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Program: Representative, Effective and Accountable Transparent Program (REACT)

Cooperative Agreement No. 263-A-00-06-00028-00

Title: Fourth Quarterly Progress Report
April – June 2007

Date: 15 July 2007. This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by REACT Team, Planning and Development Collaborative International, Inc. (PADCO).

REACT

Fourth Quarterly Progress Report April – June 2007

This report was prepared by PADCO's Cooperative Agreement with USAID
No. 263-A-00-06-00028-00 under USAID/Egypt's Annual Program
Statement for Democracy and Governance (FY '05)

Please direct all queries regarding this report to:

AECOM International Development
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW
Suite 170

Washington, DC, 20007-5204

Telephone: +1 (202) 337-2326

Fax: +1 (202) 944-2351

Email: padco@padco.aecom.com

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23 July 2007

Mr. Ahmed Gamal-Eldin, CTO
USAID/Egypt
Plot A1, off El Laselky Street, New Maadi
Cairo, Egypt 11435

Reference: REACT, Cooperative Agreement No. 263-A-00-06-00028-00
Subject: 4th Quarterly Progress Report

Dear Mr. Gamal-Eldin,

Please find enclosed three (3) copies of PADCO's 4th Quarterly Progress Report for the REACT project covering the period April through June 2007.

Sincerely,

Sameh Seif Ghali
Chief of Party

ACRONYMS

APS	Annual Program Statement
CIDA	Canadian International Development Association
CDA	Community Development Association
CEOSS	Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services
CRS	Catholic Relief Service
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
D&G	Democracy and governance
EDI	Egypt Decentralization Initiative
GOE	Government of Egypt
HR	Human resources
IT	Information technology
LPC	Local Popular Council
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MDP	Media Development Program
MLPC	Member of Local Popular Council
MOSS	Ministry of Social Solidarity
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MSI	Management Systems International
NCFD	National Curriculum for Decentralization
NCW	National Council of Women
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PT	Part-time
RCC	REACT Coordinating Committee
STC	Save the Children
STTA	Short-term technical assistance/assistant
TOT	Training of trainers
USG	United States Government

REACT PROJECT BACKGROUND

REACT is a two-year, \$1m project, under implementation from June 2006 through May 2008, designed and managed by PADCO with funding from a grant from the Office of Democracy and Governance of USAID/Egypt.¹

The project focuses on the governorate of Al-Minia in upper Egypt and targets a) enhanced performance of local popular councils (LPCs), b) increased citizen participation in local government, and c) improved quality of life of targeted communities through cooperation among citizens, NGOs, LPCs, and the executive branch of government to address local needs.

REACT encompasses three areas of activity – training, information technology (IT), and public awareness. Specifically, the project will a) design and deliver a training program for upwards of 500 members of Local Popular Councils (MLPCs) to make LPCs more effective, b) provide networked computer workstations to LPCs and the executive Councils Administration to enhance LPC record keeping and communications between the executive and popular branches of government and c) provide grants to local NGOs to implement public awareness projects aimed at increasing political participation and local problem-solving, in ten target communities in the governorate.

Government of Egypt (GOE) partners in REACT are a) 21 Al-Minia LPCs, represented by the president of the governorate LPC, and b) the executive branch of the governorate of Al-Minia, represented by the governor.² Citizens are involved in the project through public awareness campaigns and local problem-solving initiatives implemented by REACT grantees.

Roles and responsibilities among PADCO and GOE partners are set forth in a memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed 3 October 2006, establishing a three-party REACT coordinating committee (RCC) which approves key project inputs, monitors performance, and assesses results.

Project offices, providing work space for 12 long-term team members and a training room are located in the Tatbekeen building on the Nile Corniche in Al-Minia City, within walking distance of the governorate building and the governorate LPC assembly and offices. An updated chart of REACT team members appears in Annex A to this report.

¹ REACT is the abbreviation of *Representative, Effective, and Accountable Transparent Local Government*. Government of Egypt key stakeholders have named the project in Arabic *naHwa majaalis shaEbiiya maHalliyya faEEaala* or *Towards Effective Local Popular Councils*.

² Targeted LPCs include the governorate LPC, the LPCs of Al-Minia City and Mellawi City, Al-Minia's nine district LPCs, and one mother-village LPC in each district.

