

PD-ABQ-151 96503



PARTNERSHIP
PROJECTS FOR
GIRLS AND
YOUNG WOMEN



cecpa

PROJECT SUMMARY

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) has launched a new project in Egypt with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Cairo. Partnership Projects for Girls and Young Women, *Mashrou Elmosharaka Lilshabat*, is designed to improve the status of girls and young women in Upper Egypt and expand their life options through an integrated strategy linking education, health and advocacy.

Its purpose is to reduce the gender gap in girls' education and increase gender equity for girls and young women. The project will develop model programs in education, health and development for girls and young women, and will encourage the support of leaders at all levels for gender equity.

Partnership Projects supports community-based services, governorate focused advocacy, and national level policy in collaboration with the Ministry of Population and Family Planning. Egyptian NGO partners and CEDPA promote community participation and empower women and youth leaders to plan, implement and evaluate community-oriented programs. Key objectives are to:

- mobilize leadership at the national, governorate and community level to promote education and health for girls and women.
- improve life skills, self-confidence and social competence in girls and young women
- improve health and reproductive health of girls, young women and young couples through health education
- strengthen the capacity of local institutions to plan and implement sustainable programs

Partnership Projects will work initially in 3-4 governorates in Upper Egypt where female literacy is low, early childbearing is the norm, and where girls and young women have the least opportunity for development. Because the project has a comprehensive focus and works simultaneously on the national, governorate and community levels, project synergies will result in the greatest possible impact.

CEDPA is in a unique position to implement **Partnership Projects**. As a PVO, we have worked with women around the world for 20 years, and have worked with Egyptian women and families for the past ten years. This integrated project reflects the innovative strategies and interrelationships which will characterize education, health and reproductive health and development programs in the next decade.

Rationale and Need

Research shows a strong positive correlation between female education and health, social and economic development. Educated women also have fewer, healthier and better educated children. They have better economic opportunities, and are more involved in their communities. In Upper Egypt especially, tradition and poverty have limited girls' education and consequently their life options, perpetuating a cycle of deprivation including morbidity, malnutrition, early childbearing, illiteracy and poverty.

In recent years, Egypt has succeeded in improving the status, health, and education of women; decreased fertility and maternal mortality; improved infant mortality; and increased participation by women in the labor force. While progress has occurred, traditions and poverty continue to be barriers to education, health care, and vocational opportunities for girls and women in the rural regions of Upper Egypt.

Key Activities

Egyptian NGO partners including the Coptic Evangelical Association for Social Services (CEOSS) in Minya are designing and implementing innovative community-based programs for girls and young women. In pilot areas, community-based activities are being tested to promote girls' enrollment and continuation in primary school. Parents and community leaders will be mobilized to encourage and support girls' education. "Girls and young women's learning centers" will provide health education, literacy programs and skills training for young women. The project will work with religious and community leaders, parents and young adults to support better health and reproductive health through outreach education programs. In collaboration with the Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning (ITRFP), the project will work with the Governors' Council of Women in Upper Egypt governorates to develop an advocacy agenda for the girl child and train women, community and youth leaders. A national Policy Advisory Committee will disseminate information to increase public awareness and promote supportive public policy development.

Relationship to National Population Strategy

Project activities are consistent with the National Population Strategy for 1992-2007. This forward looking strategy recognizes challenges in health, fertility and education as a result of gender inequities and relationships between women, development and family planning. The National Population Strategy has established objectives to increase female literacy and primary school enrollment; expand female participation in economic activities; reduce maternal and infant mortality; improve health for families and youth, and increase women's participation in public life.

CEDPA's Background and Experience in Egypt

CEDPA's mission is *to empower women to be full partners in development*. It is based on CEDPA's conviction that sustainable development requires the full participation of women. CEDPA's primary strategies for development include: advocacy, training, institution building and community-based services. Since its inception in 1975, CEDPA has trained over 4,000 leaders in 106 countries in every region of the world; implemented women-to-women family planning programs based on the principles of women's access, choice, and full participation; and supported advocacy and community-based initiatives that address the special needs of women.

CEDPA's experience in Egypt, dating from the early 1980's, has included: an ongoing partnership with the Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning and support of family planning services to NGOs under the USAID/Cairo Population Project, which included the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, the Bishopric of Public Ecumenical and Social Services (BPSS) and Al Azhar University's International Islamic Center. CEDPA has also supported, through private and other donor funds, the "Better Life Options Program for Girls and Young Women" with ITRFP, and provided international training of 51 Egyptian development professionals in Washington-based training programs.

