HANDS ALONG THE NILE

ANNUAL REPORT

Investing in Egypt's most valuable resource: its people



Dear Friends of HANDS,

Egypt has proven a dynamic place for HANDS' engagement in the past year. This is a crucial time in the history of this beautiful country and its warm-hearted people, and we are proud to be working with you—our enthusiastic partners—to bolster the progress Egyptians are making in villages and cities all along the Nile.

Over the past year, Egypt's leaders made some tough economic decisions, including cuts to public subsidies. While these may be helpful for the long-term economic health of Egypt, they are creating immediate difficulties for already vulnerable communities. Our partners in Egypt estimate that over half the population may now be living on less than \$2 per day, generally understood to be under the poverty line.

In the midst of these heart-rending challenges, you are helping to fill a critical niche, providing invaluable opportunities to those suffering most during this transition. Through HANDS-sponsored microloans, vocational training, and entrepreneurship mentoring, those who are unemployed can forge new paths to socioeconomic stability. You have also helped us develop the capacity of promising young leaders to bring hope and healing to those most in need in their communities, including women and people with disabilities. Providing adequate healthcare, whether to children with cancer or eye patients in villages around Minya, is another need that HANDS' donors are helping to meet.

With each passing year, we witness more of the personal and community transformation that your involvement is making possible. Whether it be training educators for special needs children or supporting women-owned businesses, each investment helps to build a better future for the people of Egypt.

Egypt remains, as ever, a strategic ally for Americans. Bringing socioeconomic stability to the most populous country in the Middle East and North Africa will help create a haven of peace amid regional economic, political, and social turmoil. Also, as our local partners often remind us, it is important to preserve Egypt's rich tradition of interfaith coexistence in a region that is rapidly losing its religious minorities.

We are indebted to our donors and volunteers, who make real change possible on the ground. As you read this annual report, we hope that you are especially inspired by the stories of change included here.

Looking to the year ahead, we are honored to work with such experienced partners on the ground, such generous donors in the US, and such loyal volunteers. Together with you, we are eager to support local efforts to bring progress in Egypt, no matter the obstacle.

With immense gratitude for your support of the Egyptian people,



Dr. Graeme Bannerman Board President



Enn

Jennifer A. Cate Executive Director



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

"Building bridges between Americans and Egyptians"

HANDS ALONG THE NILE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC. 800-564-2544 toll free or 703-875-9370 info@handsalongthenile.org www.handsalongthenile.org HANDS advances multi-faceted development programs to meet the needs of the most marginalized communities in Egypt. The country's youth, women, people with disabilities, and economically disenfranchised face increasing challenges, for which HANDS seeks holistic and sustainable solutions with our local partner organizations.

HANDS concentrates primarily on Egypt, one of the most influential states in the Middle East and North Africa. We recognize that as the largest and most populous country in the region, Egypt can serve as an example to other countries in the region in their alleviation of poverty and efforts to improve the lives of marginalized groups.

We know that the challenges and opportunities facing vulnerable groups such as women and people with disabilities are common to many countries in the region. HANDS has, therefore, expanded some of our programs to Tunisia and Morocco, adding an aspect of intercultural exchange between Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries. Through our Professional Fellows Program, in particular, we have invested in building the capacity of the region's development sector leadership, building a cadre of changemakers in the region who can effectively advocate for and provide services for marginalized communities.

Whether we are connecting American experts to share knowledge and experience with young changemakers in the region or linking American funding with microloan recipients, HANDS' efforts also contribute to increasing intercultural awareness and understanding between citizens of the MENA region, especially Egypt, and the United States. We provide opportunities for cooperation between community leaders, policy makers, and young professionals across cultures, creating an inclusive environment which lends itself to combatting shared challenges with replicable solutions.

In this year's annual report, we highlight some of the work done to empower: women, youth, people with disabilities, and the economically disenfranchised. You will read stories of some of those whose lives have been impacted by your investments. We hope you will be inspired by the progress your generosity is making possible.



HANDS specializes in bringing together American and Egyptian professionals to explore commonly-shared challenges.

The road to women's empowerment and gender equality is paved with many obstacles, including for the women of Egypt and most of the countries in the MENA region. The 2016 Global Gender Gap Index, which measures disparities across genders, ranks Egypt as 132 out of 144 countries worldwide. Concerned by this alarming statistic, we assist local organizations that create opportunities for women to lead in their communities and find means for financial independence. Many HANDS programs work to better integrate women into the Egyptian economy through professional development and economic opportunity, including the following two programs:

• HANDS-sponsored microloan programs give Egyptians the business training and financial capital to develop small business ideas and grow them into thriving enterprises that contribute to their communities. The loans, which average between \$180 and \$280, have a remarkable repayment rate of 99%. Over half of our loans are given to women. This support not only transforms the financial status of female entrepreneurs but also improves their overall standing within their communities.



