

Evaluation of Two Pilot Programmes in Education



The assignment was to evaluate the performance and impact of two pilot programs in education implemented by the Social Fund for Development (SFD) in order to extract lessons learned, good practices and to assist the SFD and its development partners in up-scaling these programs into a larger target group. These programs are the Promoting Rural Girls' Education Program, which focuses on schools in rural areas where female enrolment in schools is less than 20% and the second is the Quality of Education Program that aims to improve the educational methodologies and tools in schools in urban areas.

The team conducted the evaluation by assessing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the pilot programs on the target groups and also made recommendations on how to widen the number of beneficiaries to the programs through up scaling

Country: Yemen

Dates (start/end): April 2008- May 2008

Overall project value (EUR): EUR 30,000

Name of client: Social Fund for Development

Origin of funding: Social Fund for Development

Name of partners if any: NSCE International

No of staff provided: 2

Type of services provided:

- Conducted meetings with the Program teams and reviewed the Program literature and documents
- Development and tailoring of research tools
- Training the National Research Team on how to conduct the fieldwork
- Supervision of the fieldwork
- Data collection for case studies
- Analysis
- Report writing and formulation of recommendations

The following are the research methods used during the evaluation:

- Literature review
- Semi structured in depth interviews
- Focus group discussions
- Case studies

Conditional Incentive Based Rural Development Program



The overall aim of the National Pilot Program (NPP) is to promote sustainable rural development in such a way that by 2025, the rural population of Egypt can engage in economically viable activities that are environmentally sound and socially acceptable such that the countryside is preserved, production of food, feed, fiber, fuel and ecological functions by the agricultural sector in Egypt promote the long term national development objectives. In order to formulate the NPP, a 3 month research was conducted with the aim of exploring the current situation and objectives in 4 main components; namely

1. Improve the competitiveness of the agriculture in the old land.
2. Improve the environment and the countryside.
3. Improve the quality of life in rural areas and encourage diversification of activities in rural areas.
4. Build local institutional capacity for employment and economic diversification.

Hence, position papers describing the needs and priorities in each component have been developed specifically for Egypt with focus on Menofeya and Fayoum as the 2 governorates for implementing the program. The NPP was presented in a conference highlighting and explaining the incentive based approach.

Type of services provided:

- Four expert groups were formed comprising the following thematic areas: agriculture competitiveness, landscape and environment, quality of life in rural areas and economic diversification and lastly local institutional capacity. Each expert working group has participated in several meetings during which they elaborated on the current situation, expected situation in five years time (period of the pilot project), as well as ideal situation in 2025. Consequently, each work group supported by the associated local key expert developed position papers and priorities and needs in each area that serve to contribute to formulating a consolidated well-defined proposal functioning as a roadmap to a pilot project.
- Field surveys in Menofeya and Fayoum have been conducted to come up with the main priorities and needs that effectively contribute to the preparation of the National Pilot Program.
- A national conference was held to present the National Pilot Program – Conditional Incentive Based Rural Development Program to elaborate more on the Incentive Based Approach
- Providing guidance for the Expert Working Groups during the course of the project.

Country: Egypt (Menofeya and Fayoum)

Dates (start/end): April 2008-June 2008

Overall project value (EUR): EUR 50,000

Name of client: LEI, B.V, and Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE)

Origin of funding: UPEHC

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 13

TRACEBACK- Integrated System for a Reliable Traceability of Food Supply Chains



TRACEBACK is the acronym for "Integrated system for a reliable traceability of food supply chains", an integrated project of the European Union Sixth Framework Programme of Scientific and Technological Research, Priority 5 "Food Quality and Safety".

The main objective of the TRACEBACK project is to develop a well functioning generic system for traceability and information handling within food chains. TRACEBACK is a project within the European Commission's Sixth Framework Programme involving 28 partners from 11 countries. The partners range from research institutes and universities, computer and consultancy firms, to representatives from the food industries. The project deals with traceability along entire food chains, and is divided into a number of different work packages covering different aspects of traceability.

TRACEBACK will develop innovative models and tools to support the implementation of an ideal traceability system for the entire food chain, characterized by objectively connecting product flow and related information flow, ensuring available and reliable traceability information along the entire food chain, accommodating technologies currently adopted by all actors of the food chain without imposing any technology change.