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FOURTH QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

SUMMARY

During the quarter, REACT assisted the founding of an NGO dedicated to providing services, including training, to local popular councils (LPCs). Governorate-level training of members of LPCs was concluded and governorate-level training launched. Development of a website focused on the activities of the LPCs of Al-Minia was initiated. Team members of REACT's five NGO grantees were trained in the project's approach to public awareness and began their work in the governorate's nine districts. Details follow.

ASSOCIATION FOR LPC DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION SUPPORT (LDDS)

REACT salutes the vision and commitment of a group of local citizens in forming this NGO which is the first of its kind in Egypt and stands to play an important role in empowering LPCs to engage in the new participatory governance envisaged under decentralization.

LDDS's scope of work, activities, and board members, as set forth in the association's registration documents, appear translated in Annex B.

In the near term, LDDS will build capacity by serving as REACT's vehicle to cascade MLPC training to members of village-level LPCs. The cascade will employ MLPCs who are members of the association and have successfully completed the REACT training-of-trainers program. REACT sees development of a cadre of practitioner-expert MLPCs, capable of non-partisan training of their colleagues, as a means of sustaining and extending the achievements of REACT with respect to improved performance of LPCs.

The REACT COP advocated and assisted formation of LDDS and was honored by being elected to its founding board of directors.

TRAINING

Members of Local Popular Councils (MLPCs)

During the quarter, REACT concluded three training services contracts, as follows:

- With Dr. Ahmed Akkad, a leading soft-skills trainer, to deliver the second training module of the MLPC program, *Critical Thinking for Problem Solving and Decision Making*. Contents of the module were previously approved by the REACT Coordinating Committee (RCC);
- with Dr. Samir Abdul Wahab, Director of the Public Administration Research & Consultation Center (PARC), to design and deliver the third module of the MLPC training program, renamed *LPC Oversight of Projects*; and

- with Dr. Saleh Ahmed El_Sheikh of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, to design and deliver *Training of Trainers*, targeted to MLPCs successfully completing MLPC training and showing the characteristics of, and desire to be, trainers.

All training service providers were selected through a competitive process aimed at identifying best value for the learning objectives and audience targeted.

Implementation of MLPC Program Module 1, *The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws*, was concluded at the Al-Minia Governorate LPC level – with a third iteration attended by 20 participants – and subsequently launched at the district level. The module is preceded by an introduction to REACT goals and activities and an overview which links learning objectives to the training needs assessment previously conducted with MLPCs. In this round, the use of local expert-practitioners as trainers,



Above: MLPCs of Dayr Mawas discuss relations between the popular and executive branches of government with Assistant Undersecretary Gen. Medhat Salah-el-din.



Above: MLPC from Samelot in give-and-take with Al-Minia Governorate LPC President Dr. Baha Fikry on LPC oversight tools.

as opposed to academics imported from Cairo, clearly increased the dynamism and realism of discussion and role-play. Greater interest in, and commitment to, training were noted by team members and key stakeholders monitoring the program. By the end of the quarter, 247 district-level MLPCs had been trained in seven iterations of the module.

Implementation of MLPC Program Module 2, *Critical Thinking for Problem Solving and Decision Making*, began this quarter with three iterations for a total of 63 members of the Al-Minia Governorate LPC and four iterations attended by 133 MLPCs from district LPCs.

Dr. Ahmed Akkad implemented all Module 2 training iterations and was overwhelmingly well received.



Above left and right: Abu Qurqas and Al-Minia district MLPCs participate in soft skills training.

REACT took on a second part-time Training Specialist to compensate for the absence of a full-time team member on maternity leave and the resignation of a full-time team member (see Annex A).

The next quarter will witness an accelerated pace of training with training, for the first time, taking place at all three levels in the governorate concurrently. The quarter will also witness the first comprehensive report evaluating the impact of training to date.

Titles and content outlines of the three modules of the MLPC training program appear in Annex C.

The following table summarizes training implemented in the quarter:

Course Name	Target	Iterations	Trainees	Person Days
The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws.	Gov.	1	20	60
	Districts	7	247	494
Critical thinking and problem solving	Gov	3	63	189
	Districts	4	133	399
	Totals	15	463	1142

Annex D contains a summary of 20 training events concluded to date, detailing target group, start date, duration, number of trainees, gender disaggregation of trainees, and total person days of training.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The fourth quarter witnessed the signing of a contract with Fekra Studio for development and hosting of a website dedicated to the activities of Al-Minia Governorate LPCs. The site’s address will be minialpc.org. Fekra, a successful web-site developer, was selected through a competitive process.