A group of HANDS Professional Fellows attend a virtual leadership training course.

• The Professional Fellows Program

engages young development professionals across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region who are working to improve the quality of life for vulnerable groups, including women. The program consists of a month-long intensive fellowship in the United States, exploring topics such as organizational development and advocacy, and a return exchange trip for the American hosts to continue collaborating with these fellows. This initiative provides a great opportunity for advancing the efforts of emerging leaders to improve their communities, including raising the quality of life for women.

Profile: Amira

Amira hails from the province of Minya in the southern reaches of Egypt. After high school graduation, she couldn't find a job and found herself unable to help support her parents and siblings. When Amira heard about one of our local partner organizations offering vocational training programs in Minya, she jumped at the opportunity. Amira didn't have the \$150 that the program cost, but, fortunately, her training was sponsored by generous HANDS donors.

After graduating from a ten-day hairdressing course, she received a certificate and began to work as an apprentice hairdresser. A year later, she was ready to open her own small business, for which she received a small loan to purchase equipment. Following a year of providing hairdressing services to the neighborhood women, Amira paid off the loan, enabling her to borrow more in the future if she ever needs to expand. For now, she is thrilled to have her own shop, through which she contributes to the family income. She can also make decisions about marriage from a position of strength rather than desperation. Amira is also likely to make different decisions for her own daughters: hopefully eschewing Female Genital Mutilation and encouraging them to pursue higher education, finish their education before marrying, and build solid careers.





With over 52% of the population under 25 years old, youth make up the largest demographic in Egypt. What kind of future awaits them?

Today's youth will be impacted for years to come by the development issues currently facing Egypt. Limited access to vocational education and employment opportunities creates a cycle of poverty from which it is nearly impossible to break free. According to the World Bank, in December 2016, roughly 40% of Egyptians aged 15 to 29 are "NEET" – Not in Employment, Education, or Training. This fact shakes us to our core as we think about the future of Egypt.

To counter this ongoing challenge, HANDS opens opportunities for Egypt's youth to acquire job skills needed to enter the workforce and advance their communities. We also support programs for children and youth in challenging economic and health situations. Here are a few initiatives HANDS works on to help Egypt's youth reach their full potential.

- The <u>Young Entrepreneurs Program</u> utilizes technical assistance and training to promote entrepreneurial thinking and professional development. The training is aimed at female artisans and people with disabilities who want to launch their own small businesses.
- <u>Friends of Children with Cancer</u> supports the Health and Hope Oasis center outside of Cairo, which provides holistic treatment for young cancer patients by focusing on the nutritional and emotional well-being of the children.
- Through **Employment through Technology and Innovation**, HANDS has increased the job opportunities of Egypt's youth in Cairo, Minya, and Beni Suef by training them in the use of information technology and digital media and by providing an online platform for employment matching. Students of this program follow up on their training by holding seminars for members of their community, sharing the job skills they gleaned with more unemployed youth.
- <u>Lillian Trasher Orphanage</u> supports hundreds of orphans as well as widowed mothers. The care and attention given to these widows and orphans of Upper Egypt establishes a foundation from which they can prosper.

Profile: Nour

Wanting to become more competitive in Egypt's job market, Nour participated in one of HANDS' job-skills training programs, Employment through Technology and Innovation. After finishing this program, trainees are required to recruit and train at least 120 other unemployed or underemployed young people in their community. To recruit youth in her community, Nour stood on the edge of the main road, holding a dozen colorful balloons and signing up unemployed passersby to join the same job-skills program she just graduated from.

Inspired by her training, Nour is committed to helping other youth find meaningful employment. Together with her husband Mohamed, whom she met during the HANDS-sponsored training, she has started a completely youth-led nonprofit organization that trains Egyptian youth in the province of Minya in the skills necessary to find jobs. We are proud of graduates, like Nour, who multiply HANDS' efforts through their own initiative and leadership.



Opening access to education, employment, and healthcare for people with disabilities is difficult in many parts of the world, including in the Middle East and North Africa. HANDS works with many local groups who aim to fill in the gaps where people with disabilities are at the largest disadvantage. Examples of these programs include the provision of fundamental services such as medical care, accessible education and professional development for leaders working to improve the situation for the people with disabilities.

