



HANDS ALONG THE NILE

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ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in Egypt's most valuable resource: its people



Dear Friends of HANDS,

With all the change that has come to Egypt since we began working there 26 years ago, HANDS continues to grow and to adapt to the new environment in which we find ourselves working. Although the past several years have been a turbulent time for the whole region, we have been able to deepen our impact in underserved communities of Egypt throughout 2013.

Thanks to the trust and commitment of our donors, HANDS has succeeded in expanding our reach to more people in need this past year. Our Employment through Technology and Innovation program continues to combat chronic unemployment among youth through job-matching services and training in high-demand technology skills. We have also been successful in expanding our Professional Fellows Program this year, with a focus on legislative mechanisms for improving the inclusion of women and the disabled and involved participants from Tunisia as well as Egypt and the United States. HANDS' Zabbaleen Livelihoods project is also flourishing. In 2013, members of the garbage-collecting community formed a syndicate to defend their interests and combined their individual efforts into several new recycling companies, which provide much needed employment for this marginalized group.

At this important time in Egypt's history, HANDS' work is more crucial than ever before. We thank you for your continued support for the people of Egypt and are grateful to have you as friends and partners.

Sincerely,



A black ink cursive signature of Harry M. Goodall, Jr.

Harry M. Goodall, Jr.
BOARD PRESIDENT



A black ink cursive signature of Jennifer A. Cate.

Jennifer A. Cate
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HANDS ALONG THE NILE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

"Building bridges between Americans and Egyptians"



HANDS ALONG THE NILE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC

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info@handsalongthenile.org www.handsalongthenile.org



Patron shopping for Egyptian handicrafts at a HANDS sale in New York



HANDS' American Professional Fellows enjoying dinner in an Egyptian home with their colleagues



Some of the volunteers and staff from one of HANDS partner projects

People sometimes ask us, “Why Egypt?” As the Arab world’s most populous country, with more than 80 million residents, Egypt often serves as a role model for the broader region. However, Egypt’s people suffer numerous social and economic challenges to progress and to a peaceful and prosperous future. Daily they deal with a high poverty rate in excess of 40 percent and youth unemployment spiraling to a similar figure.

With this situation in mind, HANDS’ projects center around three core themes:

- Employment, such as vocational training, education and networking
- Healthcare to help the poorest of the poor continue their lives in dignity
- Capacity building to strengthen the ability of local organizations to tackle the country’s economic challenges

Our work aims to empower the Egyptian people and raise their quality of life while building the capacity of local organizations to better serve their communities. We focus on Egypt in the hope that, as a leading country in the Middle East, it can serve as an example for others looking to move forward following the revolutions that swept the region several years ago. HANDS has made great progress toward this goal in the past year by expanding our work to include another leader in the Arab spring — Tunisia. We carry out our mission in the Middle East with the firm belief that socio-economic independence is the best form of development.



HANDS' Director of Programs, Ivana Smucker, and a group of American Professional Fellows visiting a community of women in Tunisia



Young Egyptians learning how to start a small business

second year, ETI continues to provide a brighter future for young Egyptians and their families in marginalized communities across Cairo and Upper Egypt.



Trainees attending an ETI job-skills training program

In the unstable times following the recent revolution, economic hardships have increased for ordinary Egyptians. Chronically high unemployment rates plague Egypt. As a result, with increasingly limited job opportunities, opening a business can often be the only clear pathway to financial security. Building upon Egyptians' strong record of entrepreneurship and the example set by the youth of the revolution in using technology to bring about change, Employment through Technology and Innovation (ETI) aims to harness the power of technology to address the youth unemployment crisis. Now in its

In partnership with One Global Economy (OGE) and the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS), and with funding from USAID and other generous donors, HANDS is training youth in high-demand technology skills, including computer software and digital media. With their newfound expertise, ETI connects young Egyptians with employers and provides tools for starting or expanding small businesses. In 2013, the program trained more than 20,000 young people.

A key element of ETI is its online portal — accessible by computer or mobile phone — with information relevant to employment opportunities and business development, such as guidance on microfinance. In addition, participants in ETI can access 10 computer centers, enroll in a text message-based system of job notifications, and end up being employed by ETI for site management and training projects.



Profile: Samuel, 27, Cairo

Despite his degree in accounting, Samuel had never been able to find work. At 27, he had put on hold his dreams of moving out of his parents' home, getting married and starting a family until he could find employment. One day, Samuel heard about HANDS' Employment through Technology and Innovation program in his community and applied to attend the job-skills training. In addition to upgrading his knowledge of accounting software and financial management, he also learned how to apply for jobs, including interviewing and job-search skills. With the help of the online job portal that HANDS' team had created, Samuel was able to search for relevant job openings in his neighborhood. The good news came several months later when Samuel was successful in securing a position as an accountant in a local company! While an alarmingly high percentage of youth in Egypt are unemployed, Samuel is a model of what a young Egyptian can accomplish with the right training and opportunities.

