



EGYPT IN ACTION

A Spotlight on Events from UNDP Egypt

THIS ISSUE:

Dahshour Community Development Inception Workshop

The famous Sakkara Archaeological Site witnessed on April 10th 2010 the launch of the "Mobilization of the Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development" Programme inception workshop under the auspices of 6th of October Governor Fathy Saad, Supreme Council of Antiquities Secretary General Zahi Hawas, Spanish Ambassador to Egypt Antonio Lopez Martinez, and UN Resident Coordinator James W. Rawley.

The Programme aims at protecting the Dahshour pyramids area and its ecosystem while fostering tourism-based sustainable development, sound cultural and ecological management, and creating greater opportunities for revenue generation, most notably among women and the most vulnerable groups.

The pioneer initiative is a joint initiative between five UN agencies, namely: UNDP, World Tourism Organization (WTO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), International Labour Organization (ILO), and UNESCO. It brings together for the first time national and international partners from the tourism, cultural heritage, and natural heritage sectors to work together with community members on poverty reduction initiatives. Home for approximately 40,000 inhabitants, Dahshour comprises an integral section of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The first year of the project, which was launched in April 2009, was dedicated to the completion of baseline studies and surveys, and general preparation for poverty reduction initiatives. In collaboration with national stakeholders, the socio-economic profile and the Spatial Tourism Development Plan for the Dahshour area was completed, and partners are already working on developing an Environmental Management Strategy and Archaeological Master Plan.

The 3-year programme amounting to US\$ 3 million is part of the UNDP-Spain MDG Achievement Fund, which was established in December 2006 to accelerate efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and support UN reform at the country level.



Dahshour Community Development Inception Workshop



“The people of Dahshour have a special role to play in the programme; their knowledge and support will be instrumental to its success.”

Before an audience of development partners, government representatives, and members of the local community, UN Resident Coordinator James W. Rawley delivered a speech at the inception workshop of The Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development Programme.

Rawley explained that this innovative programme works simultaneously on three inter-connected fronts: preservation of cultural heritage, management of natural resources, and generation of income opportunities for residents of Dahshour, and has great potential for replicability in Egypt and even abroad.

Rawley commended the Government of Spain for its generous contribution of \$3 million to this project via Spain’s Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund with the United Nations and for its additional contribution of \$11.5 million for two other programmes on climate change and private sector and development.

The UN RC pointed out that achieving the MDGs in developing countries like Egypt by 2015 is a challenging assignment in the best of times. With the global economic crises – financial, food, fuel, economic, pandemics, plus the increasing understood threat of climate change – achieving the MDGs not just at the aggregate, but for all regions, has become even more challenging.

He added that the local people in Dahshour have a special role to play in the implementation of the joint programme, and that their knowledge and support will be instrumental to the success of the programme. He explained that the aim is to improve people’s livelihoods and working conditions through targeted employment-generating activities. And that ensuring decent jobs for women and youth will be the focus of support to locally-driven micro and small enterprises.

Rawley voiced his confidence in that programmes such as the Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development will succeed in improving the quality of life of the people of Dashour while at the same time contributing to the preservation of the areas unique cultural heritage and biodiversity for future generations.

[COMPLETE SPEECH](#)

Dahshour Community Development Inception Workshop

A number of local Arabic and English-language press outlets covered the inception workshop of the Mobilization of Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development Programme highlighting its unique approach to community development while preserving the ecosystem and protecting cultural heritage. The press also highlighted the UN joint programme's success in bringing together a large number of local and international actors to work on a cooperative developmental effort.



ALMASRYALYOUM

Govt teams up with UN to develop Dahshour

Author: Ekram Ibrahim

The Egyptian government and the United Nations held the first workshop in their "Mobilization of the Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development" program on 10 April. The program aims to focus on developing the community while preserving the area's rich cultural and natural heritage.

The workshop, held under the auspices of 6th of October Governor Fathy Saad at the famous Sakkara archaeological site, was attended by Spanish Ambassador to Egypt Antonio Lopez Martnez, and UN Resident Coordinator James W. Rawley.

"I am confident that programs such as the Dahshour World Heritage Site for Community Development will succeed in improving the quality of life of the people of Dahshour while at the same time contributing to the preservation of the area's unique cultural heritage and biodiversity for future generations," Rawley declared in an opening address.

The project has two main objectives: to reduce poverty and to protect and manage the area's cultural heritage and natural resources. Program organizers hope to reduce poverty through increasing local employment, supporting traditional handicrafts, promoting tourism and developing creative industries.

DAILY NEWS EGYPT

Development project in Dahshour aims to preserve local culture, heritage

By William F. Zeman / Daily News Egypt

First Published 4/11/2010

CAIRO: A new project by various United Nations organizations and their Egyptian counterparts aims to revitalize the Dahshour area of Saqqara, making it a tourist location, while protecting the delicate ecosystem and conducting community development.

The project, which held its "inception workshop" Saturday, is a cooperative effort of five UN agencies and their Egyptian counterparts. While the inception workshop just occurred, the project officially launched last year, and work began six months ago, according to event organizers.

"This project shows the capacity of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA) for one of its main goals: the preservation and development of heritage sites," said Gihane Zaki, an SCA spokeswoman chairing the event.

The project hopes to prepare the Dahshour area for an influx of tourists, without compromising local lives or ecosystems. The project leaders want to get Dahshour's large palm grove and lake included in the UNESCO World Heritage site, currently encompassing the Giza Necropolis and the Zoser pyramid sites.

The organizers plan to train local inhabitants of Dahshour in craft-making, communicating with tourists in English, and other skills necessary to profit from the expected tourism influx.



Photos



UN
DP

Egypt

Dahshour Community Development Inception Workshop