Above: Minia LPC website home page

The website will provide citizens with basic information on Local Popular Councils, their roles and responsibilities, and how they interact with citizens and the executive branch to make up local administration. The website will also give citizens the opportunity to register suggestions and complaints and get feedback about local issues of importance to them.

The website will include the following:

- Organization chart of a model LPC;
- Information on the law of local administration and Al-Minia LPC internal by-laws;

- Separate sections on each of the following – the Al-Minia Governorate LPC, two urban LPCs, and nine district LPCs, covering the following:
 - LPC address and contact information;
 - LPC membership and LPC positions of individual members;
 - Major LPC decisions over the last year as reported in LPC minutes of meetings, with follow-up comments, and supporting photos; and
 - News of major LPC interaction with citizens, NGOs, and donor projects;
- A link to information on The Association for LPC Development and Decentralization Support (LDDS)
- News of developments and up-coming events in local administration
- Citizens’ suggestions and complaints



Above: LPC MIS manager at workstation.

REACT continued to provide technical assistance to the 13 sites comprising the project-supported LPC MIS. Sites provide a monthly report on MIS activity.

The project acknowledges, with appreciation, GOE installation of high-speed internet lines at the sites of the Governorate LPC MIS, the district LPC MISes of Malawy and Bani Mazar, and the Councils Administration MIS at the Governorate Diwan.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

At the beginning of the quarter, representatives of REACT’s five NGO grantees met in a single group with concerned MLPCs from targeted districts to discuss roles and responsibilities in successful implementation of public awareness activities under REACT grants. The President of the Al-Minia Governorate LPC presided over the meeting with support from the REACT Public Awareness team. The Governor’s Legal Counselor and a representative of the Ministry of Social Solidarity also attended.

Subsequently, in individual get-togethers in each of the governorate’s nine districts, grantee coordinators met with MLPCs from targeted mother villages – along with the President of the related district LPC – to review the project’s PA activities and objectives and to enlist MLPC support.

In a related workshop, heads of grantee boards of directors and grantee coordinators participated in an overview of the Law of Local Administration, the conduct of elections, LPC organization and tools, and the roles and responsibilities of MLPCs. Coordinators received training also on data collection and reporting and the forms to be used to baseline political awareness and participation in local communities. Grantee accountants received training on financial reporting from the REACT Finance and Procurement Manager.

One hundred and thirty-three women and 179 youth attended assemblies in seven mother villages to kick off the project’s public awareness activities. Participants reviewed and discussed the concept of public awareness in general and REACT’s public awareness objectives and activities specifically. All assemblies included representation from the governorate LPC and the LPC of the district in which the assembly was held.

The following table provides details on public awareness kickoff meetings implemented in the quarter:

No.	District or City	Village or Ward	Attendees
1.	Al-Edwa	Atf Haidar	50
2.	Al-Minia	Talla	70
3.	Samalot	Shusha	50
4.	Malawy	Ibshadat	80
5.	Dir Mawas	Tal Beni Omaran	35
6.	Al-Minia City	Kafr Al Mansoura Ward	15
7.	Dir Mawas City	NA	12



By quarter’s end, grantee coordinators, supported by members of the REACT PA team, had collected input from 1870 women and youth to baseline political awareness and public participation within these groups and had reached almost 800 women and youth, in ten assemblies in six mother villages, focused on raising awareness with respect to the roles of LPCs and MLPCs and the importance of citizen participation in local decision making.



Above: Citizens at various meetings in the governorate discuss political awareness and participation.

The following table provides details on meetings to inform citizens about LPC roles and the importance of citizen participation in local government.

No.	District or City	Village or Ward	Attendees	Target Audience
1.	El-Edwa	Atf Haidar	180	Youth
2.	Matay	Ibwan	54	Youth
3.	Al-Minia	Talla	35	Women
4.	Al-Minia City	Kafer El-Mansora	33	Youth and women
5.	Samalot	Shusha	80	Youth
6.	AbuQurqas	Abyuha	40	Youth
7.	AbuQurqas	Abyuha	45	Women
8.	El-Edwa	Atf Haidar	80	Women
9.	El-Minia	Talla	100	Women
10.	Samalot	Shusha	150	Women

The following table provides details on respondents baselining political awareness and participation:

	Number	Youth	Women	Total
Districts or Cities	9	594	588	1182
Mother Villages or Wards	9	929	642	1571
Total Number	18	1523	1230	2753

Draft public awareness themes and graphics designs were under development by grantee coordinators and REACT PA team members to be finalized and approved by the RCC in the coming quarter.

