessing the attitudes and opinions towards women's work and empowerment, evaluation of the women's work experience and the perceptions and opinions towards women's control over financial resources.

During this quarter, the post-intervention household survey was conducted for Batch one CDAs as planned. The survey questions were used with both the women in targeted household who received household visits through the project, as well as with a control group of women not reached by the project. The overall increase in the percent of women who could answer the questions correctly (32%) exceeded the PMP target of 20%. This was due to the fact that FORSA project team efficiently addressed Health Awareness activities through identifying areas of demand during the pre-intervention household survey, and thus tailoring the Outreach Workers' visits and health seminars to address the salient issues in the target areas.

Apart from the routine collaboration with MoISA, which began with the project's inception, an important area of collaboration took place this quarter between the FORSA project and MoISA particularly at the local governorate/District level in Assiut. In order to ensure a common understanding between UNGOs' staff who



have developed considerable capacities in the managerial domain and MoISA staff supervising the implementation of the project's activities , some of the staff were involved in the Managerial Skills training offered to UNGOs. Those trainings helped MoISA staff achieve managerial skills comparable to UNGOs staff thus smoothening the interaction between the two parties and removing possible technical barriers. Collectively 32 MoISA staff attended the training.

The FORSA project Consultative committee in Souhag governorate, headed by the governor of Souhag, met for the third time on April 6, 2014, and the meeting was attended by the USAID AOTR.

Continuous communication with USAID was sustained and 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. Early this quarter, the USAID AOTR conducted a 3 -day visit to the project target sites in Assiut and Souhag and attended a sample of each activity implemented by the project including: household visits by CDAs Outreach Workers, EWSO workshop training, quarterly meeting of UNGO, focus group discussion with men attending the EWSO workshop, meetings with micro grant beneficiaries ,and finally the FORSA project consultative committee meeting headed by the Governor of Souhag.

During this quarter, the extensive network established between FORSA project partner CDAs and a large number of development agencies and initiatives working in the project sites continued to provide the project beneficiary families with unplanned in-kind support: 1,077 project beneficiaries received in-kind support in the form of Food stocks, clothes and basic furniture's, financial support in the form of monthly pensions, grants, or loans were provided to 74 project beneficiaries in both Assiut and Souhag, and support in the form of diagnostic and curative services as well as health awareness campaigns was provided to 1,247 project beneficiary families.

## Accomplishments

Accomplishments during this quarter focused on fulfilling the following activities:

- Completion of all project activities by Batch one UNGOs and their partner CDAs
- Conducting household visits by Batch 2 &3 FORSA project CDAs Outreach Workers (RRs)
- Completion of the EWSO workshops for all target beneficiary women in Assiut and Souhag governorates
- Refresher trainings on financial and managerial skills for UNGOs staff, IPC&C for CDA Outreach Workers and ToT for EWSO workshops trainers
- Organizing health awareness seminars in target communities about major reproductive health issues
- Completion of exchange visits between partner CDAs to exchange expertise about project implementation
- Complete the awarding of all planned microgrants in Assiut and Souhag



- Evaluation of micro-enterprises established by grantees through micro-enterprises committee
- Completion of FGD with men attending EWSO workshops
- Follow-up and monitoring of field implementation status
- Conducting FGDs with Batch one CDA Outreach Workers and IDIs with some of their family members
- Analysis of FGDs conducted with males attending EWSO workshops
- Conducting and analysis of post-intervention household survey for Batch one CDA target sites
- Communication and collaboration with major project stakeholders at central and/or governorate levels
- Networking with other Community Development Organizations and stakeholders to leverage and augment the impact of the project on target communities

#### **A. Completion of all Project activities of Batch 1 UNGOs and their partner CDAs**

Early during this quarter, all project activities were successfully implemented in Batch One UNGOs and their partner CDAs target sites in both Assiut and Souhag Governorates. All planned Outreach Workers household visits have been accomplished, all EWSO workshops have been conducted, and all in-kind microgrants have been awarded to selected beneficiaries as planned. The post intervention household survey was successfully conducted, and data collected and analyzed.