PROGRAM PROFILE: ZABBALEEN LIVELIHOODS

The Zabbaleen, residents of Cairo's garbage-collecting communities, play an important role in Cairo's daily life. They collect, sort and recycle up to 80 percent of the city's trash. Working manually, with no safety or protective equipment, the Zabbaleen suffer from high rates of illness and injury from working in such an unsanitary environment. Children have little access to formal education as they are often forced to drop out of school to help their families earn a needed income. The pattern perpetuates a cycle of poverty among their community. However, with our partners, the Spirit of Youth Association, and with support from a five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Zabbaleen Livelihoods program continues working to raise the quality of life for this underserved community.



Newly created recycling awareness teams seek to educate Cairo's citizens on environmental issues

HANDS' partners have been working to integrate the Zabbaleen into Cairo's official waste collection system. The effort made 2013 a successful year: 50 recycling businesses were founded, expanding to greater Cairo, including Manshiyet Nasr, 15th of May City, Moatamia, El Baragil and Tora. In addition, the garbage-collecting community took a major step in forming a syndicate to represent their interests in the city government, which also helps to improve the Zabbaleen's ability to engage in more efficient business practices. In an exciting development, the city authorities are now in the process of granting formal contracts to the Zabbaleen for waste collection in six districts of Cairo — a step on the road to recognition of this once highly marginalized group.

In addition to increasing employment opportunities, the program aims to improve the working environment of the Zabbaleen through reducing health and environmental hazards by modernizing recycling capabilities. Last year, the project promoted separation of organic and nonorganic waste at the household level throughout Cairo via a city-wide campaign. HANDS' partners also held awareness seminars on the work of the Zabbaleen and the importance of good recycling practices at schools, universities and non-governmental institutions across Cairo.

Profile: Faris, 29, Manshiyet Nasr

For years, Faris and his family barely scraped by. They collected and recycled trash on the streets of Cairo as their only source of income. Like many Zabbaleen families, Faris' children left school at an early age to help with the family trash business. However, Faris wanted to break out of this cycle and offer his family a brighter future. With help from the Zabbaleen Livelihoods program, he was able to develop his business skills.

After this training, Faris was chosen by his peers to spearhead one of the new garbage-collecting businesses. His team now owns 15 garbage trucks and is able to share their success by offering 35 jobs to the local community. For Faris, his 35 employees and their families, steady work and a decent wage are life-changing opportunities.



Members of Faris' new company sort through collected trash

In addition to the three programs highlighted in this report, HANDS supported other helpful initiatives to improve the quality of life for Egyptians in 2013.

CENTER FOR HOPE AND A CURE

Located in Alexandria, the Center for Hope and a Cure supplies low-cost medical care to more than 21,000 Egyptians annually. The center offers health services at little to no cost to those in need. It also offers surgical care, assistance with childbirth, the distribution of free eye glasses and dental treatment. The center stands out as one of the few hospitals where Egypt's large community of Sudanese refugees can receive affordable medical care.



Young entrepreneurs exhibiting their handicrafts

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM

Started in 2009 as an exchange program funded primarily by the U.S. Department of State, the Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) continues to train young disabled business owners and female artisans. YEP provides people from underserved communities the opportunity for business skills training and networking to increase the effectiveness of their businesses. Thus far, HANDS has hosted 70 YEP participants, who have gained financial management skills and learned how to build business plans and an online presence for their enterprises.



Students at Fairhaven reading books together

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED

Fairhaven School provides job skills training and education for 185 physically and mentally disabled youth in northern Egypt. This special education institution also offers speech therapy and physical exercise while working to promote strong academic performance and independence.



A Village of Hope class building houses of blocks

VILLAGE OF HOPE

Located in Alexandria, the Village of Hope serves the disabled community by providing medical and psychological support services along with vocational training programs to allow mentally challenged young adults to sustain an active role in society. In addition to services for young people and their families, the Village of Hope advocates for the rights of the disabled with national and local policymakers.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Some of the APE team at their job-skills training center

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2013, the Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE) offered more than 200 girls and women of Cairo's Zabbaleen communities the life-changing chance to receive an education and generate income. Participants in the APE program learn basic literacy and math skills and are trained to produce high-quality crafts from clean recycled materials through paper-making, weaving and quilting. Their handi-crafts are then sold throughout the United States by HANDS' volunteers, who raise funds to sustain the school for future generations and help the young women of the program support their families.



A local patient receiving an eye exam at Horus Hospital

HORUS HOSPITAL

Horus Hospital, which provides essential eye care services to 30,000 Egyptians each year in Minia and the surrounding area, continues to expand. What began as a mobile eye clinic in 2010 is now a fully established hospital with three mobile clinics, each able to reach those in nearby villages and rural areas. Operated by our local partner organization, CEOSS, and made possible by support from USAID and HANDS' donors, Horus Hospital evaluates patients on a sliding scale based on their income so they can offer affordable healthcare to some of the poorest communities in Egypt.