CEDPA is an international private voluntary organization (PVO) with field offices in India, Nepal, Kenya, Nigeria and Romania.

Key Project Activities

1. Mobilize leadership at the national, governorate and community level to close the gender gap in education and health

The project works in partnerships with Egyptian NGOs to train leaders on advocacy and provide opportunities for community participation in project design, monitoring and evaluation. It will train community leaders at all levels, with an emphasis on male and female community leaders, religious leaders, and young people from NGOs and youth-serving organizations.

At the governorate level, the project works through Governors' Council of Women, a project which the National Population Council, USAID/Cairo and CEDPA jointly conceived in 1990. Based on that experience, governors' wives in this project will play a leading role in educating community leaders on youth needs and issues, and encouraging them to mobilize their communities and advocate for change in policies and resource allocation. At the national level, a committee of 25 experts will form the National Policy Advisory Committee to develop a national advocacy strategy for youth, and highlight critical gender issues for policy-makers and the media.

2. Improve life skills, self-confidence and social competence in girls and young men

The project will focus on 3-4 governorates in rural Upper Egypt, initially in Minya, Fayoum and Beni Suef where female literacy is low and where young women have few opportunities. The project will provide subgrants to Egyptian NGOs to develop a network of "clubs" or learning centers serving the special needs of girls and young women. The project will expand the capacity and range of programs offered through existing programs. These subgrants will support services to girls ages 9 to 15 who do not attend school, to provide them opportunities to develop skills and broader exposure to learning outside their homes.

CEDPA's *Choose a Future!* workbook (developed for the non-formal sector) is being adapted by a core team of Egyptian NGOs under the supervision of an Arabic speaking educational specialist. This workbook called "Towards a Better Life" will provide a core set of participatory learning modules designed to enhance the self-confidence and competence of young girls not in school and increase their knowledge of basic health and reproductive health concepts. The workbook contains a set of modules that can be used as a set or individually to increase information and practical skills. Combined with functional literacy skills and income generation, it will provide a package of learning materials for young women who have few opportunities for structured learning outside their homes.

3. Reduce the gender gap in girls education

Partnership Projects complements other strategies to which donors have already committed resources, such as the building of schools in Egypt by USAID and the "one room school" program. CEDPA will establish linkages with innovative education programs such as the community schools sponsored by UNICEF, one rooms schools sponsored by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, and will work closely with USAID and other international NGOs in the development of new strategies for girls education in Egypt.

The project will offer a support package of interventions, such as scholarship programs, school uniforms, books and transportation fund which will help girls enroll and stay in school. The project will reach out to parents of girls aged 5-8 years to identify the reasons why they are not in school and to provide support for their enrollment or re-enrollment. Female facilitators and fieldworkers will be selected and trained by the NGOs so girls will have the chance to work with different role models and to learn in a "girl-friendly" environment.

4. Improve health and reproductive health in girls, young women and young couples

The health and nutritional needs of girls and young women are largely neglected, and may result in the inability to learn in school, incapacity to work, and in poor pregnancy outcomes resulting in high infant and maternal mortality. The focus of the project will be on providing health education at appropriate levels to parents, young women and couples.

The project will provide parents and "learning centers" with health education materials and training on topics such as health and hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness and child health. They will address key health problems which Upper Egyptian children face, such as diarrhea, malnutrition, and parasitic infections. The project will provide appropriate guidance on childrearing practices in order to prepare young women for their future role as mothers to learn about effective child health practices and about child development. Young women enrolled in the program will participate in sessions on health and culturally appropriate reproductive health education.

The project will fund Egyptian NGOs to develop a Family Health Education manual in collaboration with religious leaders to be used as a resource on family health education and to prepare young couples for marriage. A special focus of the manual will be on gender roles and responsibilities, communications and parenting. Selected NGOs, will be supported to pilot test the manual and to train field workers to provide education and counseling in small groups or to individual couples. Issues such as early marriage and early childbearing, and female genital mutilation will be addressed.

5. Strengthen the capacity of institutions to plan and implement sustainable programs

Project assistance will be available to strengthen the overall organizational capacity to plan and manage their programs and to develop long range institutional plans for sustainability. The project will collaborate with other private voluntary organizations such as Save the Children, CARE, Institute for Cultural Affairs, and the Umbrella Management Institute (UMI) whose specific role is to strengthen management capacity with local NGOs.

