



PROJECTS IN LUXOR CITY

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) makes an effort to extend U.S. assistance to each Governorate and geographical area of Egypt, and provide support in a broad spectrum of fields. In Luxor, USAID has helped increase access to education, financed construction of the infrastructure networks, worked on public health improvement and private sector development. Currently USAID works on a range of nationwide projects, which benefit the Governorate indirectly. Some USAID projects include:

- Education
- Policy & Private Sector
- Productive Sector Development
 - » Antiquities Conservation
- Health and Family Planning
- Democracy and Governance
 - » Media training

EDUCATION

The United States has a long partnership with Luxor providing funds and technical assistance to projects administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development that improve the quality of life for average citizens. Following are details of USAID assistance in Luxor.

Luxor benefits from these USAID education programs:

- **Education Reform Program:** Started in 2004, this program seeks to improve the public education system through decentralization of education management, greater community involvement, and better education support systems.
- **New Schools Program (NSP):** Increases girls' access to education through community involvement in building and developing new schools.
- **Alam Simsim:** Supports school readiness for pre-school children through the production/broadcast of a television series modeled after Sesame Street. The project includes a parent education outreach program on how to promote healthy families and early learning. Alam Simsim reaches 3-4 million viewers each day. Alam Simsim reaches all governorates (television penetration is 96%). The program expanded in 2002 and again in 2005 (through 2007) to include outreach into poorer communities, with a focus on Upper Egypt.
- **Leadership in Education and Development:** In 2004-2007, this program will award full scholarships to two Luxor students annually to pursue university level education at the American University of Cairo.



HEALTHIER PLANNED FAMILIES

USAID makes an effort to extend U.S. assistance to each governorate and geographical area of Egypt based on both the utmost need and ability to achieve greatest impact. Reducing disparities in health status and services between Upper and Lower Egypt is reflected in all ongoing health activities, as is work with households, communities, hospitals, and public health offices to promote good health and safe, healthy behavior, and reproductive choices. USAID health projects in Luxor have addressed:

- Maternal and Child Health activities give 83,000 women access to safe and reliable services;
- Water and Sanitation
- Infectious Disease Surveillance- established infectious disease surveillance system; Tuberculosis Surveillance, Detection and Treatment
- Upgrades in district hospitals and neonatal centers and many primary health care units;
- Trained health care providers in obstetric and neonatal procedures;
- Provided maternal and general health care information throughout rural areas;
- Implemented door-to-door polio immunization campaigns;

In addition to activities carried out at the governorate level, USAID works on a range of nationwide projects, which benefit the Governorate indirectly. It is hoped that the indirect support at a national level combined with the direct support delivered to Luxor is effective in achieving governorate-level impact.

Integrated Maternal child Health and Family Planning Reproductive Health Project aims at reducing maternal and child mortality in high-risk districts of Upper Egypt. Training has improved the quality, acceptance by the community, and impact of ante-and post-natal care, and improved birthing practices and hospital care. Additionally, the program is increasing the availability and quality of family planning services throughout the country, including Luxor. Since 1978, USAID has provided training, equipment, and contraceptives to improve services, as well as outreach, communications, administration, financial management, MIS, planning, and logistics support. MHIS centers were established at the district level to collect monthly data, perform data entry and transfer electronic data to governorate MHIS centers from the previous HM/HC project as well as from the Family Planning POP IV project. Support was provided in training, development and installation of software applications, provision of equipment, and upgrading of physical infrastructure. Additionally, a door-to-door polio immunization campaign at the governorate level was conducted as part of a national program.

Infectious Disease Surveillance & Response Project strengthens infectious disease surveillance and response systems through technical assistance, training, and upgrading diagnostic laboratory facilities in Upper Egypt. Also, activities are helping to ensure a safe blood supply through improving monitoring and providing basic training in universal precautions for blood bank workers in Upper Egypt. The program established an Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit which is linked to ESUs at the health district level to track



the record of 26 priority infectious diseases and provide for electronic analysis and tracking of data in order to properly control for any potential outbreak. Data are analyzed monthly and sent electronically to the central ESU in MOHP. The program also supports the application of infection control standards in all health facilities.