USAID RELATIONS

In the course of a trip to Al-Minia, the REACT CTO visited five of 13 LPC MIS sites, participated in a workshop of the five USAID/Egypt D&G grantees and contractors coordinating work in Upper Egypt, and called on the Governor of Al-Minia.

Based on feedback received from MIS workstation managers, the CTO asked the REACT COP to follow up on requested modifications of the MIS database to reflect the archiving requirements of the LPCs.

The meeting with the governor was also attended by the President of the Al-Minia Governorate LPC, the Secretaries-General of the Governorate Diwan, the Governor’s Legal Councilor, and members of the REACT team. Discussion was wide-ranging and frank. In response to an initial question from the CTO as to how the project was progressing, the Governor responded, “Like clockwork.”

GOE PARTNER RELATIONS

REACT training team members participated in a number of LPC sessions and committee meetings to collect data on the impact of MLPC training.

CIVIL SOCIETY, DONOR, AND RELATED PROJECT RELATIONS

Representatives of five entities engaged in LPC training and related public awareness activities under USAID/Egypt grants and contracts met May 30 at the REACT office in Al-Minia to deepen awareness of one another’s objectives and technical approaches and to further useful exchange of information and experience.³ The REACT CTO and the President of the Al-Minia Governorate LPC made valuable contributions to the workshop during their visits.

The outcomes of the meeting are summarized below:

- 1- An assessment tool will be developed to measure pre- and post-training performance of LPCs. Participating projects will send proposed performance criteria to Mr. Yahia Zakariya,

³ Participants included representatives from CEOSS, CARE, PADCO, and MSI/IREX. For a complete list of projects in REACT’s network see Annex E.

- REACT Training Team Leader, by e-mail, for incorporation in a draft assessment tool. [y_zakria@yahoo.com]
- 2- Information on each project's NGO grantees, grant activities, and geographic areas of focus will be sent to Mr. Ekram Mosa, REACT Awareness Team Leader, to identify scope for exchange of information and visits among NGOs. [Ekoo2007@yahoo.com]
 - 3- Participating organizations are committed to explore, through their respective chiefs of party, coordination of public awareness activities in areas of common coverage, specifically:
 - a. CEOSS and PADCO/REACT with respect to Samalot & Bani Mazar districts in Al-Minya;
 - b. CEOSS and CARE with respect to Beni Suef Governorate; and
 - c. PADCO/EDI and CARE with respect to Qena Governorate.
 - 4- Participating projects, within their respective governorates, will, cooperatively or independently, implement a workshop bringing together local representatives in the Peoples' Assembly and the Shoura Council and local LPC members to discuss the proposed new Law of Local Administration. Reports on workshop results will be sent to Sameh Seif, REACT COP for collation. [sseif2002@yahoo.com]

