



Coptic Orphans
...transforming generations

COPTIC ORPHANS

Report on

THE \$10 CLUB GRANT



SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS

“We read to know we are not alone.” C.S. Lewis

FINAL REPORT

About Coptic Orphans

Coptic Orphans is an award winning non-profit organization founded in 1989. It exists to improve the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children in Egypt by providing basic necessities, education, and mentoring so that they may realize their potential to become productive members of society. Coptic Orphans also exists to raise awareness about poverty in Egypt and promote cultural understanding. Our vision is to see every vulnerable child of Egypt confidently face the future with a renewed sense of hope and a life enriched with education, health and equality.

Coptic Orphans programs have benefited over 12,000 children and youth since 1989. They reach the remotest areas of Egypt, from Alexandria to Aswan. These programs are carried out in partnership with local schools, non-governmental organizations, and the Coptic Orthodox Church. Whenever possible, our programs attempt to reach all vulnerable children, regardless of their religion.

Coptic Orphans is the recipient of numerous awards for both its work and its highly effective nonprofit management practices. These include being finalists in the Washington Post Award for Nonprofit Management and the NPower Award for Technology Innovation in 2005, and receiving the Spirit of Hope Award from the Children’s Fund in 2001. Coptic Orphans has been nominated for the 2006 competition for the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. Nermien Riad, the founder and executive director, received the community award from the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area in 2005.

Summer Reading Workshops Activity

During the month of July Coptic Orphans organized nine (9) Summer Reading Workshops and provided free new books for a total of 571 middle school children throughout Egypt. Children participating in these events were encouraged to develop their reading skills and were able to select books from among a wide range of topics. Please refer to *Attachment I* for a sample of topics. All events were facilitated by our field staff and over a hundred volunteers with photographic documentation, *Attachment II*.

The Summer Reading Workshops targeted vulnerable children in eight (8) governorates: Beheira, Ismailia, Cairo, Minia, Assiut, Sohag, Luxor, and Aswan – see *Figure A*. Forty-one percent (41%) of middle school children participating in the workshops were concentrated in the Upper Egypt governorates of Assiut, Sohag, Luxor and Aswan since Upper Egypt accounts for 40% of Egypt’s total population but 70% its poor¹. The remaining number of children was divided between the other three regions: 120 children in Lower Egypt, 130 in Greater Cairo, and 86 in Middle Egypt as shown by *Figure B*.

¹ Source: World Bank Partnerships in Development, *Progress in the Fight Against Poverty 2004*.