USAID also provides support at both the national and governorate level to increase TB detection rates and ensure adherence to DOTS treatment. Activities conducted at the governorate level include:

- Community education and awareness raising implemented through NGO's
- Strengthening laboratories to ensure performance of quality control procedures
- Physician and staff training to enhance skills in TB patient management, data management, quality assurance, laboratory management and implementation of DOTS.

At the national level, USAID provides support in a) operations research to develop strategies for overcoming obstacles that prevent successful implementation of tuberculosis programs and b) assisting the MOHP to write policy and guidelines in addressing multi-drug resistance.

Health Policy Support Program has introduced improved management, quality control, and cost recovery practices into hospitals all over Egypt, including twenty hospitals in Upper Egypt. Cost recovery has been implemented in all hospitals, with protection for indigent patients and low or zero pricing for most preventive health care interventions.

Water and Food Sanitation

Training provided for sanitarian workers based in Luxor on proper inspection of food and water on Nile Cruise boats, helping to promote tourism through reduction of gastro-enteric diseases among tourists.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Policy & Private Sector:

Small and Emerging Business (previously called Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) Development) has contributed to the increase in employment and earnings among the assisted groups. Luxor is included in USAID's major nationwide loan program for small and micro- enterprises, the Small and Emerging Business Project. The goal is to provide credit to low-income entrepreneurs who have had limited access to formal financing, especially in Upper Egypt. The project is now being implemented by Banque du Caire, BDC (being merged under Bank Misr), under a four-year agreement with the Credit Guarantee Company (CGC). Under the agreement, Banque du Caire will actively implement sustainable micro-enterprise finance activities in Luxor. To date, BDC has cumulatively extended more than 16,500 micro credit loans valued at LE 58 million to about 7,400 low-income entrepreneurs with a default rate less than 2%. At the present time, BDC is managing an outstanding loan portfolio of LE 8.3 million serving about 1,000 active borrowers in Luxor.



Commodity Import Program: USAID has been a partner in the Government of Egypt's restructuring efforts aimed at establishing a strong, private sector-led, market-oriented economy. In order to stimulate private sector investment, the private sector Commodity Import Program (CIP) has provided \$200 million to \$250 million per year in short- to medium-term trade and investment-related financing for the import of U.S.-made goods. The Egyptian private sector accesses this financing through 31 participating Egyptian commercial banks.

Since 1991, six private sector companies have used over \$1.7 million to finance five hotels and cruise boat companies in Luxor to import U.S. equipment for their businesses. The investments include marine diesel engines, generators, water filtration equipment, kitchen equipment, and fire pumps. In Luxor, all investments have been in support of tourism based industries.

In 1995, USAID initiated a special incentive (a longer interest-free grace period) under the Commodity Import Program for transactions in Upper Egypt in order to stimulate investments in a part of the country that had been perceived as being left out of the mainstream of economic activity. Nearly all of the CIP transactions have occurred since implementation of that special incentive, indicating that it has had the intended impact.

PRODUCTIVE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure

Through the **Secondary Cities Project**, USAID has provided close to \$47 million for improvements and expansion of Luxor's wastewater treatment system from 2003 to 2006. Work has included the construction of two major pump stations and a wastewater treatment plant (capacity of 15,000 m³/day) that have enabled wastewater treatment services to be expanded to an additional 135,000 people in Luxor. In addition, USAID has funded an expansion of the municipal sewer network by providing gravity sewers and house connections for 40,000 residents in the Karnak and Khotaba districts on the outskirts of Luxor, and residents of the previously unsewered areas of Malkata and Aqualta. The total cost of this work was approximately \$42.9 million, of which USAID contributed \$35.5 million and the Government of Egypt \$7.4. Under the same project USAID also funded the rehabilitation of the main wastewater pump station in Luxor and the construction of a seven kilometer force main which were completed in September, 2006 at a cost to USAID of \$11.9 million.

Under the **Karnak and Luxor Temples Salvation Project**, USAID has collaborated with the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to save these World Heritage sites from the destructive effects of rising groundwater. SIDA funded feasibility studies, planning and design, while USAID and the Government of Egypt jointly financed the construction of a permanent groundwater lowering system. The new system is allowing the stone to dry out, and permitting archeologists to remove corrosive salts, thus preserving the structural integrity of the monuments. The



construction cost of this project is about L.E 90 million, which has been equally shared by USAID and the Government of Egypt. A formal inauguration is expected in the Spring 2007 to announce the completion of the project.