An overall of 120 6-day EWSO workshops have been conducted in Batch One CDAs, 40 in Souhag and 80 in Assiut. Those have been collectively attended by 3,003 beneficiary women and 1,951 family members (over one day of the training) of whom 1,750 were men.

Out of those who attended the EWSO workshops 940 women were granted in-kind microgrants to start their own micro-enterprises, 640 in Assiut and 300 in Souhag. All of those micro-enterprises were able to achieve income generation when evaluated by the micro-enterprises committee.

#### **B. Conducting household visits by Batch 2 &3 FORSA project CDAs Outreach Workers (RRs)**

Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDA outreach workers continued to conduct their recurrent household visits to the target households in their communities at an average rate of one monthly visit to each target household. By the end of July 2014, all Batch 2 CDA outreach workers will have completed all their planned visits to the target households.

#### **C. Completion of the EWSO Workshops for all 3 batches UNGOs and Partner CDAs' target beneficiary women in Assiut and Souhag governorates**

By the end of June 2014, 345 6-day EWSO workshops were conducted across the 75 Project's CDAs. They were collectively attended by 8,604 target beneficiary women of reproductive age. A total of 5,249 family members attended the one day orientation, of which 4,400 were males.

During those 6-day workshops, the participants learned useful life skills such as critical thinking, decision-making, prioritization, negotiation, utilizing social safety networks, basic business management skills such as developing basic feasibility studies, as well as simple handicrafts and small-scale food processing that may be the basis of a potential future microenterprise. They were also introduced to the importance of the role of women in the society through interactive stories and shown examples of successful empowered women in rural and urban communities.

To build support from the trainees' families, each participant was asked to invite the decision-making member in her family to attend one day of the workshop during which he or she was introduced to goals of the workshop and a summary of the knowledge and skills that the participants gained through their participation. The overview also highlighted the importance of women's role in the society and gave examples with the goal to create advocates among the family members to support women's empowerment. husbands and other household decision-makers were participated in a discussion with their wives during the training, giving the women an opportunity to use the tools and techniques of negotiations that they have learned throughout the workshop.

According to the project plan, the FORSA project had a target of conducting 300 EWSO workshops in all project target sites, to be attended by 7,500 women. However, after the first few workshops were conducted, the FORSA project team saw that the workshops achieved an unprecedented positive reaction



from women and their family members including the men. Attendees expressed their sincere appreciation for the skills and knowledge that they have acquired, and which initiated a drastic change in their lives and behaviors, for example in the form of joining a literacy class or starting a microenterprise. This unexpected effect of EWSO workshops in the target communities led the FORSA project team to make the decision to increase the number of workshops delivered to project beneficiaries in target sites.

As a result, a total of 45 extra workshops were implemented in Batch 2 and Batch 3 CDAs target sites, at a rate of 1 extra workshop per CDA. Those extra workshops benefited an extra 1,104 women through the project.



**Figure 1 A play performed by EWSO participants to outline negotiation skills**

#### **D. Refresher trainings**

Refresher trainings in management skills, EWSO TOT, and IPC&C skills for Outreach Workers were continued during this quarter. This package of trainings started during the previous quarter as part of the project's quality improvement initiative following the Shewhart methodology (Plan-Do-Check-Act). According to this methodology, project activities (awareness raising activities through household visits) were planned and implemented according to the preset plan. Measuring the quality of the implemented activities as a part of the monitoring process of project implementation was done through evaluation checklists to ensure objectivity of evaluation of the activity. Those checklists, used by Outreach Workers' supervisors, UNGOs' technical coordinators, and FORSA field implementation specialists enabled the identification of areas that need improvement in a particular activity (e.g., communication skills of an outreach worker, time management by EWSO trainer, planning and scheduling a meeting by project manager). Refresher trainings were a quality improvement action taken to enhance the quality of implemented activities. Measuring quality through objective checklists, staff will continue to evaluate the value of corrective actions.

### **Refresher trainings on Interpersonal Communication and Counseling skills (IPC&C) and RH/FP/MCH issues, child care and nutrition**

During this quarter, four training sessions on IPC&C and health messages were conducted (two in Assiut and two in Souhag governorates). They were attended by 105 CDA FORSA project outreach workers (48 from Assiut and 75 from Souhag governorates) who needed additional training in some areas based on the assessment of quality of household visits as measured by the specifically designed quality checklists.