Project sustainability will be enhanced through community participation at all levels of the project, from design to implementation and evaluation. The project will build on CEDPA's strong commitment to community participation, partnership with NGOs and the involvement of and empowerment of women, all necessary ingredients for developing sustainable programs.

Relationship to USAID/Cairo's Strategic Objectives

USAID/Cairo has determined its program goal to be: Broad based sustainable development with improved quality of life. The four subgoals identified in 1995 are: 1) protecting of the environment; 2) building democracy; 3) reducing population growth; and 4) encouraging broad based economic growth.

Partnership Projects for Girls and Young Women supports the USAID strategy to promote sustainable development to "enlarge the range of freedom and opportunity" for individuals, i.e. disadvantaged girls and young women in Upper Egypt. Through raising the educational, health, and vocational standards of girls, the project works in a very fundamental way to the change the lives of women and girls, and to improve the quality of life for Egyptian society as a whole.

In strengthening gender equity in terms of girls' access to education, literacy, health care and vocational opportunity, the project will give women and girls the basis for greater, more effective participation in civic life, thereby increasing their status and support in the community. Through participation in project activities, they will, moreover, increase their capabilities to contribute in the economic, political and social development of their communities.

A primary focus of Partnership Projects will be on strengthening local institutions and NGOs to increase their potential for sustainability beyond the project period. Training and technical assistance will be offered as an investment in building organizational capacity. In turn, the participating NGOs will invest their human resources and other resources to leverage A.I.D. funds. This type of "leveraging" will make empowerment an integral part of an ongoing development process.

USAID/Cairo recognized the importance of supporting an integrated program linking health, reproductive health, education and local PVO development. To facilitate these linkages, it formed a Project Advisory Committee to provide USAID guidance for the project and to ensure an integrated approach within USAID.

Strategic Opportunity with ICPD

Partnership Projects was the first project to be signed under the U.S.- Egypt Economic Partnership Initiative at the ICPD in Cairo. The grant agreement was signed by USAID Administrator Brian Atwood and Peggy Curlin, CEDPA's President, at the NGO Forum on September 5, 1994.

This innovative project provides a special opportunity for Egypt to demonstrate its commitment to non-governmental organizations and to women's development. One of the major themes in the Preparatory Committee meetings and in the final U.N. document, the "Programme for Action", is the strong commitment to women's empowerment as a vital and essential strategy in the success of population and development programs. The document stresses the importance of youth education and development, the need to address gender equity from a human rights perspective, and the relationship between education and empowerment.

The Cairo conference provided an opportunity for NGOs and governments from around the world to advocate for reproductive health and address critical issues fundamental to population growth and development, such as the girl child.

From Cairo to Beijing

Immediately following the Cairo conference, Egyptian NGOs focused their attention to planning for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Partnership Projects was launched in November and awarded its first subgrant to the Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) to support Egyptian NGOs to carry forward the Cairo agenda to Amman, Jordan, where the West Asia Preparatory Meeting was held in November 1995. Under the same grant, AAW supported participants to the Preparatory Meetings in New York and to Beijing to carry forward the agenda on expanding opportunities for girls and young women.

