

In villages in Beni Sweif governorate (middle Egypt) RCCC, with the vital participation of our sister club RC Worms-Nibelungen, has:

Provided **water connections** and **latrines**

Organized **health awareness classes** for women and children.

Planted **trees** and are searching for a **solution to the garbage problem**.

Our club introduced Biogas units to the community; a new technology that properly eliminates waste in an energy efficient way as well as producing organic fertilizer. The biogas environmental friendly units also contribute to a cleaner environment. We encourage similar communities in Upper Egypt to install this technology.

The villagers report that gas tanks (emboubas) are not always available, and families sometimes have to wait for weeks for a gas tank. The bio gas unit provides a continuous supply of gas enough to operate their gas cooker and other gas operated appliances like hot water heaters for those who have them.

Many cases of kidney diseases have been attributed to the poor quality of water. So we decided to install large capacity **water filters** (1700 litres per day) in easily accessible locations for villagers to obtain clean and healthy drinking water.

In *Saleh Farid* we installed one in the village mosque and the other in the village church. We trained responsible persons in both locations to operate, maintain and regulate the use of the two filters.

We have worked in 4 villages in Beni Sweif governorate: *Saleh Farid* (pop. 6500), *Kafr Darwish* (7500), *Ezbet Sadek* (8000) and *El Fant* (40,000)

RCCC started our water and sanitation project in 2013, installing 21 water connections and 39 latrines in the village of *Ezbet Sadek*, followed by 45 water connections in the village of *El Fant*. In 2016 and 2017 we worked in the village of *Saleh Farid* where we installed 65 water connections, 45 latrines, 20 biogas units, 2 water filters, a shade area, 160 trees, 10 garbage bins and provided health classes for women and children. We also established a child club where children receive general knowledge, health awareness and are taught handicrafts.

In *Kafr Darwish* we are currently installing 2 water filters

The **Results** of the first phase of our programme are homes have taps and a sink (131 installed) as well as latrines (84 installed). All the villagers have access to clean drinking water

We have strengthened the civil society – as we work through a local committee from the village. They are involved in all stages of the project to prepare for activities, to monitor with us the execution and to be responsible for maintenance and follow up. Through the women's awareness program, much is said about civic responsibility and how to become agents of change in their communities – identifying common problems especially related to health and hygiene and together addressing the municipality and other local actors for remedies and accessibility to services.

We have not reached a satisfactory solution for the garbage problem. We aim to change behavioral patterns of villagers. The best, and most sustainable approach would be to convince the villagers that recycling garbage can actually be a resource of income.

For the installation of water connections, latrines and biogas units, we require the beneficiaries to contribute to the cost, creating a sense of ownership and ensuring the proper use and maintenance of the equipment.

September 2018