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end): January 2007-December 2010

Overall project value (EUR): EUR15.50 Million

Name of client: European Union

Origin of funding: European Union

Name of partners if any: 28 research and academic institution from the European community

No of staff provided: 2

Type of services provided:

- Analysing and defining the food chains and identifying weak and sensitive points in the chains where there are risks for contamination or loss in quality of the final product.
- Develop sensors and devices for sensing technique for monitoring, identifying and avoiding specific contamination or situations that might cause damage and loss of quality in food chains.
- The development of a system for compiling and handling information generated from the sensors used in the food chain.
- Teaching and training the potential users on the devices and the information system.
- Economic assessment of the feasibility of traceability technique in commercial situations.
- Pilot testing of the traceability system in commercial companies constituting whole food chains.
- Creating an industrial platform for communicating results from the project directly to the industry. The platform is also meant to stimulate industrial implementation, innovation and feedback concerning traceability.

Training Needs Assessment Consultancy / Skills Development Project



The Skills Development Project (SDP) was a pilot operation designed to stimulate and test a new mechanism for the financing of demand-driven and competitively provided training to Private Sector Small Micro Enterprises (SME's).

The SDP project targeted initially SME's that employ between 10 – 500 employees (Textiles Sector SME's employing up to 2,000 employees were specifically targeted by the project) in any of the three targeted sectors of the economy; Construction, Manufacturing, and Tourism.

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end): 19 May 2007- 19 May 2008

Overall project value (EUR): 27.1258

Name of client: Ministry of Industry/
Skills Development Project (SDP)

Origin of funding: World Bank

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 2 staff & 4
Consultants

Type of services provided:

- Analysis to assess the priority training needs for the production staff of each company.
- Identification of Training Needs for individual businesses were combined in an aggregated TNA. This aggregate TNA formed the basis of a training-sub-proposal that was developed for the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- Formulation of courses outlines for the trainings recommended during each TNA.
- Provision of technical assistance to the Project Intermediaries to analyze the technical/vocational training needs of those eligible SME's.

Impact Assessment of the Agricultural Water Management Project (AWMP)



The objective of the Agricultural Water Management Project was to assist the agricultural water users reach their declared goal of complete national improvement of water management in Egypt's Old Lands by 2011. One of the core activities of the project was to qualify the Extension staff, Irrigation Advisory Services staff and Key farmers (Water Users Associations). The project prepared the qualified people to support farmers and water users in their decision making process, through providing farmers with different water management practices that are suitable to their socio-economic conditions.

The project has been mandated until end of 2008 to work in two governorates, Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh, where the national Irrigation Improvement Project (IIP) is being implemented. For the third phase of the project, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation is planning to expand the qualification program on the national level, i.e. to other governorates, where the IIP will be later implemented.

The main purpose of the study was to assess the impact of the project on the farmers/Water User Association members in Beheria and Kafr El Sheikh, through assessing different aspects such as the efforts of irrigation advisory specialists and their relation with the farmers. The efficiency of the project staff and their knowledge in accordance with the project objectives was also investigated and evaluated

Type of services provided:

- The study included the selection (in cooperation with the project's coordinator) of representative sample in Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh Governorates
- A structured questionnaire was prepared, tested and approved
- A field survey was conducted using a data collection process
- The collected data was analyzed, and an evaluation report was prepared
- Conclusions and recommendations were drawn to help increase the efficiency of the project activities in the future.

Country: Egypt (Beheira and Kafr El Sheikh)

Dates (start/end): August 2007- September 2007

Overall project value (EUR): 3,4695

Name of client: Agricultural Water Management Project, Ministry of Agriculture

Origin of funding: GTZ

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 9

Kafr El Sheikh Sewerage Training Project - Accompanying Measure



The objective of the Project is to put Kafr El Sheik Water and Sewerage Company (KWSC) into the position to cope with new Operation and Maintenance (O&M) challenges coming from a large number of Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTPs), Sewage Pumping Stations and Sewage Network, to be implemented and completed in the next years. The Consultant will support the management by providing training for operational staff as well a capacity building for the improvement of management organisational structure and waste water utility management for newly emerging private sector companies.

