



## Education

September 2005



Sesame Street Workshop

*“Alam Simsim” characters educate and entertain children in Egypt.*

### EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

- “Alam Simsim” children’s education program reaches 85% of children in rural areas
- 31, 844 girls participated in New Horizons literacy and lifeskills program
- 12,000 participants involved in Integrated English Language Program
- LEAD scholarships program provides economically disadvantaged, qualified Egyptian students with scholarships to the American University in Cairo.

### OVERVIEW

With a large youth population, Egypt faces the same challenges as many of its neighbors in preparing the next generation for the workplace and to be contributing members of society. The percentage of literate men remains much larger than that of women. USAID has focused its education efforts on developing formal and non-formal programs for poor communities in seven selected areas. A special emphasis is placed on girls' education and on the transition between school and work. The program trains staff and encourages community participation at the local level. It also works with central institutions to improve policies, management, standards, teacher training and materials. More than 500,000 textbooks for fourth and fifth graders have been handed out in the Alexandria Governorate. Additional books will be sent to thousands more students. Information technology systems currently being tested in schools will be expanded to poorer and more rural schools. USAID also funds projects and scholarships with the American University in Cairo and provides training in tourism, one of Egypt's major sources of income.

### PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Since 1975, USAID has provided more than \$847 million in assistance for education and training in Egypt and has funded the construction of more than 2,000 new schools and 4,000 classrooms to expand existing schools.
- USAID supports the Government of Egypt’s Ministry of Education through its Education Sector Reform program. To date, 70 new schools and 170 multi-grade classes have been established with community contributions and support, resulting in the enrollment of over 30,000 new students. Eighty percent of them are girls who were previously out of school.
- Training and technical support have been provided to 4,000 educators on student-centered teaching methods and classroom/school management.
- The successful decentralized education reform pilot in Alexandria is being expanded on a larger scale to seven governorates. The expanded program is a standards-based reform, reaching more than 300 schools and 10,000 educators.
- One hundred and thirty-five non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private associations mobilized to support education in



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## Education (continued)

### EGYPT

Education Budget (F02-06)

YEAR	FUNDING
2002	84.4
2003	49.0
2004	33.5
2005	98.2
2006	24.8
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$289.9 million</b>

their communities as a result of their participation in USAID-funded training and awareness- raising workshops.

- More than 45,000 girls and young women have received scholarships and literacy, life-skills, and health information and training.
- Using a cascade model, the Integrated English Language Program for Ministry of Education teachers and senior teachers trained 12,000 participants to improve language, teaching, testing, and educational technology skills.
- “Alam Simsim,” the Egyptian “Sesame Street,” introduces millions of Egyptian youth to the concept of tolerance. USAID tracks viewership of “Alam Simsim:” a 2003 study confirmed more than 3.5 million children under age 8 regularly viewed the program. One hundred and seventy half-hour “Alam Simsim” television programs were created.
- A total of 31,844 young girls and women in 17 governorates participated in literacy and life-skills classes through the USAID-sponsored New Horizons Program.
- A successful book program for classroom libraries in primary schools in Alexandria will be modeled for a new National Book Program.
- Leadership in Education and Development (LEAD) Scholarships is a program sponsored for the past eight years by USAID, the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, and the American University in Cairo (AUC). LEAD provides scholarships to a qualified group of Egyptian public school graduates, two from each governorate (one male and one female), who could not have otherwise afforded an AUC education. Over the course of the program, 162 Egyptian youth will receive full scholarships for their studies at AUC admitted over a three year period.

