

BibleLands

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

Hadana Kindergarten, Medinat el Salaam

How it all started

Medinat El Salaam is one of the new cities built by the government on the outskirts of Cairo. It is a very poor area and the Diocese of Egypt began a Social Centre here in 1992, to provide much needed care to the local people. This centre runs various programmes, including a health clinic, a paediatric clinic, and small business loan schemes. One of the main activities at the centre is the kindergarten.



Left: Each child is given a healthy and nutritious meal each day, to help balance their poor diet. This is made possible through a grant from BibleLands

Key facts

Founded: 1992
 Location: Cairo, Egypt
 First Grant from BibleLands: 2000
 BibleLands' Grant: £6,336 p.a.

Current Activities

The Hadana (which is Arabic for kindergarten) offers low-cost pre-school education for up to 50 children, aged from 2-6 years. If children are unable to read and write, even at a basic level, by the time they reach school age, they are denied a place in government schools. The Hadana thus gives them a chance to receive a future education, especially as many of their parents are illiterate.

The staff encourage good social skills and aim to provide each child with a positive self-image. Family break-up is not uncommon in this area of Egypt, and many of the children are from broken homes. Therefore, the Hadana provides a place where they can feel secure.

Whilst the children are in the safe environment of this Christian kindergarten, their mothers often go out to work to earn money for their families. Many of the children are from Muslim families, which is encouraging to the staff as they try to break down barriers, and promote communication rather than opposition, between those of different faiths.

Although parents are charged fees, which keep the Hadana running, this is based on their ability to pay. Therefore most pay reduced fees and only a very few pay the full fees, whilst some families do not pay anything.

In the year 2000, the Egyptian government praised the Hadana on being one of the best 3 in Cairo, particularly in the areas of activities for the children. Thank you for your support of these young children.

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