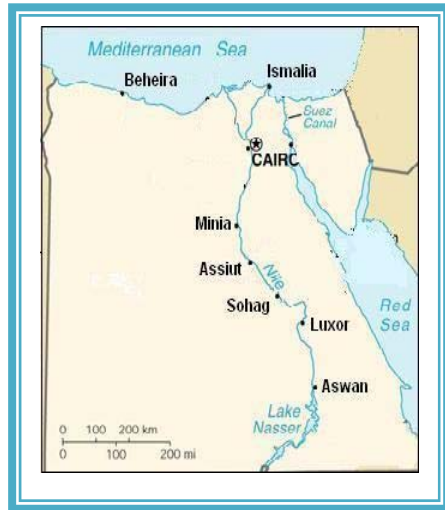


Figure A
*Summer Reading Workshops
by Governorate*

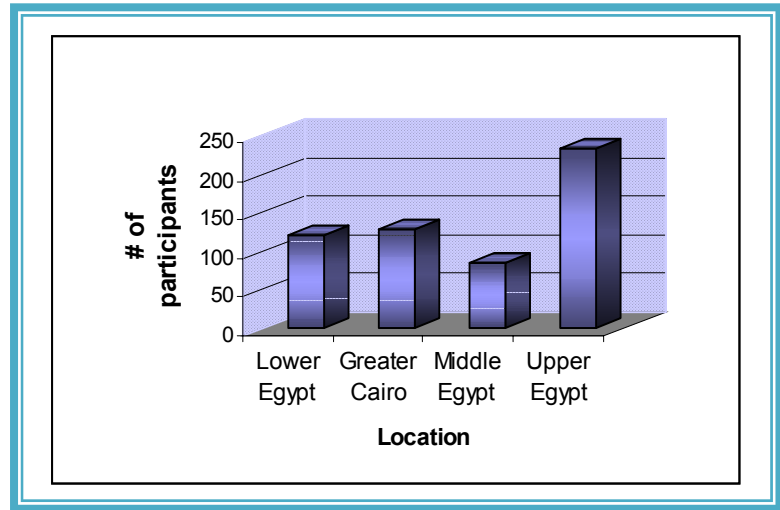


Figure B
Participants by Geographical Location

Promoting gender equality and the right of girls to access education resources, sixty percent (60%) of participants were girls aged 12—15 years. Girls attending the workshops were delighted to get to choose from among hundreds of books with equal access to them. “I’m thrilled because this is the first time for me to choose a book and also know that I can keep it,” Sarah Salah said.

One of the Summer Reading Workshops hosted Dr. Hala El-Sharouni, a renowned writer of children's books, who explored with children the intrinsic value of reading and ways of benefiting from acquired knowledge. She also shared with them excerpts from books. Some children role-played parts of their books together and others started to draw pictures. Dr. El-Sharouni asked the children’s opinion about the books they were reading. Some made insightful comments and their self-confidence increased as they were treated as reading experts. Other reading workshops walked children through the art of reading and book selection. As a direct result of participating in these workshops, children were able to make choices – informed choices – regarding the books they select. They came to realize the importance of reviewing relevant and accessible information on books before making a selection and some planned on creating their own libraries at home. They left inspired to take reading home and motivated to share their books with siblings and friends.



Attachment I

SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS Sample Book List

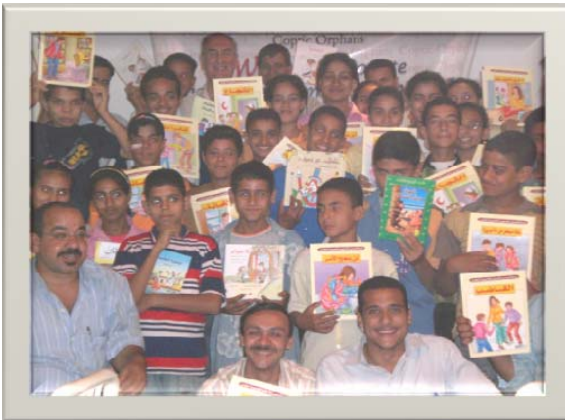
Social Skills and Emotional Development
▪ Hello! How to greet people?
▪ Please! How to be considerate?
▪ Thank you! How to express gratitude?
▪ Thanks, I do not want that! How to politely refuse?
▪ I am sorry. What to do if you make a mistake?
▪ You go ahead. Waiting for your turn.
▪ It is mine. The value of sharing.
▪ Do not say this. The value of positive feedback and not criticizing others.
▪ Do not do that. Treating others with respect.
▪ Go away. Resolving problems and being understanding.
▪ It will not work. Never giving up hope and persevering.
▪ Make room for others.
▪ Why do you boss people around?
▪ Making Friends.
▪ Why not be Friendly!
▪ Friendship.
▪ Why do you fight?
▪ Why loose your quietness?
▪ Why not share?
▪ Why make fun of others?
▪ The Assailant
▪ The Cheater
▪ The Liar
▪ Fickle Feelings
▪ The Selfish
▪ The Robber
▪ The Hurt
▪ The Jealous
▪ The Sad
▪ The Merry
▪ The Lonely
▪ The Brave
▪ The Self-confident
▪ The Angry
▪ The Scared
▪ Keeping Family First
▪ Be the Star That You Are!
▪ Forgiving
▪ Learning to be a Good Friend
▪ Respect



Attachment II

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

All of our hard work and planning these last six months has been a concrete reminder that the “need” is real and remains. There are still so many children waiting for a chance to read.





By increasing girl's access to books, we seek to broaden their horizons and help them develop literacy skills and attain their potential.





A book can help a child shape a dream and build a future, and we hope you will again choose to support.

