



BibleLands

.....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet.....

The Development of Upper Egypt Trust (DUET)

How it all started

In Egypt there is a large gap between rich and poor, as well as between the living conditions of those in cities and those in rural areas. Whilst a lot of development aid has been spent on projects to improve living conditions in the cities, in contrast, development in the countryside has been largely overlooked. The Development of Upper Egypt Trust (DUET) was founded to help lessen this unbalanced growth between urban and rural areas. Upper Egypt, which is actually Southern Egypt, is so named, because it is nearer the source of the Nile.

Current Activities

DUET supports the development of entire villages through projects that benefit a range of individuals, from children to the elderly. Working closely with village leaders, DUET helps to create development programmes that meet the specific needs in each village. These programmes aim to improve social and economic conditions, through an emphasis on educational, agricultural and medical support.

The village leaders are the initiators of each programme, coming up with ideas, leading the projects and continuing them beyond DUET's involvement. DUET plays the part of facilitator: seeking funds which are not available locally; and liaising with other external organisations for relevant ideas and experience.

These are not 'quick-fix' programmes, but provide comprehensive, long-term benefits for the whole village.

Key facts

Founded: 1998

Location: Upper (Southern) Egypt

First Grant from BibleLands: 2000



Case Study

The village of Beni Khalil, 75 miles south of Cairo, has about 750 residents and, until recently, conditions were extremely hard. Families, of up to 8 members, lived in small one-room apartments. Health problems were common, including chronic diseases caused by malnutrition or a lack of hygiene, because no houses had running water or toilets. The village's illiteracy rate was 80% and unemployment was high.

In 2003, BibleLands began working with DUET in Beni Khalil, providing a comprehensive plan to break through the vicious circle of desperate poverty, to increase the standard of living for the entire village. The development programme, which was conceived by the village leaders and prepared in close co-operation with all of the villagers, included primary health care, connecting houses to electricity and running water, income generation schemes, and education for both children and adults. Through this programme, the inhabitants of Beni Khalil (*above*) no longer have to struggle each day, but can actually enjoy life.

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