Egyptian and Tunisian fellows focused on rights for people with disabilities

Tunisia and Egypt, two of the countries that led the wave of revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa, are now in the process of establishing new systems of governance. Unfortunately, while this political change has offered new opportunities to many, it is also a time of challenge and threat to the position of some traditionally marginalized groups, such as women and people with disabilities. To build on our past efforts supporting these groups, HANDS has started a Professional Fellows Program (PFP) between Egypt, Tunisia and the United States to focus on legislative mechanisms to improve the inclusion of women and the disabled.



American fellows learning about women's rights in a village in Egypt

Supported in 2013 by local partner organizations in Egypt, Tunisia and the U.S., the program hosted 20 Egyptian and Tunisian mid-level professionals, who travelled to Boston, Seattle, Chicago and Washington, D.C., to undertake fellowships in governmental offices and advocacy groups. The participants were able to learn more about the inclusion of marginalized groups and build institutional and personal relationships with their American counterparts. The linkages were further strengthened when 13 Americans from the U.S. host organiza-

tions participated in reverse exchanges in Egypt and Tunisia. They visited the local participants in their work places and participated in seminars and other public events.

This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and other generous HANDS donors.



Profile: Walaa, 35, Minia

Walaa had been working to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) in rural Upper Egypt for years but wanted to improve her skills in advocating for women's rights. She was thrilled to be selected as a fellow in the PFP. Last spring, she undertook a month-long fellowship with the Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy while also attending a number of professional development networking meetings with American lawyers, activists and politicians.

Through a U.S. lens, Walaa gained new skills and knowledge about advocacy and expanding women's participation in politics and policymaking. Now back in Upper Egypt, she works for the National Population Council and has been able to put her new skills to use in promoting women's rights and participation. Walaa is now able to carry out her projects more effectively and with renewed confidence in the knowledge that her work can make a difference for the women of rural Egypt.

Of her time with the program, she said, "I gained a lot of personal and professional experience, which will transform my life and my work."

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION^(a)

ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	353,787
Investments	1,444
Grants receivable	398,902
Accounts receivable - other	14,336
Prepaid expenses	33,693
Total current assets	<u>802,162</u>
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	
Furniture and fixtures	3,142
Computer equipment	6,862
Total	10,004
Less: accumulated depreciation	8,091
Property and equipment, net	<u>1,913</u>
OTHER ASSETS	
Grants receivable, net of current portion	-
Security deposits	1,455
Total other assets	<u>1,455</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$805,530
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Grants in Transit to Egypt	95
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	37,479
Total current liabilities	<u>37,574</u>
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	(19,356)
Temporarily restricted	<u>787,312</u>
Total net assets	<u>767,956</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$805,530

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES^(a)

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ^(b)	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE			
Contributions	241,208	480,296	721,504
Interest and investment income	174	-	174
Program fees	185	-	185
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	121	-	121
Sales income	21,107	-	21,107
Miscellaneous income	-	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>1,277,418</u>	<u>1,277,418</u>	<u>-</u>
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	\$1,540,213	(797,122)	\$743,091
EXPENSES			
Program services:			
Grants released from restrictions	1,149,359	-	1,149,359
Other program services	157,369	-	157,369
Supporting services:			
Management and general	70,569	-	70,569
Fundraising	<u>36,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>36,628</u>
Net expenses	<u>1,413,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,413,925</u>
Change in net assets	126,288	(797,122)	(670,834)
Net assets, October 1, 2011	(145,644)	1,584,434	1,438,790
Net assets, September 30, 2012	(19,356)	787,312	767,956

SELECTED STATISTICS, 2012

Percentage of most designated gifts sent directly to projects in Egypt:

95%

Percentage of HANDS Board of Directors who contribute to HANDS:

100%

Percentage of expenses used for administration and fundraising (which should be under 25%, according to United Way guidelines):

8%

(a) For the year ended September 30, 2013.

All figures are audited. The complete audited financial statements are available upon request.

(b) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.

The programs highlighted in this report were made possible by the generous donations of organizations and individuals throughout the United States, including the following:

CHEOPS CLUB

(\$10,000 and over)

Organizations:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
First Fruit, Inc.
Lake Forest First Presbyterian Church
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The Walbridge Fund, Ltd.



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Karim Shalaby
Moenes Youannis and Nahla Salib

GOLD CARTOUCHE CIRCLE

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

Organizations:

Byrn Mawr Presbyterian Church
(Bryn Mawr, PA)



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Susan and Bob Laubach
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(\$1,000-\$4,999)

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(Columbus, IN)
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian
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(\$500-\$999)

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*HANDS is also indebted to the many interns and other volunteers who enable us
to touch so many people even though we function with limited resources.*

HANDS ALONG THE NILE



A group of HANDS' Young Entrepreneurs Program participants

Hands Along the Nile is a US-based, not for profit organization, granted charity status in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by U.S. law.

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