- One focus of HANDS' <u>Professional Fellows Program</u> is to empower emerging leaders across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region who are improving the quality of life for people with disabilities. The program offers professional development opportunities through a month-long fellowship in the U.S. as well as training and mentoring in how to effectively lead organizations and advocate for policy change.
- <u>Village of Hope Center for the Mentally Challenged</u> provides vocational training for youth with mental disabilities in Alexandria, Egypt to help them develop a more active role in Egyptian society. The center also trains resource teachers to work with children with disabilities in classrooms.



Students and teachers at Fairhaven School participate in local activities, helping to raise awareness of children with disabilities.

• **Fairhaven School for the Disabled** strengthens children's independent living capabilities and integrates them into the larger community. The school helps hundreds of students, primarily in the Alexandria area.

Profile: Arbi

Arbi Chouikh is an activist, innovator, and entrepreneur who has dedicated his life to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in Tunisia. Arbi participated in the HANDS-organized Professional Fellows Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, which included a fellowship with Disability Rights Washington in Seattle.

While exploring social media advocacy strategies and technologies to improve accessibility for people with disabilities, Arbi was inspired to create HandYwiN, a website and mobile application that uses crowd-sourcing technology to determine the level of accessibility for people with mobile disabilities in public and private places in Tunisia. He consulted his mentors, colleagues, and HANDS staff to design the project and used his newlyenhanced leadership skills to turn his ideas into action when he returned home.

Arbi has been recognized by the Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs, who gave the support of the ministry to helping Arbi implement his project. He was also awarded a small grant by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs for



Arbi Chouikh speaks passionately about the status of persons with disabilities.

winners of a competition for social entrepreneurs from the Middle East and North Africa. Arbi is planning to launch his website and mobile app, HandYwiN, later this year and intends to eventually expand his project internationally.

Alleviating the Difficulties of Economically Disenfranchised

Annual Report

The increasing rates of poverty in Egypt leave a vast portion of citizens economically marginalized. Development practitioners on the ground estimate that those living on \$2 per day or less has increased from 40 to 55 million in the past few years. The challenges of living under such economic stress create a cycle of poverty that traps many individuals. HANDS works to alleviate the pressure felt by some of the most economically disenfranchised communities in Egypt, including through the following programs.

- <u>The Association for Protection of the Environment</u> promotes environmentally-minded job-skills training to women in Cairo's Zeballeen community, a neighborhood of garbage collectors and recyclers. Women at this school recycle scraps of fabric, paper, aluminum cans, and other materials into beautiful handicrafts. They are paid fairly for their products, which are then sold by HANDS' volunteers across the US.
- <u>The Spirit of Youth</u> educates the sons of garbage collectors in basic literacy, math, computer training, and safe recycling procedures.
- <u>Center for Hope and a Cure</u> is a medical facility in Alexandria that provides healthcare assistance for low-income families, impoverished community members, and Sudanese refugees.
- <u>Horus Hospital</u>, an eye-care center in Minya, Egypt, which HANDS was proud to help start 10 years ago, continues to flourish, offering testing, treatment, surgery and vital eye care services that previously would have required long and expensive trips to Cairo.



When two-thirds of Egyptian youth are neither in school nor able to find employment, HANDSsponsored vocational training programs can be the key to launching their careers

 HANDS supports vocational training programs which target economically vulnerable residents in rural and urban areas of Egypt, offering them a chance to learn marketable skills to find employment and create better lives for themselves. <u>Think And Do</u>, our local partner organization in this program, has provided training to over 13,300 Egyptians so far. Eighty percent of those trained have found work following graduation.

Profile: Mina

Nineteen-year-old Mina has been living in Manshayit Naser, a garbage collecting community in Cairo, since he was a little boy. In these neighborhoods, families survive by collecting, sorting and recycling the city's waste. Like many other boys, Mina dropped out of school to help his father collect trash full time. Without the opportunity to continue his education, he was virtually guaranteed to remain in the cycle of poverty that dominates the "Garbage City."

However, one of HANDS' partner organizations, the Spirit of Youth, enrolled Mina is their non-formal education program, which has reached 800 youth so far. During his classes in literacy, math, sports, and arts, Mina discovered a passion for performing. As a member of the school's choir, he was thrilled to sing in nine venues throughout Cairo. Since graduation, Mina has been employed as a drama teacher. His students view him as a role model, a living example of where education can lead.



Maintaining an open dialogue between Egypt and the United States is important for the citizens of both countries. As countries that exert leadership within their respective regions, Egypt and the US can set a model for intercultural cooperation for many other countries, fostering better relations and a greater understanding of cultures, values, and customs. HANDS tries to incorporate opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration into all of our programs. Here are three that include a focus on exchange and dialogue.