FIFTH QUARTER TARGETS

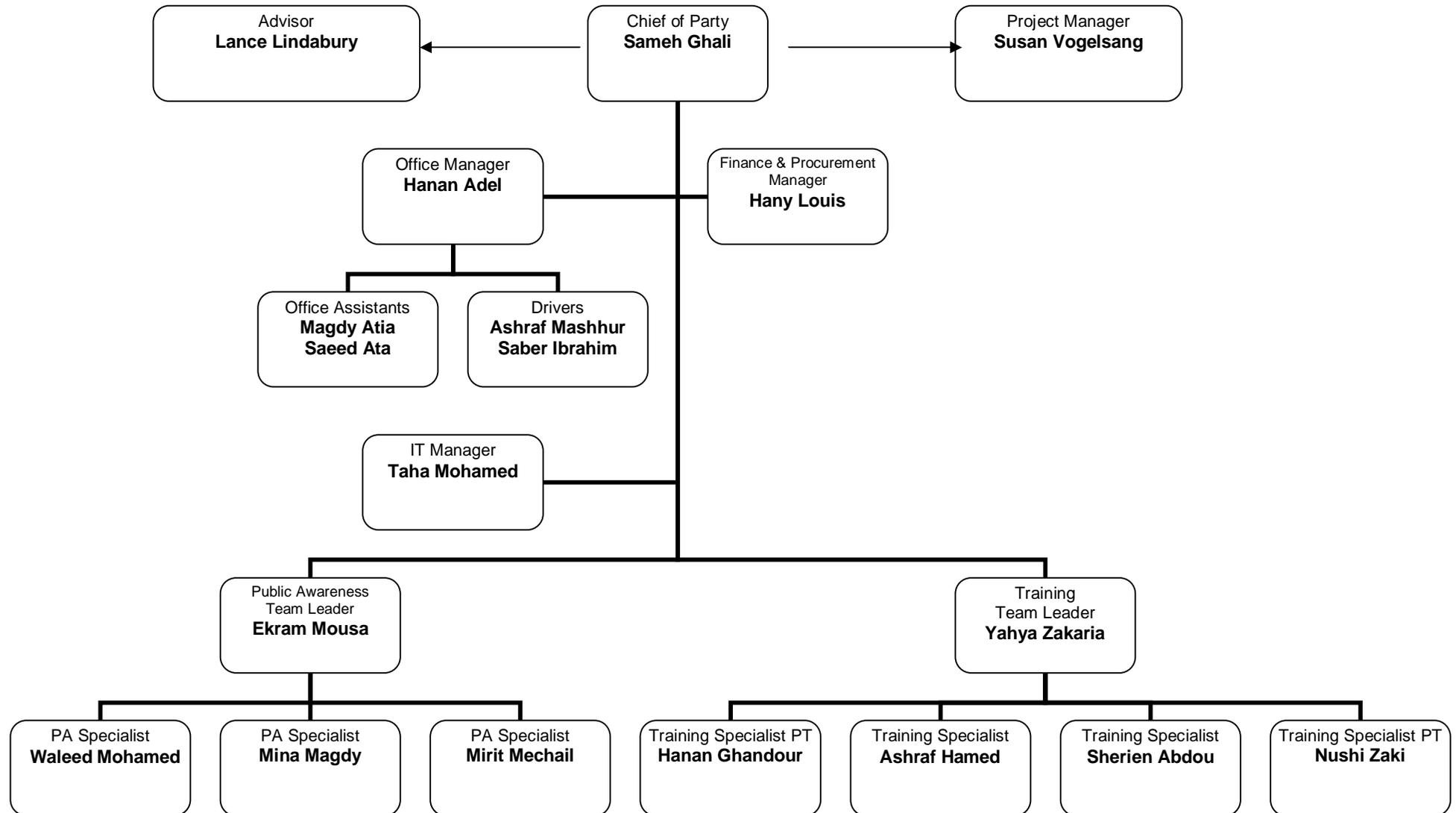
TRAINING

1. TOT of MLPCs concluded.
2. Training on third module of LPC training started, and
3. Village-level MLPC training launched.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

1. 45 Community-wide public awareness events
2. Grantee coordinators and cooperating natural community leaders trained on local government and civic education.
3. Collection of baseline data on public political awareness and participation completed.
4. Profiles of working groups of women and youth agreed and groups formed.
5. MOUs signed between grantees and cooperating organizations – e.g, schools and youth clubs.
6. Unified awareness materials designed by grantees and approved by RCC.

ANNEX A REACT TEAM MEMBERS, TEAM MEMBER TITLES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



ANNEX B THE ASSOCIATION FOR LPC DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION SUPPORT

Scope of work

- LPCs at all levels
- NGOs working in the field of LPC affairs
- Decentralization awareness and implementation
- Effective public participation in the political life of local communities

Activities

- Training of members of Local Popular Councils throughout Egypt
- Technical and institutional support to LPCs
- Public awareness campaigns to promote citizen participation.
- Strengthening cooperation between the popular and executive branches of government at all levels to enhance community services
- Technical and institutional support to NGOs working in the LPC field
- Promotion of understanding of decentralization to activate citizen participation
- Publication of periodicals and documents to support the activities of the NGO
- Implementation of community initiatives to support and activate cooperation between citizens, LPCs, and the executive branch of government
- Exchange of experiences with LPCs throughout Egypt
- Studies and surveys on behalf of local communities

Association for LPC Development and Decentralization Support: Founding Members of the Board of Directors