### **Refresher Trainings on Managerial Skills:**

During this quarter, a total of three refresher trainings on management skills were conducted (one in Assiut and two in Souhag). Those trainings were attended by 65 CDA staff (18 in Assiut and 47 in Souhag) including Project Managers, Outreach Workers' supervisors, and some of the Outreach Workers also attended those trainings in addition to UNGOs' Board members and Technical Coordinators. Building the capacity of CDA staff in managerial skills will improve their ability to manage the implementation of project activities more efficiently, especially managing their subordinates and holding effective meetings, and allow for a smoother work flow and markedly improve the quality of the project activities. Trainees were also introduced to the concept of sustainability and preliminary steps to prepare the UNGOs and CDA staff to plan for sustainability of project activities, taking into consideration the imminent close out of FORSA project next quarter.

### **Refresher TOT for EWSO workshops trainers:**

Being a cornerstone for wide scale capacity building and empowerment of women in the project target sites, EWSO workshops have been a focus of attention of the FORSA staff throughout the project. This required a meticulous assessment of those workshops and strict evaluation of the performance of the trainers using the evaluation checklists developed by the project team. The team adopted a policy of zero tolerance to poor quality pertinent to this activity and its implementers through proper identification of areas that need improvement and the team set out to address any quality issues promptly. The project team decided to conduct Refresher TOT workshops for trainers who need remedial interventions to improve areas of defects in their performance (i.e., workshop time management, communication skills).

As a result, two 6-day refresher trainings were conducted in Souhag and were attended by 41 EWSO workshops trainers

### **E. Health Awareness Seminars**

Health awareness seminars were an activity to improve quality and had started during the previous quarter. Following the analysis of the pre-intervention household survey, the FORSA project team designed the health awareness seminars in the target communities to address knowledge gaps (e.g. mainly family planning and weaning practices).

During this quarter, a total of 50 seminars were organized in the target communities in both Assiut and Souhag Governorates (25 in Souhag and 25 in Assiut), and were attended by target beneficiary women of reproductive age. Doctors from local primary health care facilities, local hospitals, NGOs health care facilities, or private institutions were invited to conduct the seminars for participants about family planning,

reproductive health, child rearing practices, and nutrition. Some of the seminars also covered topics of interest for the target communities including Hepatitis C and breast cancer prevention.

#### F. Exchange Visits

Exchange visits between CDAs participating in the implementation of FORSA project activities was another initiative designed to improve quality, whereby partner CDA staff organized a field visit to the local premises of another partner CDA to learn from their experiences. Both the visitor CDA and the host CDA have a chance to discuss the challenges and obstacles met during the implementation of the project activities and the way each CDA has adopted to overcome obstacles. Best practices were also highlighted and spread among partner CDAs. The exchange visits started during the previous quarter and were completed by May this quarter. All 75 CDAs were involved in the process of exchange visits.

#### G. Completion of the awarding of all planned Micro-grants in Assiut and Souhag.

By the end of this quarter, a total of 2,650 project beneficiaries who attended the EWSO workshops were granted an in-kind microgrant worth 600 Egyptian Pounds to start a microenterprise.

The FORSA project team worked hard to ensure the selection of women receiving grants was as fair and objective as possible and at the same time, ensures that the right women with the highest potential for success in running an enterprise were selected.



Figure 2 EWSO Participants signing the Micro-Grant Agreement

The project team set a checklist for evaluation of EWSO workshops attendees based on fixed criteria, including the personal skills of the woman and her potential to run a successful business, the level of support granted by family members, the plausibility of the feasibility study prepared by the woman during the EWSO workshop, and the level of interaction of the woman during the EWSO workshop.