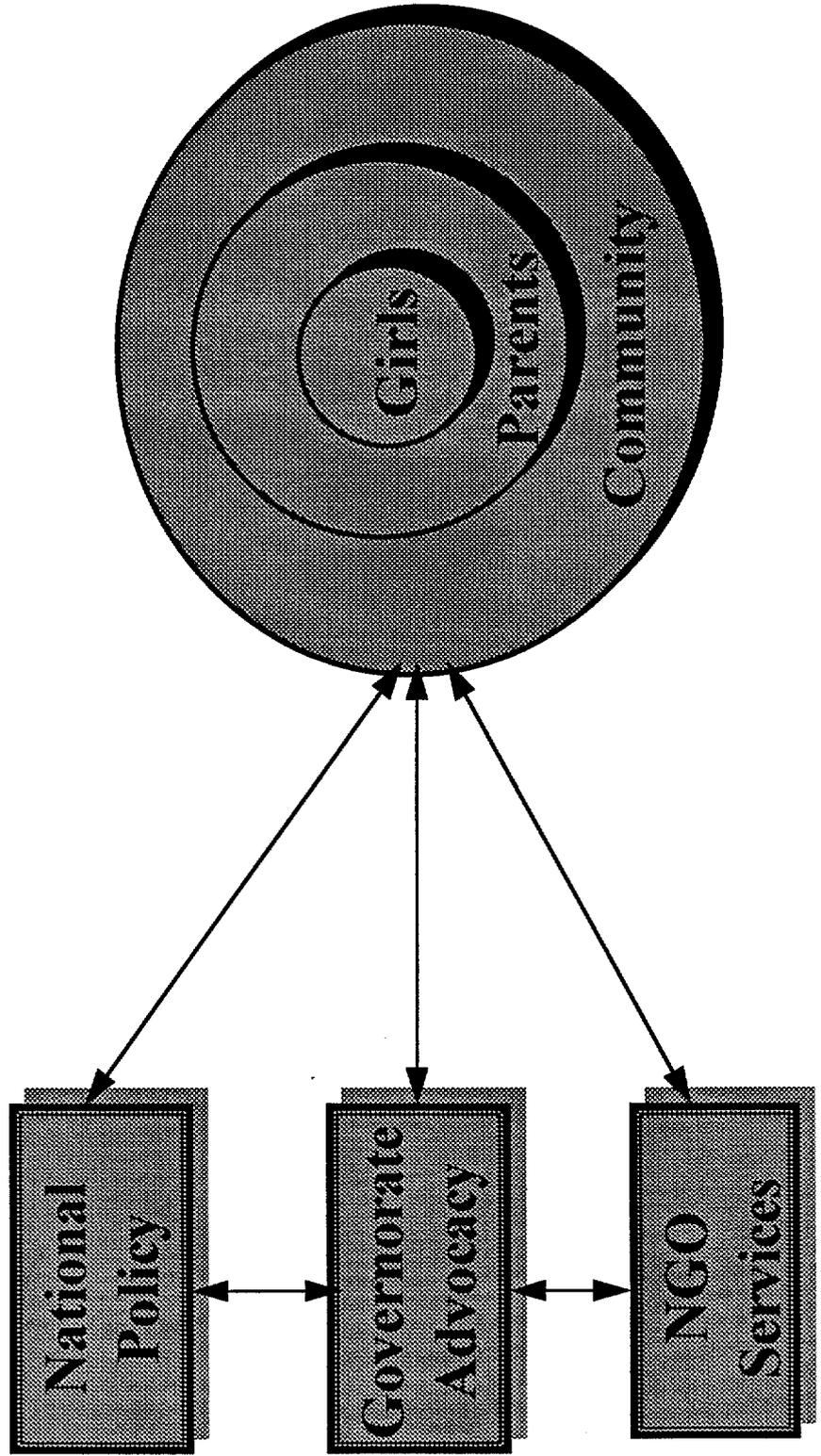
In June 1995, the first national Policy Advisory Committee as held for 100 leaders and policy makers from all over Egypt. Papers developed by local practitioners and academic leaders were presented for discussion and policy recommendations.

A grant of \$500,000 from UNFPA/Egypt was obtained in June 1995 to match the USAID/Cairo grant of \$6 million. The UNFPA grant will provide additional support to train youth leaders and expand support to local NGOs such as the Egyptian Federation of Scouts and Girl Guides, and the Youth Association for Population and Development. Peer educators and youth leaders will be trained in participatory processes for development and to develop advocacy strategies to support gender equity and equality in health, education and reproductive health programs.

CEDPA is in a unique position to implement Partnership Projects. As a PVO and Grey Amendment company, we share 20 years of experience and lessons learned from working with women around the world. This integrated project reflects the innovative strategies and interrelationships which will characterize education, health and reproductive health and development programs in the next decade. This project offers Egypt an integrated development project to introduce new approaches and to promote linkages between sectors. It provides a significant opportunity to assess and develop policies to support and strengthen girls' and women's participation and development.

CEDPA looks forward to a true partnership with Egyptian NGOs, the Government of Egypt, USAID/Cairo and other donors to multiply the project's effectiveness and magnify its impact to reduce the gender gap in girls' education and health, thereby increasing opportunities to empower young women to be future partners in development.

