



**GHARBIYA AND QENA GOVERNORATES: EGYPT**

**COUNTRY:** Egypt

**START DATE:** AUGUST 2007

**FUNDING:** \$250,000 – USAID/Egypt  
 \$250,000 – The Coca-Cola  
 Africa Foundation  
 \$250,000 – Government  
 of Egypt



*Improper disposal of wastes to canals and drains is a growing problem throughout rural areas*

**KEY PARTNERS:**

- Coca-Cola Northwest Africa
- USAID/Egypt
- Government of Egypt, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- UNICEF
- International Resources Group

**ACTIVITIES SUMMARY:**

- Improved management of liquid and solid wastes and improved water quality to reduce health hazards through decentralization of management to rural communities, greater local responsibility in maintaining irrigation drainage infrastructure

**BENEFICIARIES:**

- 80,000 rural residents benefiting from improved wastewater disposal practices and solid waste management,

**ALLIANCE OBJECTIVES:**

- **Watershed Management**
  - Carrying out public awareness and outreach activities on water resources management
  - Providing target communities with low-cost appropriate technologies for wastewater treatment
  - Promoting waste recycling schemes in agricultural areas as an alternative to dumping waste into canals or drains
  - Introducing practical methods for domestic solid waste disposal and management
  - Providing technical assistance and training to local organizations and private sector entities



*Wastewater treatment facilities will be locally constructed and managed at the rural village level*

**WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR WATER QUALITY,  
 INCOME, AND PRODUCTIVITY**

The Water and Development Alliance (WADA) supports improved management of limited water supplies, a key priority of the Government of Egypt. Contamination of scarce water resources from improper disposal of liquid and solid wastes to canals and drains is a growing problem throughout rural areas of the country. Presently, a small fraction of Egypt's 4,500 rural villages have proper wastewater disposal facilities or solid waste management and approximately 12 billion cubic meters of wastewater are returned to watercourses each year, seriously degrading water quality in many areas, and negatively impacting human health and the country's economy.

Both the high cost (estimated at over US \$10 billion) and scarcity of available land are challenges to constructing wastewater treatment plants. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF), The International Resources Group (IRG), and UNICEF in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation have worked through WADA to improve water quality management and environmental services in Gharbiya Governorate, Lower Egypt and Qena Governorate, Upper Egypt.

Approaches for household and agricultural waste management are locally appropriate and able to be managed at the rural village level. This includes community-led solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling that create jobs and prevent pollution of shared water courses.

Wastewater treatment technologies have also been promoted that can be locally constructed and feature a vertical design that reduces costs and the land area needed for construction. Community Development Associations, local government authorities, Branch Canal Water Users Associations, and stakeholders in the selected pilot areas are involved in all stages of the project to ensure sustainability. A series of training workshops and public awareness initiatives address specific institutional and technical needs of the local participating organizations, and raise awareness of targeted water users and the public at large. Special attention is given to women because of their traditional role in managing health, water quality and sanitation issues in the household and the community.