To make sure the selection process is fair, a microenterprise committee in each UNGO was formed, consisting of: UNGOs' Board representatives FORSA Project manager, Technical coordinator, Accountant, EWSO trainer, CDA Board representatives, CDA FORSA project manager, and the FORSA field implementation specialist in the corresponding governorate. Collectively, the committee made the selection decision for each grantee in each partner CDA. Members of the committee were guided by the selection criteria set forth by the project, and to ensure an objective and fair selection, each member evaluated women individually using a specifically designed form based on the criteria established by FORSA project team. The final decision of the committee was based on the average scoring given by all committee members.

The microgrants covered a variety of trades, including but not limited to the handicrafts introduced during the EWSO workshops: liquid soap-making, accessories-making, establishing small beauty shops, and poultry breeding.

It is worth noting that the actual number of granted women (2,650) exceeds the target set in the PMP of 2,250 grantees. The decision to increase the number of grantees was taken by FORSA project team as a mean to maximize the potential benefit to a larger number of women in the project target sites.

#### **H. Evaluation of Micro-enterprises established by grantees through Micro-enterprises committee**

During this quarter, the microenterprise committees in each UNGO started conducting follow up on the microenterprises that were established by project beneficiaries. The objective of the follow-up is to find out whether the project was still functioning after one month, was adequate book keeping maintained, has the project generated any income, and whether the project was profitable.

A checklist addressing the above mentioned criteria was used by CDA project staff to evaluate the microenterprises during an on-site visit. Checklists were submitted to the microenterprise committees, who discuss the findings with the CDA supervisor who conducted the assessment. Finally decisions on the status of the project were reported in their meeting minutes.

During this quarter, a total of 2,110 microenterprises were evaluated by the microenterprise committees. Of those, 2,109 were reported as functioning and generating income—a remarkable success rate.

#### **I. Follow-up, Monitoring and Control of field implementation status.**

During this quarter, the FORSA project team continued to monitor and follow-up on 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 through several regular field visits conducted by the Cairo office project staff to gain direct feedback 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.

#### **J. Completion of Focus Group Discussions with Men attending EWSO workshops**



**Figure 3: Focus Group Discussion in Assiut Governorate**

During this quarter, FGDs with men attending EWSO workshops with their spouse/daughter/sister trainees were conducted. The FGDs are a part of the Monitoring and Evaluation's methodologies adopted to obtain the information regarding gender norms in FORSA intervention communities and the potential effects of the project activities on those norms. A total of 15 FGDs were conducted, 8 in Assiut governorate and 7 in Souhag governorate. The discussion revolved around the benefits of the training, the attitudes and opinions towards women employment and empowerment and the importance of women's role in the community, and finally about women's control over financial resources.

The main findings of the analysis of those discussions is given later under the analysis of focus group discussions section.

#### **K. Conducting Focus Group Discussion with Batch one CDAs' Outreach Workers and In-Depth interviews with some of their family members**

During this quarter, with the completion of all planned project activities for Batch one CDAs it was the appropriate time to conduct FGDs with some of the Outreach Workers affiliated with the CDAs to assess their experience, attitudes, and opinions towards women's work and empowerment as well as the perception of women's control over financial resources. Overall, two FGDs were conducted, one in Assiut and one in Souhag, and each gathered 8 Outreach Workers selected from different (Batch one) CDAs in each governorate. Focus Group Discussions with Batch two and Three Outreach Workers is expected to be conducted in July and August respectively. A report on the analysis of those FGDs is expected to be released end of August 2014.

In-depth interviews were also conducted with 10 family members of Batch one CDA Outreach Workers, 5 from Assiut and 5 from Souhag. The interview aimed to assess their attitudes and opinions towards women's work and empowerment, their evaluation of the work experience of their female relatives, and their perceptions and opinions of women's control over financial resources. Further In-Depth interviews will be conducted with Batch Two CDAs' Outreach Workers family members mid-July 2014, and with Batch Three CDAs's Outreach workers family members mid-August. A report on the analysis of In-depth interviews with Family members of Outreach Workers is expected to be released end of August 2014.

#### **L. Analysis of Focus Group Discussions conducted with Males Attending EWSO workshops**

During this quarter, the FGDs conducted with males attending EWSO workshops with their female relative trainees were conducted. Overall, 15 FGDs were conducted. Five groups were selected from each Batch of the project. Discussions were tape recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using Atlas software.

