AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

Egypt

FACTS AT A GLANCE

AKF ESTABLISHED: 2006

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: The governorates of Aswan and Cairo

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS: Integrated area development including early childhood development; civil society strengthening; youth employment and skills training; and nursing education and services

STAFF: 34
THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (AKF) in Egypt collaborates with the Om Habibeh Foundation (OHF) in Aswan on an integrated area development programme which encompasses activities in early childhood development, civil society and agriculture. In addition, OHF operates a nursing programme with support from the Aga Khan University to improve the quality of care provided by nurses across Aswan Governorate. It also operates the Continuing Education Centre in Aswan city, which provides practical skills and vocational training to make youth from the region more employable. In 2012, the Om Habibeh Foundation entered into a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with the Governorate of Aswan to establish and manage a Commercial Project on the Landfill Area located on the West Bank in the City of Aswan. In Cairo, AKF supports AKDN initiatives in economic development, microfinance and business development services in the historic district of Darb Al-Ahmar.

THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (AKDN) in Egypt provided a catalyst for urban renewal in historic Cairo when it transformed a 500-year-old debris dump located in the inner city into a much-needed leisure and recreational green space (the 30-hectare Azhar Park), and subsequently undertook the restoration of several landmark buildings and monuments in the neighbouring district of Darb Al-Ahmar. The socio-economic activities which were sparked by the Park’s creation and the surrounding cultural restoration have been transferred to a local NGO called Mezala (meaning “umbrella” in Arabic), and are in part funded by the revenues of the Park. In 2007, the Network entered into a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with the Governorate of Cairo to manage the Park for the following 25 years. In Aswan Governorate, the Network is engaged in providing microfinance services to more than 19,000 clients, more than half of them women.

The early childhood development programme in Egypt focuses on improving quality within existing childcare and kindergarten services, while also encouraging new ECD services for parents and children as needed in communities. The goal is to promote the early stage of growth so that children are physically and emotionally healthy, safe and secure, ready to learn and equipped with the necessary social skills to interact with peers and adults.