- The <u>Egyptian American Dialogue Program</u> brings together Egyptian and American policy makers, journalists, faith community leaders, and other civil society leaders to create a shared vision of cooperation among Egyptians and Americans. This program cultivates the necessary exchange of culture and ideas from which both countries benefit.
- HANDS organizes <u>volunteer opportunities</u> for Americans to participate in our efforts to assist the people of Egypt. American youth and professionals can devote some of their time and skills to various different causes such as medical missions, helping local artisans improve their handcraft designs, and other independent programs. <u>Hosting sales of Egyptian handicrafts</u> is another outlet for Americans to support the Egyptian people and to raise further awareness of HANDS' programs.
- HANDS' <u>Professional Fellows Program</u>, mentioned earlier in this report, engages young development
 professionals across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) who are working to improve the quality of life
 for woman and people with disabilities. Through a two-way exchange, Americans and MENA region leaders
 explore solutions to challenges that are common across cultures.



Through our sales of Egyptian handicrafts around the US, HANDS supports job-skills training programs for women in Cairo's garbage collector's community.



Lifelong intercultural linkages, both professional and personal, are built through our Professional Fellows Program.



Thought leaders from Egypt and the US attempt to change personal, institutional, and national attitudes through our Egyptian American Dialogue.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (A)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (A)

ASSETS Current assets Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents Investments Grants receivable and	\$328,884 1,878
promises to give Accounts receivable—other Prepaid expenses	11,743 648 <u>21,279</u>
Total current assets	364,432
Property and Equipment Furniture and fixtures	3,142
Computer equipment	4,101
Total	7,243
Less: accumulated depreciation	5,811
Property and equipment, net	<u>1,432</u>
Other assets	
Security deposits	2,500
TOTAL ASSETS	\$368,364

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities Accounts payable Accrued expenses Grant payable	8,135 14,266 188,219
Total current liabilities	\$210,620
Net assets Unrestricted Temporarily restricted	119,679 38,065
Total net assets Total liabilities and net assets	157,744 \$368,364
Temporarily restricted Total net assets	38,065 157,744

(A) For the year ended September 30, 2017. All figures are audited. The complete financial statements are available upon request.

(B) Restricted donations used for purposes designated.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY UNRESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions	\$174,630	\$721,428	\$896,058
Interest and investment income	75		75
Realized and Unrealized gain (loss) On investments	110		110
Sales income	12,948		12,948
Miscellaneous income	233		233
Net assets released from restrictions	716,099	(716,099)	
Total unrestricted support and reclassifications	\$904,095	5,329	909,424
EXPENSES			
EXPENSES Program services: Grants released from restrictions Other program services	507,310 221,238		507,310 221,238
Program services: Grants released from restrictions	,	 	,
Program services: Grants released from restrictions Other program services Supporting services: Management and general	221,238 96,146	 	221,238 96,146
Program services: Grants released from restrictions Other program services Supporting services: Management and general Fundraising	221,238 96,146 63,225	 5,329	221,238 96,146 63,225
Program services: Grants released from restrictions Other program services Supporting services: Management and general Fundraising Net expenses	221,238 96,146 63,225 <u>887,919</u>		221,238 96,146 63,225 887,919

SELECTED STATISTICS, 2017

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):

18%

HANDS' Top Donors

Annual Report

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

Legacy Pyramid Club

(Donors who have included HANDS in their planned giving)

Bob and Susan Laubach Randi Rubovits-Seitz Anonymous

Cheops Club (\$10,000 and over)

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Alternative Gifts International (Wichita, KS) Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (New York, NY) Maclellan Family Foundation (Chattanooga, TN) Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL) U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (Washington, D.C.) The Walbridge Fund, Ltd. (Bountiful, UT)

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Annual Report

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We're so grateful to the students who donate their time and skills with us as interns in the HANDS office. In 2017, we were proud to have the following interns.

Madeleine Assaad (Langley High School, VA)

Melissa Fajardo (University of Maryland)

Melissa Flores (Northern Virginia Community College)

Megan Giovannetti (San Francisco State University)

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Charles Wahba (The Groton School, MA)

Nathan Young (American University)



HANDS-sponsored microloans are invaluable in helping Egyptians open small businesses, such as this vegetable stand, which sustain families and allow children to continue their education and pursue desirable careers.

Hands Along the Nile Development Services, Inc.

www.handsalongthenile.org | 🗗 in

The programs in this report were made possible through the generous contributions from individuals and organizations throughout the United States.



Hands Along the Nile Development Services, Inc. | 535 B East Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22314 | 703.875.9370

info@handsalongthenile.org

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