


Fund for Gender Equality

GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Project Information				Egypt
Project Name	Promotion of general policies to protect the rights of domestic servants in Egypt			Programme Type: Catalytic
Lead Org	Al-Shehab Organization for Comprehensive Development			Grant ID: 1350
Co-lead Org	Egyptian Society for Economic and Social Rights			
Thematic Area(s)	Economic Empowerment			
Thematic Sub Area(s)	Secure employment for domestic workers			
Grant Amount	\$354,490	Grant Start Date	December 18, 2009	
Additional Gov't Funding		Grant End Date	December 31, 2011	
Total Budget	\$354,490			

Partner Agencies	
Government	Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, Ministry of Family and Population, Egyptian Trade Union Federation, Members of Parliament, National Council for Women and the National Council for Human Rights
Civil Society	Al-Shehab and EASER

Programme Summary
The programme's objective is to empower domestic workers and to improve their socio-economic conditions in two disadvantaged zones of metropolitan Cairo. The programme seeks to draft protective legislation to extend greater rights to domestic workers in Egypt as guaranteed by international human rights conventions. The programme will also seek to establish collaborative relationships with service providers and government entities (NGOs and the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration) to provide new or extended coverage to domestic workers, including psychological counseling, medical care and legal services.

DETAILED PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Contribution to Law(s)				
Name of Law	Law Type	Year Implemented	Type of Contribution	Expected Level of Contribution (High or Low)
New Policy and Strategies on Domestic Work	Policy and Strategy		Creation of Policy	High

General Programme Goal
To empower female domestic workers in Egypt to gain their legal human rights according to international human rights conventions.

Expected Programme Outcomes
Outcome 1: Policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders formulate evidence-based policies and strategic plans to promote and protect female domestic workers' rights according to International Human Rights Standards (80% of the targeted stakeholders use baseline data to formulate at least one protective policy by the end of the programme).
Outcome 2: 1,000 female domestic workers within the targeted communities have access to services and benefit from improved and coordinated social and legal services (1,000 women are registered in syndicates; 90% of women believe that they have benefitted from the services that they have used and 40% of women have been employed as a result of vocational training)
Outcome 3: A Children's Protection Committee effectively addresses 50 complaints. The Committee's aim is to alleviate the different forms of violence and discrimination faced by female child domestic workers
Outcome 4: 20 domestic workers are actively involved in establishing a new NGO center dedicated to promoting the human rights of domestic workers in Egypt. Ten domestic workers are trained as administrative staff for the organization.

Main Achievements

In its first year of implementation, the programme has made substantial headway with respect to its first two outcomes. Al-Shehab and EESR have conducted research for baseline data on domestic workers in Egypt and on the services available to them and their dependents from community service organizations as well as government entities. The programme has conducted a series of advocacy and outreach activities with strategic partners (particularly with the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration), in order to ensure that service gaps are recognized and addressed through commitments for new or extended programming.

In this regard, the co-leads successfully conducted a series of roundtable discussions to foster exchanges among governmental partners and NGOs on the issue of domestic workers' rights and to ensure the visibility of and key challenges for the domestic workers' agenda. These conferences culminated in the creation of a Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, which took on responsibility for overall programme coordination and management, as well as the Ministry's commitment that female domestic workers' needs would be reflected in some of the service provision areas (legal and psychological support) under the Ministry.

In its second semester of implementation, the programme in Egypt has been forced to contend with a series of events (i.e. Parliamentary elections in the second half of 2010) that have hampered its ability to impact issues related to child domestic workers. Despite these challenges, the programme has continued to invest in and provide strong service delivery to women domestic workers by:

- Registering 387 domestic workers in group membership; providing them with legal aid; supporting domestic workers in obtaining insurance and other official documentation and providing psychological support to domestic workers and their families
- Conducting 10 colloquia with domestic workers and community leaders on women's and children's entitlements and legal rights under international conventions

Key Highlights

The programme has established a Steering Committee with representatives from NGOs and government, a unique alliance to mainstream the needs of women domestic workers into existing labor legislation and service provision policies.