

## GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### CEOSS - Egypt

Project: Improving Livelihoods of Urban and Rural Poor Women Dependent on Informal economy in Egypt.

Good Practice - Magnifying the benefit of the available resources through building a model of partnership between the civil society organizations, private sector, and the governmental sector in order to improve the livelihoods of women in informal economy..

#### 1. Brief summary

The project utilizes a multi-actor and sector approach, which entails building partnerships with local communities, civil society organizations, and private and public sector agencies. In utilizing this approach, linkages with civil society and scientific institutions are created, enabling them to better design, implement and evaluate the variety of programs or services initiated under partnership agreements. In addition, the government becomes an important player through involvement in supportive regulations and direct and indirect contributions. The private sector is also invited and encouraged to assume social responsibilities. This approach is based on a detailed understanding of community structure and circumstances, strong working relationship with a broad-based leadership, a comprehensive development program, and gradual disengagement as community capacity for development increases.

#### 2. Key Areas of Good Practice:

- Awareness raising among informal economy operators/workers and other stakeholders (4.3)
- Providing support to informal economy operators/workers to access services (social protection services, business registration, access to formal savings and credit schemes, training, etc.) (3.1)
- Vocational and/or skills training (3.6)
- Support to improve Occupational Safety and Health among informal economy workers (2.3)

#### 3. Context - Brief description of:

##### Where the good practice was implemented:

The Partnership model is implemented in 30 rural and urban communities in 5 governorates in (Qalubya/ Cairo/ Giza/ Bani Sueif/ Minia). Partnership is established between 30 partner civil society organizations in the project, private sector factories, working areas, and all the institutions concerned with women in the informal economy. All these different sectors have various resources that could be of benefit for women in informal economy.

##### Why it was implemented:

The partnership model between the different entities concerned with the issues of women dependant on the informal economy in Egypt aims at allowing women to access the available services in the different entities. This partnership model also empowers the civil society organizations to build the partnership techniques with the different sectors and entities, which enable them to become an agent of change within their local communities.

These partnerships have provided women in the informal economy with various services such as vocational and managerial trainings, employment services in formal sector, microloans for small projects, health services. The number of women who benefitted from these services as of the end of December 2017 is 3492 women.

**Who was involved:**

The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services / members of the boards of partner organizations/ elected committees representing women working in the informal economy / officials of government institutions and the various institutions participated to in implementing the partnership model.

Women working in the informal economy are the direct beneficiaries from this partnership, and their families whose living conditions have improved due to the various interventions implemented are the indirect beneficiaries.

**When the activity was implemented:**

This model was implemented over several consecutive periods of time. The partnership agreements with 30 NGOs were signed during the months of November and December 2016, and they were able to identify local partners from government and private institutions during the period from January to April 2017. These partners participated in joint community-level meetings during the period from April to June 2017. During this period, the available resources of each institution were utilized.

**4. Level and type of innovation of the good practice**

This model is an innovative model that relies on identifying the local resources available at the different parties as well as identifying the needs of women working in the informal economy, and then linking women with the available resources. This enables women working in the informal economy to identify the resources of society and also to identify the steps of taking advantage of these resources, which enables the continuity of the model after the end of the project because it depends on the organizations in the local communities and build relationships and interfaces to communicate among themselves.

**5. Description: processes and steps involved**

The implementation of the partnership model depends on identifying the local partners and the resources available to each partner and how to benefit from these resources. This model was implemented through the following steps:

- 1- Conducting a field study to determine the areas of concentration of women working in the informal economy and the nature of economic activities prevailing in each region and the problems experienced by women working in the informal economy.
2. Identify local partner organizations and build their capacity to understand the issue of employment and empower them to build partnership with the (private sector / government sector) existing in each community.
- 3- Inviting the institutions concerned with the issue of work to attend awareness raising meetings on the issues and problems of women working in the informal economy to gain their support to adopt the work issue of the project.
- 4 - Get to know each organization closely and to identify the resources available in these organizations as well as the way of benefiting from these resources.
- 5 - Signing protocols for cooperation between partner organizations and different institutions, including the roles and responsibilities of each party to support the issues and problems of women working in the informal economy.
6. Holding joint public meetings between women working in the informal economy and governmental and private organizations to announce the available resources of each institution and to allow women to benefit from the services and resources available within each institution.

**6. Resources and skills needed to carry out the good practice**

Resources and skills needed to implement best practices (human / equipment / etc.)

- Human resources: represented in the staff of the Coptic Evangelical Organization / members of

partner organizations / members of the elected committees representing the target group

- Skills: the ability of cadres to communicate, negotiate, and generate social dialogue
- The presence of specialized consultants in the case of women working in the informal economy will help identify the governmental institutions and private sector institutions and build communication mechanisms between them and between the associations and committees of the project partners.

## 7. Sustainability of the Good Practice

The partnership model supports the continuity of implementation of interventions. This model depends on its implementation on the local organizations and the local entities in the community and building a continuous relationship between the different sectors within the target communities (civil society / government sector / private sector) to build a cohesive society that empowers women working in the informal economy.

## 8. Links to Other Resources

Marian Adel: [marian.adel@ceoss.org.eg](mailto:marian.adel@ceoss.org.eg)

Amir Roshdy: [amir.roshdy@ceoss.org.eg](mailto:amir.roshdy@ceoss.org.eg)

## 9. What the originators of the Good Practice would do differently if they were to do it again

Inviting a group of media professionals to participate in building this model, which would help to increase the number of supporters.

## Lesson Learned

### 1. Challenge that was faced

What was really challenging was to find a suitable time for all the representatives of the different concerned parties to meet in order to get the maximum benefit of the partnership model.

### 2. How it was addressed

First, a meeting was held with each entity alone in order to open a communication channel with them and then a meeting was held for all the parties together. This successfully addressed the challenge.