The main findings were as follows:

##### ***Perception of the training:***

A general consensus was reached among attendees that the training was of benefit to their female relatives, for their families, as well as for the whole community, and for themselves as well. For example, some of the men expressed that it was the first time they had exposure to the concept of feasibility study to use in running their businesses.

##### ***Perception of women's work:***

It was generally detected that there is a growing acceptance of women's work in the Upper Egypt Community with more people accepting that their female relatives participate in an income generating activity. It was evident the economic conditions were the most potent agent for this change given that although many males still regard women's work as a social stigma, they were compelled by the more desperate economic conditions to disregard cultural norms in favor of financial welfare.

##### ***Perception and opinion towards women's control over financial resources:***

It was evident that many of the men considered the income generated by the women as lawfully theirs, and clearly stated that if this income did not come into their possession to help them in providing for the household's financial needs, they would completely reject the idea of women's work.

A separate report gives a full account on the findings of the focus group discussions [\(See Appendix\)](#).

#### **M. Conducting and interim analysis of post-intervention Household survey for Batch one CDAs target sites**

During this quarter, following the completion of all health awareness activities conducted by batch one CDA Outreach Workers, the post-intervention household survey was conducted. The survey questions were used with both the women in targeted household who received household visits through the project, as well as with a control group of women not reached by the project. Overall, 180 targeted women were asked the questions (120 in Assiut and 60 in Souhag) and 270 women from non-intervention sites were surveyed (180 in Assiut and 120 in Souhag)

The percent of women who could answer each question correctly during the pre-intervention survey was compared to the percent of women who could answer the same question correctly during the post-intervention survey and the increase in the percent of women who could answer the question correctly during the post-intervention survey was calculated by subtraction. The following table summarizes the results obtained from the analysis of the B1 post-intervention household survey data:

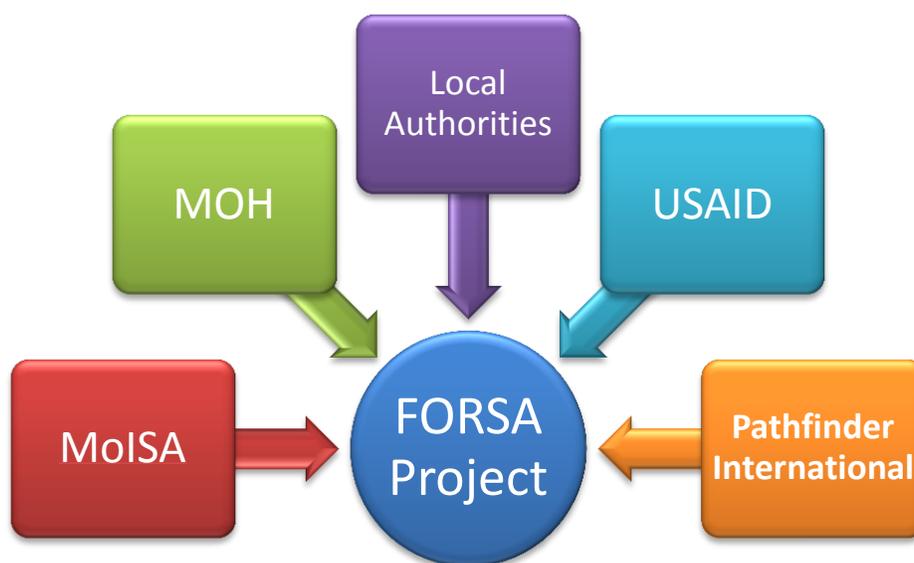
**Table 1 Summary of results of Pot-intervention Household survey**

Health Topic addressed by Question	Increase in % of women who could correctly answer the question	
	target sample	Control Sample
Appropriate age at marriage	22%	-16%
Ante Natal Care visits	40.40%	-13.10%
Danger Signs of Pregnancy	33.30%	1.10%
Danger signs of Puerperium	15.30%	0.50%
Timing of post-partum FP	20.10%	-3.00%
Inter-pregnancy spacing	30.50%	-20.80%
Exclusive Breast Feeding	26.00%	0.50%
Complementary feeding	62.10%	7.90%
Components of a balanced meal	48.70%	0.00%
Acceptance of women work	20.40%	-19.90%
<b>Average</b>	<b>31.88%</b>	<b>-6.28%</b>

It is evident that the overall increase in the percent of women who could answer the questions correctly exceeded the PMP target of 20%. This was due to the fact that FORSA project team efficiently addressed health awareness activities through identifying areas of demand from the analysis of the pre-intervention household survey and addressing those areas extensively through Outreach Workers visits and conducting health seminars addressing the key health topics in target areas.