Ser. No	Name	Title	Profession / Occupation	Gender
1	Saied Abdelhameed Khalef Sharawy	Chairman	Jurist Council for Minia Governorate	Male
2	Bahy Salah Sharway Saleh	Vice-Chairman	Journalist, El-Gomhoria	Male
3	Alaa Adel Ali Mahmod	Treasurer	Accountant, El-Tameer Bank Vice-President, Minia Governorate LPC	Male
4	Madkour Hassen Mohamed Madkour	Secretary	Investment Supervisor, Development Bank Member, Minia Governorate LPC	Male
5	Baha Fekry Ali Mohamed	Member	Physician President, Minia Governorate LPC	Male
6	Mohamed Tarek Mohamed Abu El-Fadel	Member	Manager, Tobacco Company Member, Minia Governorate LPC	Male
7	Shames El-Din Nour El-Din	Member	Lawyer President, Regional Union of NGOs	Male
8	Gamal El-Din Ghandour Sedik Baker	Member	Under-Secretary, Directorate-General of Education President, Minia City LPC	Male
9	Wael Mohamed Mokhtar Abd El-Kader	Member	News Broadcaster, Channel 7 TV	Male
10	Sameh Seif Ghali Hanna	Member	Chief of Party, REACT Project	Male
11	Aza Gomaa Hassen Hosien	Member	Lecturer, Minia University, Faculty of Arts	Female

ANNEX C MLPC TRAINING PROGRAM: MODULE TITLES AND CONTENT OUTLINES

Module 1: The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws

- Role of the MLPC within and outside the Council: Rights and Duties
- Relations between the Executive and Popular Branches of Government
- MLPC Tools and their Use
- Follow-up with the Executive on Implementation of LPC Decisions
- Conducting a Successful Election Campaign
- Linkages between Levels of Popular Government

Module 2: Critical Thinking for Problem Solving and Decision Making

- Effective Communication
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Time Management
- Meeting Management
- Report Writing
- Conflict Management

Module 3: LPC Oversight of Projects

- Fundamentals of Project Assessment
- Estimating and Monitoring Budgets
- Popular Oversight of Spending

ANNEX D REACT TRAINING UPDATE THROUGH JUNE 2007

Level	Code	Module Name	Target Group	A_Date	Dur	# trainees	Males	Females	persondays
Governorate	76	Basic Computer Training	Governorate MLPC	24-Dec-06	3	14	9	5	42
	77	Basic Computer Training	Governorate MLPC	9-Jan-07	3	13	8	5	39
	13	Basic Computer Training	Governorate MLPC	14-Jan-07	3	12	5	7	36
	14	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Governorate MLPC	6-Mar-07	3	35	34	1	105
	11	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Governorate MLPC	20-Mar-07	3	19	0	0	57
	25	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Governorate MLPC	3-Apr-07	3	20	0	0	60
	26	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Governorate MLPC	12-Apr-07	3	20	0	0	60
	16	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Governorate MLPC	22-Apr-07	3	20	20	0	60
	23	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Governorate MLPC	3-May-07	3	23	0	0	69
9 Events						176	76	18	528
District	15	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Minia MLPC	10-May-07	2	40	39	1	80
	81	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Samalout MLPC	11-May-07	2	37	0	0	74
	17	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Matay MLPC	17-May-07	2	37	0	0	74
	18	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Beni Mazar MLPC	21-May-07	2	35	0	0	70
	12	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Abu_Korkas MLPC	24-May-07	2	29	0	0	58
	27	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Minia MLPC	26-May-07	3	35	0	0	105
	30	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Beni_Mazar MLPC	29-May-07	3	30	0	0	90
	21	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-	Malawi MLPC	31-May-07	2	37	0	0	74

Level	Code	Module Name	Target Group	A Date	Dur	# trainees	Males	Females	persondays
		Laws							
	22	The Law of Local Administration and Al-Minia LPC By-Laws	Der_Mowas MLPC	10-Jun-07	2	32	0	0	64
	29	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Matay MLPC	16-Jun-07	3	41	0	0	123
	24	Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	Abu_Korkas MLPC	19-Jun-07	3	27	26	1	81
		11 Events				380	65	2	893
		Total of 20 Events				556	141	20	1421

ANNEX E PARTNER PROJECTS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS, BY FUNDING AGENCY

<u>Funding Agency</u>	<u>Partner Project</u>	<u>Implementing Organization</u>
USAID	<i>Egypt Decentralization Initiative</i>	PADCO
	<i>Enhancing Popular Participation in Democracy</i>	CEOSS
	<i>Partnership Program for D&G</i>	CARE EGYPT
	<i>Media Development Program</i>	MSI – IREX
	<i>Grassroots Civic Education and Media for Democracy</i>	Internews Network Center for Civic Education
US Embassy	<i>Information Resource Center</i>	USG
National Council of Women	<i>Political Support for Women</i>	NCW
Catholic Relief Service	<i>Egypt Decentralization Initiative</i> Ibshadaat village, _____ District	CRS
Various	Legacy capabilities and activities in Samelot District	Save the Children
World Bank	Al-Minia infrastructure – under design	GOE