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**To all members of Afrikafreundeskreis e.V.
To the friends and supporters of the poor in Egypt,**

On January 23rd, 2010 we visited once again the new AFK-project with the garbage collectors of Ezbet En-Nawwar.

The project was started last year, since these people are in a very miserable situation after the killing of all their pigs in April/May 2009.

The animals had been the basis of their small economies. Selling a pig from time to time had helped the needy to pay back debts, cover their daily needs as well as costs for medical treatment, school fees for their children and other expenses.

The idea behind the project is to create jobs for young garbage collectors by improving the already existing, but poorly equipped small plastic-recycling workshops. At the same time the technical upgrading will lead to reduced pollution, which means less health risks, not only for those immediately working in the workshops, but also for the people living in the garbage collectors' area of Ezbet En-Nawwar as a whole. Recycled plastic meets with a fast-growing market, so the project means a step in the right direction for the youth - away from mere garbage collection.

On our project visit we were accompanied by Mr. Said Basta from the Coptic community of Hannover/Germany, who among many others had generously contributed financially, so that the project could be continued. The first big financial push which had made the project possible and encouraged us immensely to start it, had been provided through the support of the late Eng. Adly Abadir Youssef, who unfortunately passed away on 31st December 2009 – may his soul rest in peace.

During our project visit we were first handed over the receipts for the project expenditure in 2009 by project manager Eng. Atif Maurice and received an overview of the project bookkeeping.

Then we collected information from the project team on what had been done since our last visit.

After that we went to see the various workshops where work had been done, and met their owners.

Back in the ECRED office, we finally discussed the future activities.

Due to a generous donation of friends from Hildesheim/Germany who had formerly been at the ECRED centre with us, the project can be extended to include some more workshops in which upgrading is necessary. According to the wish of these donors, a component for women is to be included in the project. 3000 € were handed over to Mr. Gamal Zekrie, the head of ECRED, who is in charge of the plastic recycling project. One third of this money is to be spent on women at Ezbet En-Nawwar, who lost their work as well as their income when their pigs were killed by the Government early in 2009 and who now suffer greatly.

Please read the details of our findings about the project:

Project:
Upgrading Plastic Recycling Workshops
of the garbage collectors of Ezbet En-Nawwar

Report on our project visit of 23/1/10

Upgrading workshops – progress report:

Upgrading work as planned has been nearly completed on the following 6 workshops:

Workshop 1: Nasser Shehata

Workshop 2: Yousef Shehata

Workshop 3 b: Hanna Badr Hanna_(Photo 1)

Workshop 6: Hany Rushdy Hanna & Farid Shawky_(Photo 2)

Workshop 7: Bushra Yaakoub Salih

Workshop 8: Nady Badr Hanna

In all the workshops the electric power sources, which had been in a deplorable state, were improved by putting the wires under plaster, plastering the walls and installing electric metres and fuse-boxes. Certain parts of the walls were covered with ceramic material, and tiles put on the floor to avoid pollution of the products. In some of the workshops a ventilation system was put in. The most important and most expensive project component was the improvement and repair of the machines. During our visit, Mr. Said Basta from Hannover remarked that the hot and rotating parts of some of the machines should be covered to avoid accidents. The ECRED team will try to find a way to help here.

Workshop 4: Ashraf Wahib & Romany Nagy (Photo 3):

In this workshop work on the electricity was being done at the time of our visit. The owners requested help in upgrading the 2 machines with the help of which they manufacture garbage sacks. One of the machines is completely out of order. The estimated upgrading costs of the machines are 25,000 LE (= 3,330 €). The ECRED team will study the issue.

Workshop 5: Azzam Milad:

In this workshop work has been halted after the upgrading of the electricity system had already taken place. The owner is still waiting for the official permission to install a 3-phase electricity line, for which he had applied at the municipality months ago.

Workshop 9: Adly Mureed Awad:

This is a workshop which had been recently included in the project. It is specialized in mincing soft plastic. The upgrading of the electricity system, covering the floor with tiles and the walls with a cement layer had already been carried out. The remaining work to be done was the upgrading of the machines

Project expenditure:

Eng. Atif Maurice, the project manager, explained to us the project expenditure for the first 6 workshops and handed over to us the originals of the receipts. They correspond accurately with the figures given in the table below. The ECRED team had been able to convince the project beneficiaries to contribute to the costs by 50 %. This means that the project can continue, and more workshops can be upgraded. A summary of the expenditure is shown in the table below.