**N. Communication and Collaboration with Project stakeholders:**

The following entities had major influence on and principal interest in FORSA project and therefore have been identified as project stakeholders:



**Figure 4 FORSA Project Stakeholders**

Throughout the last quarter, extensive collaboration and interaction was ongoing between FORSA project and its major stakeholders as follows:

#### **Collaboration with MoISA**

During this quarter, the collaboration with MoISA at the central and local levels continued, where the FORSA project field implementation specialists worked as a liaison between UNGOs staff and the MoISA Undersecretary in the corresponding governorate. The aim of this collaboration was to update undersecretaries about the project implementation status, and gain their support and help in solving problems facing UNGOs or CDAs during the implementation of the project.

Apart from this routine collaboration which started with the project inception, an important area of collaboration took place this quarter between FORSA project and MoISA particularly at the local governorate/District level in Assiut Governorate. In order to ensure a common understanding between UNGOs' staff who have developed considerable capacities in the managerial domain and MoISA staff supervising the implementation of the project's activities, some of the staff were involved in the Managerial Skills training offered to UNGOs. Those trainings helped MoISA staff achieve managerial skills comparable to UNGOs staff thus smoothening the interaction between the two parties and removing possible technical barriers.. Collectively 32 MoISA staff attended the training.

#### **Collaboration with MoH**

The MoH is an important stakeholder of FORSA project since the project helps raise the awareness of women of reproductive age about Family Planning, Maternal and Child health, and Reproductive health issues, which would contribute to increased demand for health services. Collaboration took place, at the level of the primary health care facilities, whereby physicians working in the local facilities participated in the health awareness seminars conducted by the CDAs in the local communities.

## Collaboration with Local Authorities



**Figure 56** Meeting of the FORSA project Consultative Committee in Souhag

Collaboration with local authorities in each governorate, from the Governor to the local administrative unit in each village/community where the project implements its activities was maintained during this quarter. The third meeting of the consultative committee headed by the governor of Souhag governorate with the membership of the undersecretary of MoISA and the director of Souhag health directorate was held on April 6, 2014 and was attended by the USAID AOTR during her visit to the project field implementation sites. It is worth noting that the main aim of the committee is to support the project activities and coordinate between MoISA and the MoH directorate to neutralize any obstacles met during the project implementation.

### 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.

Earlier this quarter, the USAID AOTR conducted a full 3-day visit to the project target sites in Assiut and Souhag and attended a sample of each activity implemented by the project including: household visits by CDA Outreach Workers, EWSO workshops training, quarterly meeting of UNGO, FGDs with men attending EWSO, and granting beneficiaries with in-kind microgrants, as well as the FORSA project consultative committee meeting headed by the Governor of Souhag.

#### O. Linkages with local and regional CDAs

During this quarter, the extensive networking established by Batch two and three partner CDAs with development agencies and initiatives at the local community level continued to result in a broad spectrum of services provided to the FORSA project beneficiaries in target sites in the areas of capacity building, access to health services, in-kind support, and financial aid.

This extensive network established between FORSA project partner CDAs, UNGOs, and local community development agencies allowed the project to gain a high reputation among development players at the level

of the local communities and had a multiplier effect on the benefits of the project to the beneficiaries in target sites.

### Health Services

During this quarter, batch two and three CDAs in Assiut and Souhag were able through networking with local development counterparts to secure the provision of health services to 1,247 project beneficiaries in the target sites.

