

New Program Application: Egypt

Engineers Without Borders 2010/2011

Goal of Application

This application was designed to help you, the applicant, accurately present your program to the EWB-Duke Executive Board for potential chapter adoption. The Executive Board will be evaluating applications on the following criteria: adherence to the [EWB-Duke mission](#), compatibility with chapter capabilities, and ease of logistics.

We understand a paper application may fail to capture these criteria due to misinterpretations of the questions and the answers. Therefore, we have tried to make the questions focused while also as open-ended as possible so that you can include this information but not leave out other important details. However, you *do not* have to answer all the questions. You may also provide more information as you see fit. Keep in mind that this is only the first part of the application process. We will work with you to ensure that we understand your program in its entirety. Thanks for applying!

Process Summary

- September 7: ***new program application available.***
- September 20: ***submit an intent to apply.*** Compose a short description, 3 sentences maximum, of your proposed program and email it to Philip Danser, VP Projects (pad13@duke.edu). Shortly afterward you will receive a response to schedule a meeting with the purpose of clarifying questions on the application and beginning a dialogue meant to strengthen the proposed program.
- October 31: ***new program applications due*** to Executive Board by midnight. Before this time, applicants can request a conference with the VP of Projects and the Executive Board to make amendments to proposed details of the program to make them more aligned to the selection criteria. Any meetings are meant to be a building and suggestion process, *not* a critique. We are here to help offer our experience and expertise to craft your program to work better with EWB's model.
- November 10: ***programs are put to a weighted vote of the Executive Board and the general body*** in a GBM and the preferred program is selected. The chapter adopts the winning proposal and work begins immediately.

Community Background Information

In this section we want to “see” the target community. This means that we’d like to know where it is, who lives there, and the circumstances for residents. How do people live at this site? Pictures are always helpful if you have them. Please be as objective as possible in this assessment to separate your personal projections from reality.

- Where is the site located? Primary site Faiyum Governorate South of Cairo, Egypt (Other possibilities Al Minya and Beni Suef)
- What are the demographics at the site? What is the ethnic makeup? What is the language, and who speaks it? What is the religion, and who practices it? Exact demographics for the region are not currently available but it a good guess would be that the ethnic make-up is similar to that of Egypt as a whole (90% Shiaa Muslims, 98% Egyptians) with the exception of having more Copts and Nubians than the national average of 10% and 1% respectively. Arabic is the primary language but some knowledge of basic English is not uncommon, especially in faiyoum where tourism forms a reasonable part of the local business.
- What is the political structure? Who are the community leaders? What does the local government do? Is there any political tension in the area? What are the big interests in the community? Each governorate is assigned a governor who presides over local affairs. These governors are often short on the funds and the desire to change and often prove to be a real detriment to those who ‘challenge’ their positions as community leaders. Luckily, the professor at the American University in Cairo (AUC) who I am in contact with knows the governor well and this could prove to be an invaluable resource.
No political tensions. There is however frustration directed towards the government due to the lack of investment in the area resulting in poor development.
- What is the lifestyle of the typical resident? What is the household size? What is the weekly income and how is this income earned? How do family members use their time? Do they have access to education and/or work? All are very low income communities. Most residents are farmers, working on privately owned plots of land. Many also work in factories that process the goods produced from the lands. There are no figures available as to the weekly income but needless to say it is very low.
*There is very limited information on the residents or the area as a whole on the internet.
- How is the infrastructure? Are there transportation, energy, and water systems in place? About what percentage of the population has access to these services?
Judging by similar parts of Egypt that I have been to, the most popular form of transportation is a three-wheeled motorcycle (locally named took-took) along with a couple of pick-up trucks that run pre-determined cycles and are the closest they have to public transportation. Governmental water does reach Faiyum but recent shortages in conjunction with the salination of a near-by lake has meant that many do not have access to clean water.
- What are the largest problems that face community members?
Water shortages, Child labor, Crumbling public education, Environmental issues (Burning rice husks, water pollution etc.)

Logistics

In order to complete a program in a site, that site must be readily accessible by EWB groups over several years.

- Is the site accessible? What would it take to get there from Durham, North Carolina?
Direct flights to Cairo Egypt are available. From there it would be a 2 hour trip by bus.
- Where would EWB members stay?
There are local inn's to stay in Faiyum along with a host of lower-end hotels intended for back-packing tourists.
- Is there reliable phone and e-mail access? How many days a week? Is it difficult to obtain?
Internet access should be available. Internet access should not be a problem.
- In an emergency situation, would members be able to get to an international airport in due time?
It would take only 2 hours to get to Cairo, the nearest international airport.
- Are you aware of any significant safety risks in the proposed area such as disease, war, extreme weather or lack of access to medical treatment?
Heat stroke could pose an issue, especially since we are going in the summer but if we are properly hydrated we should be fine.