The respective work programme will consist of the following main activities:

- Presentation of a clear operation outlining KWSC's global wastewater disposal strategy as a whole and giving detailed instructions for individual plant operation.
- Analysis of the organizational structure of KWSC and adoption to the needs of new tasks.
- Assistance in the establishment of labour requirement plans, job descriptions and in appointing new staff for positions to be filled.
- Identification of a target group of trainees that will serve as core cell for future know-how transfer. Individual training plans and training schedules will be elaborated and executed
- Establishment of a monitoring system to follow the knowledge absorption of individual trainees and to be able to react adequately when deficiencies are identified.
- Development and delivery of in-house waste water plant operational training culminating in the establishment of a core of Training of Trainers (ToT's) to ensure sustainability
- Top Management organization training using seminars and field visits to WWTP's in Germany.
- Extension / adoption of KWSC's accounting to the upcoming demands. Training of commercial and financial personnel to qualify it to be competent for sewage systems operation.

Type of services provided:

Provision of a Technical Assistance (TA) team comprising both long term and short-term expertise in the following sectors:

- Formulation of training programs in relation to Organization and Management as per scope of the defined aim of the project;
- Contact local training institutes, review training offers and arrange training agreements;
- Provide guidance to the training consultants and the training processes in general including proposal preparation, contract formulation, negotiation and management;
- Provide guidance in skills training and development for the maintenance and operation of new wastewater stations;
- Organize in-plant training with the object of providing ToT's;
- Organize study tours and in-plant training abroad.
- Elaborate training programs and training schedules, define target group of trainees with KWSC
- Execute seminars and workshops at KWSC
- Execute on-the-job coaching in routine operations
- Elaboration of a concept proposal regarding KWSC future self-contained human resources development strategy

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end): December 2007-December 2010

Overall project value (EUR): Euro 2,025,590

Name of client: Kafr El Sheikh Water and Sanitation Company (KWSC)

Origin of funding: KFW

Name of partners if any: AHT Group

No of staff to be provided: 10

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRATIZATION, CIVIL SOCIETY



The protection of human rights, together with the promotion of pluralistic democracy and effective guarantees for the rule of law and the fight against poverty, are among the European Union's essential objectives.

Within the European Union, the European Parliament (EP) has a strong voice for human rights and democracy issues contributing to the formulation and implementation of policies. In 1994 the EP promoted the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), a programme specifically designed to promote Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law mainly through cooperation with civil society organizations but also in partnership with some key international organizations.

North South Consultant Exchange (NSCE) is representing the Ministry of International Cooperation, who will provide to the Project Management Unit (PMU) a key expert to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the program in coordination with the Steering Committee. The tasks of the key expert will be fulfilled by setting up financial, operational and monitoring mechanisms and by liaising with the other stakeholders.

The key expert intervention focuses on two main strategic issues, the coordination at the highest political and executive levels and the financial and operational monitoring of the projects financed through the initiative (total 5 million euro). The inputs gathered through the monitoring mechanism will provide the decision makers with clear and concise reports and qualitative information.

The information provided supports the fulfillment of the program purposes in the development and implementation of institutions, policies and strategies in line with the relevant Human Rights International instruments and standards in addition to increasing the capacity of the civil society.

Technical Assistance services will be provided to the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Training on grant and service contract management.

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end) June 2007- May 2010

Overall project value (EUR): EUR 190,020

Name of client: Ministry of international Cooperation (MOIC)

Origin of funding: EU

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 1

Type of services provided:

- The set up of a functional PMU is the main objective of the assignment. Formulation of a functional PMU by the definition of the operational modalities and the proper coordination of the activities financed through the grants and coordination with all involved stakeholders at the strategic level.
- Development of an automated financial and monitoring system to provide the PMU with the operational tools for the monitoring of the programme.
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) manual of procedures to be developed
- Development of a Visibility strategy set in place in accordance with EU guidelines
- Technical assistance to beneficiaries and monitoring of field activities
- The preparation of all required reports (overall work plan, annual work plans, progress, monitoring and visibility reports).

Participatory and Integrated Slum Upgrading in Abu Helal



Recognizing that slum upgrading requires multi-faceted interventions, the United Nations in Egypt joined forces to address the sub-standard living conditions of slum dwellers through a joint project.