The services provided ranged from providing diagnosis and treatment services during medical campaigns—which served 797 project beneficiaries in Assiut and Souhag—to the provision of free consultations and treatments to 138 project beneficiaries in both governorates. Ten project beneficiaries had surgical operations for free, of which 4 were eye surgeries. Two project beneficiaries were provided with monthly diabetes medications, and two children received phonetics sessions. Blood tests for diagnosis of various conditions were also conducted for 236 project beneficiaries.

In addition to the direct health services mentioned, health awareness campaigns were organized in project target sites in Assiut and Souhag governorates through networking with development partners which supported 427 project beneficiaries with health awareness about significant topics including reproductive health and family planning, drawbacks of early marriage, and female genital mutilation, as well as early detection of breast cancer.

### Capacity Building and training

During this quarter, Batch two and three CDAs provided 146 project beneficiaries with training sessions in various domains. Handicrafts training (sewing, liquid soap manufacture and yoghurt making) were provided to 27 project beneficiaries, 39 project beneficiaries were given the opportunity to join literacy classes, 6 project beneficiaries were trained on computer skills, 32 on communication and negotiation skills, and finally 25 were trained on life skills.

Through networking with local community partners, FORSA project CDAs enabled 159 project beneficiary women to get the necessary support to issue an ID as well as Birth Certificates for their children during this quarter.

### In-Kind Support

During this quarter through networking with local development counterparts, CDAs in Assiut and Souhag provided 1,077 project beneficiaries with in-kind support in the form of Food stocks, clothes and basic furniture.

### Financial Aid

During this quarter, through networking with community development agencies, financial support in the form of monthly pensions, grants, or loans were provided to 74 project beneficiaries in both Assiut and Souhag.

**Table 2 Project achievements during Q3Y3**

Batch One (30 communities)	Expected Result	Quarter Achievements
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<b>Result 1: Jobs created among partner UNGOs and CDAs in intervention areas</b>		
1.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	All Target Households have been accomplished	All Target household visits have been successfully accomplished
<b>Result 2 : Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas</b>		
1.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	All EWSO workshops completely implemented (120 Workshops)	All 120 workshops have been successfully implemented. 80 in Assiut and 40 in Souhag
1.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Granting Selected EWSO beneficiaries Completed	A total of 940 EWSO beneficiaries have been successfully granted (640 in Assiut and 300 in Souhag)
<b>Batch Two (25 communities)</b>	<b>Expected Result</b>	<b>Quarter Achievements</b>
<b>Result 1: Jobs created among local CDAs in intervention areas</b>		
2.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	All Target Households have been visited and visits continued at a rate of one visit to each household per month	All Target Households have been visited and visits continued at a rate of one visit to each household per month
<b>Result 2 Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas</b>		
2.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	All EWSO workshops completely implemented	A total of 125 EWSO workshops have been successfully accomplished 75 in Assiut and 50 in Souhag
2.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Granting Selected EWSO beneficiaries Completed	A total of 1020 EWSO beneficiaries have been successfully granted (630 in Assiut and 390 in Souhag)
<b>Batch Three (20 Communities)</b>	<b>Expected Result</b>	<b>Quarter Achievements</b>
<b>Result 1: Jobs created among local CDAs in intervention areas</b>		
3.1.6 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing Project activities	All Target Households have been visited and visits continued at a rate of one visit to each household per month	All Target Households have been visited and visits continued at a rate of one visit to each household per month
<b>Result 2 Women owned microenterprises established in intervention areas</b>		

3.2.2 Guide UNGOs to supervise partner CDAs while implementing EWSO workshops	EWSO workshops for selected target women Accomplished	A Total of 100 EWSO workshops have been successfully conducted (25 in Assiut and 75 in Souhag)
3.2.3 Guide UNGOs manage granting selected EWSO beneficiaries through partner CDAs	Granting Selected EWSO beneficiaries Completed	A total of 690 EWSO beneficiaries have been successfully granted (165 in Assiut and 525 in Souhag)

## Challenges

### Working in violent areas

Throughout the life of the project, security risks have been high in the project target sites imposed by the prevalence of the deeply rooted problems of crime and violent retaliation fueled by family feuds. These issues have lately been aggravated by political instability in the country and the relative inability of the law enforcement troops to respond efficiently to the threats to the community. Despite this, FORSA project activities continued in a smooth and agile pace, thanks to the devotion of the project team and the experience gained which have enabled staff to respond properly to security threats, as well as main flexibility allowing rescheduling of project activities to be implemented with timelines and without compromising the safety of personnel.