Impact

It is very important that the abilities of the community and the abilities of our chapter align so that we can serve the community in a way that also benefits our members.

· What is the community's investment in this program? How did you find out about it? Were you approached by a member of the community? Can they provide materials? Money? Transportation? Labor?

The communities would definitely invest in the program as long as we successfully identify and attempt to address their most pressing issue. This means that the assessment trip will be of crucial importance to the success of the program.

I found out about these areas by talking to a professor at the AUC who is involved in such programs. They could provide us with materials and tools but that ultimately depends on what kind of project we will end up doing.

· Are there any other groups (EWB, NGOs or otherwise) working in this area? What have they done? Were they successful?

Italian NGO International Co-operation South South or CISS, has carried out more than 250 projects ranging from short - term interventions to multi-annual programs in the following priority sectors: water supplies & natural resources; social & human marginalization; human rights promotion; cultural heritage & sustainable tourism; work with immigrants, refugees & displaced families.

USAid has also been involved in similar programs over the past few years and the locals are generally used to working with foreigners.

· Do you have reason to believe that the community has sufficient infrastructure and interest in the program to sustain a project in the absence of an EWB team after completion? In other words, does the community have the capacity to service and provide maintenance for the project independently?

Based on the positive results of other NGOs I believe that the community should be able to maintain the project independently especially if we can get them to understand how the project benefits them.

Community Partner Information

The community partner contributes a useful perspective in accurately determining community needs, and helps coordinate activities when members are not at the site. Choosing a reliable and appropriate partner is therefore very important.

·Is there a community partner identified for this program?

The American University in Cairo: The professors and students who I am currently in contact with have all expressed interest in helping us carry out the program. Should this program be approved I could get as big a number of AUC students to volunteer to help us out as we deem necessary. This involvement on the part of Egyptian college students would be one of the strongest aspects of this program seeing as how their participation would:

- 1) allow us to achieve more, and collect more data/cover more area in a shorter period of time.
- 2) Help us overcome language barriers, possibly resulting in better and more earnest responses on the part of the community member.
- 3) Instigate local involvement in the area on the part of some of the brightest and most dedicated students in the country.
- 4) Allow our participants to foster a strong relationship with their Egyptian peers that could result in future collaborations.

CISS: (mentioned earlier) This NGO has been involved in the area and has actively engaged local communities in projects similar to what EWB seeks to carry out. They could prove to be our most valuable resource in pre-planning out project and pinpointing the most pressing need of the society.

Resala and Alashanek ya Balady, both concerned with addressing societal needs, are two other NGOs that have expressed interest in helping us proceed with our program. CISS seem more suited to our cause however because they are already involved with similar communities in similar projects.

· Is the partner staffed full-time? Will they be able to do monitoring and coordination activities when EWB members are not present?

We could easily work something out with our Egyptian partners at the AUC to have them monitor the project when the EWB members are not present.

· Is the partner a reliable magnifying glass of the community? Are their opinions trustworthy and relevant to the larger population they will represent?

Yes. The students have nothing to lose or gain by distorting the reality of the situation.

· Will the community partner be able and willing to maintain close contact with the EWB team during the school year?

Yes, having talked to a couple of the students at the AUC who expressed their interest in the program, I can confidently say that they would be more than willing to maintain the program and maintain close contact with our team over the course of the school year.

Proposer Information

We'd like to get to know a little more about you, too!

· Why do you care about this program? Why did you propose it?

From the moment I heard that EWB had opened the floor to a proposition I knew that I would be proposing this program. I truly believe that this program, should I be allowed to go through with it will be the biggest and most successful program that EWB (or Xcite) has ever seen through. Everything is in place in terms of human capital, creativity, materials and all that is needed to cause colossal change is that little spark of desire and ambition

· Have you recruited others to your cause?

I did not "recruit" anyone because the program has not yet been recruited. I have been actively discussing the program with colleagues both here and back home, getting their feedback and refining my ideas. I have a lot of people excited and willing

· Do you intend to be the project leader of this program or do you plan to recruit another student for that role? Do you feel that you, if you are assuming the role of project leader, or the person that you plan to recruit will be able to take initiative and dedicate the time and effort necessary to lead a team?

I intend on assuming the role of project leader at least for the first assessment and implementation because at the moment nobody would be in a better position than me to lead the program in my own country.

The program has not even been approved yet and I have already been putting in a lot of time into making contacts and talking to professors who are helping me get a better understanding of what is needed.

Nobody has more responsibility to be dedicated and passionate about helping Egyptian families than myself and I intend on living up to that.