Six UN-agencies (Un-Habitat, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, UNIFEM) and UNAIDS Secretariat signed a joint project document with the Government of Egypt that is entitled "Integrated and Participatory Slum Upgrading in Egypt". The project supported national efforts with respect to slum upgrading and adopted an integrated approach to address interlinked physical, socio-economic and environmental concerns. The project stressed stakeholder participation that would be implemented at the national and local level.

At the national level, the project supported the development of integrated national policies for slum upgrading and prevention. At the local level, a pilot slum upgrading project will be implemented in the Abu-Helal neighborhood of Al Minya city with a view to improve the quality of life of its 6,000 slum inhabitants through strengthening local institutional and key stakeholders' capacity to undertake compressive slum improvement using a participatory approach.

UNDP had contracted North South Consultants Exchange (NSCE) to undertake participatory information collection, feasibility studies as a demonstration of small-scale project style for slum upgrading using Abu Helal (El Minya city) as a typical model.

Type of services provided:

- Provision of a complete urban and socio-economic profile of Minya district and Abu-Helal;
- Provision of an action oriented-profile that determined priority action areas for future intervention that will lead to improvement of the livelihood conditions of the slum dwellers of Abu Helal;
- Provision of preliminary feasibility studies of priority slum upgrading pilot projects.

Country: Egypt (Abu Helal – Minya,)

Dates (start/end): 15 July 2007–
15 October 2007

Overall project value (EUR): 33,651.4

Name of client: UNDP

Origin of funding: UN-Habitat, UNICEF,
UNDP, UNFPA, ILO, and UNIFEM

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 12

Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) - Staff Capacity building within the Context of Institutional Reform.



The completion of the first phase of Institutional Reform (IR), in 2005, resulted in the development of a vision/strategy for the reform of MWRI, controlled by the Institutional Reform Unit (IRU). The developed vision is the backbone of the MWRI local administrations restructuring from centralized into decentralized organization. The reform process has been divided in 8 strategies namely; decentralization, participation, water quality, private sector participation, coordination at central and governorate levels, developing management systems of some activities and assets; hydrological basin organization and cost sharing.

Within this context North South Consultants Exchange (NSCE) with its partner, EcoConServ, were supporting/assisting IRU in the formulation of the MWRI – IR Vision/ Strategy Overall Implementation Plan 2007-2017 and its rolling plan, 2007-2012, in which milestones, activities indicators, timeframe and needed resources were developed for each reform strategy.

NSCE worked closely with the IRU to analyze the existing organizational structure and to assess staff capacity. A review of the Vision Implementation Plan and other relevant documents, to identify required strengths of MWRI to enable it to build the suitable cadres for Integrated Water Resources Management, was undertaken.

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end): December 2006- June 2007

Overall project value (EUR): 12,9413

Name of client: Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI)

Origin of funding: GTZ

Name of partners if any: EcoConServ

No of staff provided: 7

Type of services provided:

Training Needs Assessment:

- Identification of the skills and capacities for the staff involved in each strategy at different managerial levels
- Design of training needs assessment plan and tools of implementation
- Validation of the TNA tools

Data Compilation and Structural Functional Analysis:

- Review the data analysis
- Identification of the training needs for each of the 8 strategies taking into consideration the overlaps of modules and topics

Design of the Training Programs and M&E indicators:

- Development of detailed training programs
- Design of monitoring and evaluation of the training programs regarding progress and quality
- Design of monitoring and evaluation for impact assessment of the trainees before and after the training courses

Delivery of Consultation Workshop:

- Preparation of the material for a consultation workshop and presentation of the developed training plan

Regional Capacity Building Initiative II for the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) Cross-Border Cooperation Programs



The European Neighborhood Policy was created as a response to the EU's enlargement with the objective of ensuring regional stability between the enlarged EU and its neighboring countries. The ENP therefore is meant to develop long term plans to support the development and security of Europe's neighbors.

The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is a fund that supports the programs and projects that are aimed at fulfilling the policy's objectives. The ENPI is effective from 2007 to 2013 and it features a Cross Border Cooperation component that covers 79 regions. Within this context, the objectives of the RCBI II are to:

1. Support the active involvement of all ENPI partner countries in the finalization of programmes and the establishment of management, control and audit systems;
2. Develop the knowledge and awareness of the possibilities of cross border and regional cooperation; and
3. Support the preparation of projects and the identification and development of new projects (through training and technical assistance).