ENVIRONMENT

USAID is financing Egyptian **Antiquities Conservation** through two grants and two endowments. One of the grants is to the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE), a US non-government organization working in the field of academic research and conservation in Egypt since the late 1940s. The second grant is for Chicago House, which is the permanent expedition of the Oriental Institute of Chicago University, working on conservation of Pharonic temples in Luxor since 1924. One of the endowments is shared between ARCE, Chicago House, and Fulbright, and the other endowment is shared between ARCE and Chicago House. Conservation of antiquities contributes to tourism development, a major source of revenue and employment in the Upper Egypt region. Following is the list of activities funded under the two grants and supported by the two endowments in Luxor:

- **Valley of the Kings Flash Flood Protection Project** (LE 2.7 million): The California Academy of Sciences, C.C. Johnson and Malhotra engineering firm (CCJM), and ARCE have installed measures to protect two tombs in the Valley of the Kings from flash floods. Extensive technical surveys were conducted throughout the valley prior to designing the structures, after which two were erected. Local materials were used in their construction in order to blend into the landscape, but provide sufficient strength to mitigate against floods.
- **Conservation of the Small Temple of Amun in Medinet Habu** (LE 3.1 million): This activity, managed by Chicago House, includes: cleaning and documenting wall paintings, repairing the roof and walls to prevent further deterioration of the monument.
- **Conservation of the stone fragments in Luxor Temple**: This LE 400,000 activity, managed by Chicago House, restored fragments of the temple using the original stones that had been removed from the temple for construction of other buildings in the area in previous centuries.
- **Conservation of the Sarcophagus of Ramses VI in the Valley of the Kings** (LE 367,798): Egyptian antiquities expert Ted Brocks led a team that collected, cleaned and reassembled the sarcophagus and its lid from more than 250 fragments.
- **Conservation of Tomb No. 55 in the Valley of the Kings** (LE 24,845) was carried out by a team headed by Egyptian antiquities expert Laila Brock.
- **Conservation of the Wall Paintings of the Tomb of Anen** (LE 155,492) was managed by Laila Brock, and revealed for display, a tomb painting that had been discovered, protected and covered in the 1920's.
- **Seti I Conservation Study**: This ARCE-managed LE 628,216 conservation activity carried out comprehensive documentation and study and analysis of the tomb paintings, to provide information for conservation of the tomb.



The Livelihood and Income from the Environment (LIFE) project's Integrated Water Resources Management component (\$10.5 million) assists the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation to decentralize its management of water resources through the establishment of Integrated Water Management Districts (IWMDs) and the formation of Branch Canal Water Users Associations (BCWUAs). The aim is to increase water use efficiency and productivity. Under this project, 27 IWMDs were formed in four governorates, Aswan, Qena, Sharkiya and Gharbiya. One of the 27 Integrated water Management Districts formed is in Luxor city. Also 30 BCWUAs were established in Luxor serving about 15,000 farmers. The project also is conducting trials on the reuse of treated wastewater from the USAID financed Luxor Wastewater Treatment Plant on non-timber crops approved under the new Egyptian code for the reuse of wastewater on agricultural crops.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID currently assists the Government of Egypt (GOE) and Egyptian civil society in: strengthening the administration of justice, improving access to justice for women and disadvantaged groups; promoting fiscal, political and administrative decentralized governance; promoting more competitive and transparent electoral processes and representative political parties; strengthening the organizational and advocacy capabilities of civil society organizations; professionalizing the media through training and structural reform; identifying and combating public sector corruption; and fighting violence against women and children and address human rights violations.

To promote professionalism of the media, USAID, under the **Professional Media Development Program** (Establish & Ensure Media Freedom and Freedom of Information, \$14million) will help the Egyptian media sector improve its professionalism, economic viability and independence. Assistance builds the capacity of Egyptian institutions to train journalists, improve the management of media and develop local media. USAID will also help the GOE implement media reform. Training of journalists will be conducted in Luxor.