Name of Workshop Owner	Costs of upgrading in LE
1) Nasser Shehata	12,266
2) Yousef Shehata	13,984.5
3 b) Hanna Badr Hanna	10,685
6) Hany Rushdy Hanna & Farid Shawky	10,291.3
5) Azzam Milad (work halted)	1,466
7) Bushra Yaakoub Salih	14,788.5
8) Nady Badr Hanna	10,170
Total	73,681.3 LE
Contribution from project funds (50%)	36,841 LE = ca. 4,900 €

Training-course within the project:

A training-course for plastic-recycling workshop owners on technical and security issues was hosted by ECRED and organized by GTZ and SIMA (Small Industries Modernization Association) from 18th to 22nd November 2009 (Photo 4).

The following points were included in the programme:

- Scientific information on the different kinds of plastic and their relatedness to the old plastic recycled locally
- Explanation of the parts of the plastic shredding machines and their regular maintenance
- Explanation of the parts of the plastic washing and drying lines
- Field visit to the workshops and assessing their problems
- Visit to the Industrial Union
- Final evaluation session on which the experts suggested solutions for the identified problems

The trainees were:

Rady Waheeb, Yousef Shehata, Hanna Badr Hanna, Adel Kamal, Berty Zaky, Mamdouh Murzak, Mukhlis Waheeb and Tharwat Samaan.

The trainers were:

Samy Barsum, Society of Environmental Protection; Nadir Abdelhady, SIMA; Mohammad Abdelnaby, SIMA; Wael Sabry, GTZ; Mrs. Rihab, GTZ; Mrs. Wafaa Ismail, Egyptian Industrial Union; Eng. Atif Maurice, ECRED; Ahmad Azab, ECRED.

Discussion of the findings and suggestions for further steps within the project:

We concluded our project visit with a final session in the ECRED office to evaluate and discuss the information received and the ideas won.

There was general agreement that within the garbage collector's settlement the upgrading of the workshops was generally considered as a great success. The workshops are now cleaner and safer. Economic progress is difficult to assess, but the fact that all the workshop owners could be convinced to contribute 50 % instead of the originally planned third of the costs, shows the great acceptance. They must be convinced that the measures are necessary and will in the long run also pay.

This means that we shall try to continue the project as long as possible.

For our part that means, that we hope to find more generous sponsors.

At last the question was raised if and how it may be possible to make the garbage collectors' women and girls part of the project. The answer was to look for those workshops where women are doing part of the jobs. Their role lies in the finishing of products like plastic sandals etc. and in the sorting of the plastic material. We asked the project team to give a preference to workshops in future where women are employed. Asked how the 1,000 € we had brought for women projects among the garbage collectors could be used, there was general agreement among the experts that the best thing were micro-loans. The ECRED social workers promised to call for a meeting very soon, where the poor women shall present their suggestions for little projects they could think of (e.g. a small shop for selling sugar, tea, oil to the neighbours), if they got a small loan.

We thank all donors for their generosity!

Fouad and Barbara



Photo 1 The washing and drying workshop of Hanna Badr Hanna: Within the AFK-project the floor has been tiled and the walls have been partly tiled and partly plastered. The electric wires have been secured under plaster. Here project coordinator Atif Maurice (with jacket) discusses the ongoing work with the owner of the workshop. 23-1-2010



Photo 2 Ashraf Waheeb hopes to have his two machines repaired. They produce large black plastic bags for garbage. 23-1-2010



Photo 3 Hany Rushdy Hanna's workshop for manufacturing clothes pegs has received a modern look after the upgrading. The products are cleaner in material, which makes them more competitive on the market. 23-1-2010



Photo 4 Training Seminar for local plastic recyclers held at ECRED and organized by GTZ and SIMA from 18th to 22nd November 2009



Photo 5 Evaluation session at ECRED: Female staff members were consulted as how to help needy women of the garbage collectors. A representative on the Coptic community at Hannover, Mr. Said Basta, participated in the visit (at the far end of the table to the right).

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