Country: Mediterranean Regional Countries

Dates (start/end): January 2007– December 2009

Overall project value (EUR): EUR 30 000

Name of client: EU

Origin of funding The European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 1

Type of services provided:

- Identification of regional projects that reflect the specific need and priorities of the region
- Raise level of awareness of cross border and regional cooperation
- Build capacity of partners to identify and prepare good project proposals
- Provide constantly service to the applicants for project proposal development.

The Netherlands Fellowship Program (NFP) Multi-year Agreement (NFP-MYA) / Training Needs Assessment project



The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) are demand-oriented fellowship programmes designed to support organizational development. The NFP are funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the budget for development cooperation. The overall aim of the NFP is to help alleviate qualitative and quantitative shortages of skilled manpower and to do so within the framework of sustainable capacity building directed towards reducing poverty in developing countries.

To maximize the fellowships' impact on capacity building, NFP-funded training must be linked to the development of organizations.

Under this program, North South Consultants Exchange (NSCE) was commissioned to conduct two Training Needs Assessments assignments, one for the Desert Development Center (DDC) and the other one for the River Transport Authority (RTA).

Country: Egypt

Dates (start/end): July – August 2006

Overall project value (EUR): EUR 27,000

Name of client: NUFFIC

Origin of funding: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 3

Type of services provided:

- Development of a description of the methodology used for carrying out the TNA.
- Developed TNA approach (in-depth interview questions, questionnaires, sampling etc.) applying proposed methodology
- Production of a comprehensive report
- Daily reports on fieldwork. These daily reports described the process (daily activities, problems faced, suggestions for improvement).

Sohag Rural Development Project – Microfinance Assessment Study



The overall aim was to improve income and quality of life of the rural population of Sohag Governorate.

The project focused specifically on the Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit of Sohag (Sohag BDAC) and its capacity to deliver micro credits to the rural population.

The assessment was based on three elements:

- (a) A survey of the microfinance market, both supply side and demand side.
- (b) The capacity of the bank to design a micro finance product, and following the analysis and integration of the first two elements.
- (c) A micro finance product that is financially viable for the bank and attractive on the market for end borrowers and with a competitive advantage.

To enable an assessment of the demand of micro credit in Sohag Governorate, a questionnaire was developed to use with potential clients of micro credit. The questionnaire included questions regarding basic information on individuals in the informal sector in Sohag Governorate who either previously had taken loans, or who are willing to take loans in the future. The gender distribution in the sample was 51.5% male and 48.5% female. The respondents were randomly selected in 43 villages in seven of Sohag's 11 Districts. As Sohag Governorate is considered poor, the focus of the survey was on the informal sector where most of the poorer segments of society operate micro enterprises.

Country: Egypt, Sohag

Dates : 2005-2006

Overall project value (EUR): Phase I: EUR 6.08144 Phase II: EUR 14.4155 Phase III: EUR 18.607

Name of client: PBDAC / WB

Origin of funding: IFAD, IDA, and WB

Name of partners if any: None

No of staff provided: 6

Type of services provided:

- Assessment of the current supply and estimate the potential demand for micro finance lending in Sohag Governorate.
- Assessment of the institutional capacity (operationally and financially) of the Sohag BDAC to develop a retail micro finance line of business, on an individual borrower basis, on a group-lending basis, and/or as a wholesale to independent micro finance providers.
- Proposed a mechanism for on-lending through existing micro finance providers to final beneficiaries, including Defining the roles and responsibilities of each entity in credit provision, marketing, contact with clients, monitoring and overall management of the funds.
- Provision of support to Sohag BDAC during implementation of the proposed mechanism
- Determine a suitable interest rate to the end borrowers Identify appropriate collateral acceptable to the Sohag BDAC to secure loan repayment in the proposed credit mechanism.
- On basis of the results of this assessment and the recommended on lending mechanism, NSCE was engaged in a second phase of the project providing TA and on the job training with the aim of improving the bank's capacity to deliver micro credits to the rural population which included two components; individual lending and lending to NGOs. As a result, NSCE supported the establishment of an internal Microfinance Unit within Sohag BDAC to oversee micro loans to individuals end borrowers and to NGO borrowers.