## Success Stories

### Capacity building of UNGOS results in an Unplanned Sustainability Plan.

Capacity building activities under the FORSA project have contributed to the sustainability to the project interventions. For example, during the last quarterly meeting organized by the Batch one UNGO in Souhag, Sohbet El Kheir, presented a summary of the activities that they have implemented in Tema and Tahta districts (the project target sites for the UNGO), an overview of the challenges they met and the successes they achieved during the implementation. During this presentation, the UNGO staff shared that they have developed a plan for the sustainability of the major project activities which will rely on local funds, some of which have been already secured.

The UNGO's sustainability plan aims to retain 30 project staff, (UNGO staff and CDAs Staff), and support capacity building of staff through two financial and managerial training programs, three interpersonal communication skills training programs, and two health training programs. Sustainability of health awareness activities was planned through continuous monitoring and follow-up of the retained project staff.

The plan also aims at replicating the initiative of EWSO workshops, where they have planned for 8 workshops targeting 200 women of reproductive age in the catchment area of the NGO where previously held EWSO workshops have been highly valued by the local communities, and as a result, the UNGO sees merit in replicating the workshop for the community.

The UNGO has also planned to raise local fund to provide microgrants to 20 of the 200 participants of the locally funded EWSO workshops, in a trial to replicate the successful model of FORSA project.

FORSA project team communicated the sustainability plan of Sohbet El Kheir UNGO to all of the project's UNGOs in both Assiut and Souhag, using it as an example, and hopefully further motivations, to design a sustainability plan of their own to sustain and grow the project's activities using local funds after the FORSA project closes out.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The project achieved targets will be presented according to the submitted no cost extension work plan 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 FGDs with men attending the EWSO workshops with their female family member trainees has been completed and the results were analyzed and a report was drafted (See Appendix). The discussion aimed at assessing their perceptions of the use of the training, attitudes, and opinions towards women's empowerment, work, and control over financial resources.

FGDs with Batch one Outreach Workers and IDIs with family members of the project's Batch one Outreach Workers started in early April 2014.

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

**Indicator #6:** Average change in percentage of community participants who can answer correctly questions about key health messages delivered by CDAs outreach workers

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

**Indicator # 9:** Number of business opportunities created in FORSA intervention areas

**Indicator # 10:** Number of women who had successful micro-enterprises in FORSA intervention areas equivalent to the target of 80%

**Table 3 Achieved indicators FORSA Project Q1Y3**

Indicator Number	Results Data	Baseline Year:	FY 3					Total	Comments (Explanation on a +/- 10% actual from target)
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY2		
Indicator # 6	Target		--	--	≥ 20%	≥ 20%		FORSA project team efficiently addressed Health Awareness activities through identifying areas of	
	Actual		--	--	31.88%				

									demand from the analysis of the pre-intervention household survey and addressing those areas extensively through outreach workers visits and conducting health seminars addressing the same issues in target areas.
Indicator # 8	Target		3,250	7,000	7,500			7,500	Given the unexpected positive effect EWSO workshops showed in the implementation sites, FORSA project team took the decision of increasing the number of workshops delivered to project beneficiaries in target sites, which would give the chance for more women to take control of their lives. 45 supplementary workshops were conducted in batch 2 and 3 CDAs)
	Actual		462	5662	8,604				
Indicator # 9	Target		330	1,680	2,250			2,250	The granting process progressed rapidly so that 97% of the quarterly target was achieved despite the late start-up
	Actual		0	1633	2,650				
Indicator # 10	Target			264	1,344	1,800	264	1,344	The presence of 400 supplementary micro-grants together with the catch-up of granting process during the quarter enabled the evaluation of a larger
	Actual		0	0	2109				

									<b>number of micro-grants than expected for this quarter.</b>
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**Appendix:**

[Report on Focus Group Discussions with men attending EWSO workshops](#)