Integrated Strategies for Maximum Impact



COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM STRATEGIES

1. Promote formal education for girls

- . Education support packages to reduce cost barriers
- . Outreach and education of parents
- . Advocacy for girl-focused curriculum and more female teachers

2. Provide non-formal education and skills development for out-of-school girls

- . Literacy and skills development through NGOS
- . Training of female facilitators and field workers
- . Support of learning centers for girls and young women

3. Link educational interventions with basic health interventions

- . Health, nutrition, hygiene, water and sanitation
- . Access to health and reproductive health services

3. Increase community participation to support girl's education

- . Mobilization of community education committees
- . Parent education and outreach programs
- . Parental and community involvement with schools

4. Promote advocacy and social mobilization

- . Collection of gender-specific data and research
- . Advocacy campaigns through Governors' Councils of Women and community leaders
- . Encouragement of innovative educational and service channels to promote innovation and changes to improve girls' learning

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

KEY OBJECTIVES 1994 - 1999

A. MOBILIZE LEADERSHIP AT THE NATIONAL, GOVERNORATE AND COMMUNITY LEVEL TO CLOSE THE GENDER GAP

- Train 1000 leaders at the national, governorate and community levels
- Train 200 youth leaders
- Form Policy Advisory Committee
- Strengthen Governors' Council of Women

B. IMPROVE LIFE SKILLS, SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SOCIAL COMPETENCE IN GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

- Develop 75 Girls' Learning Centers
- Programs for 13,000 girls and young women age 10-15
- Develop a "Towards a Better Life" manual and training guide

C. REDUCE THE GENDER GAP IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

- Outreach program to parents and girls age 5-8
- Support package to 4,000 girls to enter and continue in primary school

D. IMPROVE HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN GIRLS, YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG COUPLES

- Develop Family Health Education manual
- Workshop for 500 religious leaders
- Provide family health education to 4,000 young couples

E. STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMS

- Subgrants to 8-10 NGOs
- 2-3 special studies documenting Lessons Learned
- Technical assistance in program and financial systems

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OCTOBER 1994 - AUGUST 1995

- 1. Established CEDPA office in Cairo**
 - Hired 2 ex-patriate and 4 local staff
- 2. Awarded subgrants to 3 Egyptian NGOs:**
 - Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning
 - Coptic Evangelical Association for Social Services
 - Alliance for Arab Women (for Amman/Beijing)
- 3. Conducted needs assessments in 17 villages**
 - 180 families surveyed
 - Dr. Andrea Rugh, consultant
- 4. Developed and implemented training program for 20 fieldworkers**
 - 8 NGOs from Minya, Fayoum, Beni Suef and Alexandria
 - Dr. Mona Habib, education consultant
- 5. Prepared "Towards a Better Life" manual**
 - Developed and pilot tested 21 modules
- 6. Prepared Governor's Council of Women in Advocacy Strategies**
 - 40 members of GCOW trained from Minya
- 7. Conducted first National Policy Advisory Committee**
 - Opening conference in June attended by 100 persons
 - Six Governors' wives from Upper Egypt participated
- 8. Developed and received approval for matching grant from UNFPA/Egypt**
 - \$500,000 for 2 years
 - Training of peer educators and youth advocates

Partnership Projects for Girls and Young Women

NGO Partners

YEAR 1	ITRFP (Alexandria)	CLOSS (Minya)	AAW (Cairo)
(Beni Suef)	Young Muslim Women's Assoc.	Young Muslim Men's Assoc.	ICA
(Fayoum)	CDA Abguig	CDA Tersa	CDA Fidmeen
YEAR 2 (Add)	Al Azhar University	NGOs Fayoum	NGOs Beni Suef
YEAR 3 (Add)	NGOs Fayoum	NGOs Beni Suef	

BARRIERS TO GIRLS' EDUCATION IN EGYPT

I. School factors affecting supply

Cost barriers:

- Direct costs as school fees, uniforms, books, and transportation
- Hidden costs such as tutoring and payment for private lessons

School-based barriers:

- Irrelevant and poor quality curriculum
- Lack of female teachers, abusive male teachers
- Low status and pay of teachers
- School hours in conflict with household and farming chores

II. Household factors affecting demand:

- Opportunity cost of girls' labor is too high
- Traditional attitudes towards role of girls and women
- Limited mobility of girls
- Parents' lack of education

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- **Only a quarter of the girls in the 180 households completed primary school compared to 40% of the boys;**
- **The younger generation had considerably increased rates of participation in formal schooling over parents, but few continued to levels where they were functionally literate;**
- **The main reasons reported for non-participation of children were “poverty” and “tradition”;**
- **Tradition was expressed in terms of protecting a girl’s reputation before marriage, of her special role not enhanced by schooling, and of a need to conform to perceived norms that conflict with schooling;**
- **There were basic gaps in girls’ knowledge of first aid, hygiene, nutrition and health and though parents articulated “correct” theory about preventative and reproductive health they often did not practice what they preached;**
- **Few girls had satisfactory competency levels in literacy; none had them in numeracy;**

