

## Press Release

### Suez Cement and CARE Egypt to partnership on Improving Learning Environment through Community Engagement in Minya

Helwan Cement Company (HCC), subsidiary of Suez Cement Group of Companies and CARE Egypt have signed a partnership agreement on November 5, 2014 in the presence of his Excellency, Major General Salah El-Din Zeyada, Governor of Minya, to support the improvement of the learning environment within Samalut district in Minya.

Improving Learning Environment through Community Engagement project launched in November aims to raise awareness among school management, teachers, and students, on the importance of preserving and sustaining the school infrastructure and resources.

School enhancements will be implemented through strengthening the institutional capacities of schools and Governorate's Education Departments, where the two entities seek to build the capacities of teachers, by providing technical and professional support and training programs, in order to enhance educational quality within their schools and improve learning outcomes and techniques.

The partners also anticipate to enhance the social accountability and community engagement in the educational process within the targeted local communities, and reactivate the vital role of schools' Board of Trustees, consisted of parents and teachers.

*"This project enables the private sector, with the inclusion of Non-profit organizations, to support the community through social responsibility and corporate engagement in their endeavours towards improving the infrastructure, educational methods and learning tools in schools," says Dr. Hazem Fahmy, Country Director for CARE Egypt.*

Through the funds of Helwan Cement, CARE Egypt will manage the implementation of the project with local co-operatives where it is intended to advance 3,000 primary school students, 50 teachers, and 25 senior teachers in the educational directorate of Minya Governorate, where one of Suez Cement five plants is located.

*"Suez Cement has always placed a high value on education to ensure that young people develop the skills and competences needed by the labor market and to achieve their targets for growth and jobs" said Mr. Carre, SCGC CEO. "Against a backdrop of economic crisis, initiatives in support of education and the development of skills are essential to ensure the professional success of future generations. This project is a perfect example of what Suez Cement is actually doing for young people" he added.*

Helwan Cement and CARE Egypt agreed that the Agreement duration is twelve months starting from November 2014.

The Education Program at CARE Egypt has a long history in Minya and have reached many successful milestones in the fields of improving access to basic Education, teachers trainings, activating students' unions, and community engagement.

### **About Suez Cement**

With an industrial network of five production facilities in Suez, Kattameya, Tourah, Helwan and El Minya, Suez Cement Group of Companies is one of the largest cement producers in Egypt.

The company has a long-standing history in the market, yet is innovative in launching new brands and products to meet market needs.

SCGC is home to more than 3,000 employees who participate in continuous training and advancement programs. The group has a comprehensive safety and environmental policy, which is imperative for building a sustainable environment for employees and communities where SCGC operates.

The group has provided materials for some of Egypt's most famous landmarks and is building its future around serving the market and growing customer demands.

[www.suezcement.com.eg](http://www.suezcement.com.eg)

### **About CARE International in Egypt**

CARE Egypt is part of CARE International, one of the largest International NGOs present in 90 countries, and has been serving over 83 million people around the world. CARE has been serving communities and local associations in the poorest regions of Egypt since 1954. CARE began work in Egypt with a nationwide school-feeding program. Today, CARE's work is focused primarily on Upper Egypt, where it works closely through a rights-based approach with the poor and marginalized, civil society, and government institutions to improve livelihoods on a sustainable basis. In addition to its headquarters located in Cairo, the organization has field offices operating in five governorates; Assuit, Beni Suef, El- Minya, Sohag, and Qena. CARE Egypt works on four main development areas; women's rights, girl's education, agriculture and natural resources, and good governance through local participatory processes. CARE Egypt is strongly committed to the mobilization of different development stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, academic and research institutions, governmental entities, and the corporate sector.

[www.care.org.eg](http://www.care.org.eg)

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