- **Girls from poor families had considerably lower scores in literacy than girls from other backgrounds; but their scores were not significantly different in numeracy;**
- **Number of years of schooling correlated positively with literacy and numeracy scores;**
- **While males were the main earners of income, females also contributed in a variety of ways to family income;**
- **Girls did far more household work than did their brothers and their contribution was more significant in a number of ways;**
- **Rural households purchased a wide variety of products that could be produced at home.**

WHAT PARENTS WANT IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR GIRLS

- **No or low cost to families**

- **Girl-friendly environment**
 - flexible hours
 - close to home
 - female teachers

- **Emphasis on basic skills**
 - reading, writing, arithmetic

 - practical information on health, nutrition, child rearing,
and family planning

- **Opportunity to contribute income to the household**

“TOWARDS A BETTER LIFE” PROGRAM

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Self awareness
- Nutrition, health and hygiene
- Reproductive health
- Environment

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Generating income
- Saving resources
- Saving labor

PARENT EDUCATION

- Rights of girls for education and health care;
- Importance of girls’ enrollment and completion of basic education or access to literacy or non-formal education;
- Value of girls’ contribution to household production;
- Marriage and delaying early childbearing and eliminating female genital mutilation.

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

- Parent education on gender equity in education, health and household chores

RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

POLICY GOAL 1 : EXPAND ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL

- 1. Exempt poor families from school fees for girls for the first three years of primary school**
- 2. Expand the enrollment of girls at age 6**
 - . ensure accurate registration of births through issuance of birth certificates
 - . provide outreach program to parents
 - . advertise in the media the procedure for school enrollment
- 3. Narrow the gap between policy and practice**
 - . introduce flexible school schedules
 - . increase the number of special schools for girls
 - . include income generating activities in schools
 - . hire and training more women teachers
- 4. Enhance collaboration between government and NGOs in education**
 - . solicit community participation to ensure relevant curriculum
 - . encourage innovative approaches through NGOS to plan gender sensitive programs
- 5. Encourage non-formal education through NGOs**
 - . involve young women and community members in planning and designing non-formal programs for out-of-school youth
 - . integrate literacy with health education and skills building interventions
 - . focus on practical skills that can reduce household expenses

POLICY GOAL II: EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALL

1. Establish health programs in schools

- . provide in-school health and outreach programs
- . work with local NGOs

2. Emphasize preventive health education and services

3. Educate families about importance of health for girls

- . reduce violence against girls and young women
- . educate communities and eradicate female genital mutilation

4. Develop culturally appropriate models of family health education

- . involve community education committees
- . develop and utilize support from religious leaders

5. Encourage youth volunteer services in the community

- . girl-to girl approaches to transfer health information
- . boy-to-boy strategies to educate and influence peers

**PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN
POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Azziza Hussein	National Steering Committee of NGOs ICPD Followup
Dr. Abdel Salam El Bana	Egyptian Family Planning Association
Mrs. Sala Awad	Institute for Training and Research in Family Planning
Dr. Sarah Loza	Social Planning Analysis and Administration Consultants
Mrs. Nazli El Sherbini	Attorney
Mrs. Marie Assad	Task Force on Female Circumcision
Dr. Morad Hassanein	Al Azhar International Islamic Center
Mr. Wael Abdel Mgeed	Television
Mrs. Amal Al anani	Radio
Dr. Samir Eleish	Youth Federation of Population and Development
Dr. Moushira El Shafei	Ministry of Health
Dr. Layla Kafafei	Family Health International
Dr. Azza Sulaiman	Institute for National Planning
Mrs. Salwa Othman	Ministry of Social Affairs
Mrs. Baheira Mokhtar	Al Ahram
General Ahmad Abdel Latif	Egyptian Federation of Scouts and Girl Guides
Mrs. Samia Abdel Salam	Ministry of Population
Mrs. Zainab Moihamed Kotb	Ministry of Education
Mr. Farouk Abdel Fattah	National Council of Literacy and Adult Education
Mrs. Mona Zulficar	National Steering Committee of NGOs ICPD Followup
Dr. Farkhonda Hassan	Ministry of Shoura Council

Dr. Layla Nawar

Population Council

Dr. Samel Habib

CEOSS

Dr. Nader Fergany

MESHKAT

Dr. Hoda Badran

Alliance of Arab Women

Dr. Kawthar Kojak

**Ministry of Education/Ains Shams
University**

Dr. Fatma Khafagy

UNICEF

Partnership Projects for Girls and Young Women

Project Strategies and Impact

