The Coptic Orthodox Church
Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical
and Social Services (BLESS)

A Better Tomorrow

DIGNITY | HOPE | TRANSFORMAION



Institutional report
2025 - 2026

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Message from His Holiness

Pope Tawadros II

Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark

The Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services is considered the development arm within the service ministry of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

This arm has been extended throughout the entire Coptic Patriarchate for nearly 65 years, through dedicated work, commitment, and continuous efforts, carried out by a large team currently led by His Grace Bishop Yolios with wisdom and capability.

The driving force behind this great work is the hope and trust in the grace of Christ, which grants every servant the ability to continue this ministry despite all the challenges and difficulties it faces, whether in villages, informal areas, or through the various development programs.

My greetings and love to all of you, to all international and local partners, and to everyone who has contributed with a helping hand to these noble services.

Tawadros II



Message of His Grace

Bishop Yolios

BLEES Bishop and Director

“May the Lord your God bless you in all the work of your hands.”
(Deuteronomy 30:9)

The work of sustainable development at all levels: individual - family - community -nation, is a work of planting and watering.

Planting sound and renewed concepts,

planting relevant and well-established projects,

planting everything that addresses the challenges of our time.

It is also watering and caring for human well-being,

watering through mobilizing efforts and bringing energies together,

and watering through planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

We strive in all forms of planting and watering, looking to the Lord,

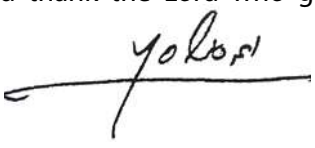
for it is the Lord who gives growth, the Lord who brings success, and the Lord who blesses and increases good fruit.

The Lord blesses every effort, every work, every idea, and every project.

We see the harvest of the year and rejoice in the work of the Lord, being assured that:

“The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, without painful toil for it.” (Proverbs 10:22)

We thank all partners, thank all the BLESS team, and thank the Lord who guides us.





Message from Father

Raphaeel Tharwat

Bishop's Deputy

With hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving to God, we are pleased to present the Institutional Report of the Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS) for 2025–2026 under the theme **"A Better Tomorrow"** inspired by the words of the Apostle Paul:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

Throughout its years of service, BLESS has carried a true humanitarian and evangelical mission rooted in the heart of the Coptic Orthodox Church, reaching every person who is suffering, in need, or searching for hope. In a world facing increasing economic, social, and psychological challenges, our ministry continues to stand as a living testimony to God›s love at work in and through people.

ThAs we offer thanks to God for all that has been accomplished during the past year, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that BLESS remains a beacon of hope, a bridge of love, and a voice for humanity. Guided by the spirit of the Gospel and a strong sense of institutional responsibility, we continue to work for human development and the service of society.

We pray that God will continue to fill hearts with true hope and that our ministry may remain a living witness to His light and love in the world. May God bless every effort dedicated to serving people and upholding their dignity.

Rafaeel Tharwat

Who we are

The Bishopric of Public Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS) was established in 1962 as the social development arm of the Coptic Orthodox Church (COC)

Our Vision:

Empowered sustainable communities that accept diversity and enjoy living with dignity.

Our Mission:

The Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services (BLESS) is the social development arm of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt. BLESS works to improve quality of life and promote social equity by empowering all community members to realize their full potential, strengthening their capabilities, building resilience to crises, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Governing Principles:

- Our love for God drives us to love and respect human dignity.
- Peace and tolerance
- Respect for God's Creation
- Transparency and accountability.
- A belief in people's capabilities, creativity, power to give and volunteering

Key Moments of Hope During 2025-2026

Employment Fair: Expanding Opportunities for Youth

In June 2026, BLESS organized the Employment Fair at St. Mark's Cathedral, inaugurated by His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, with the participation of the Ministers of Youth and Sports and Labour, the Governor of Cairo, and the Head of the Technical Secretariat of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work, alongside government and private-sector partners. The event offered 10,000 job opportunities, 5,000 training opportunities, and 200 project ideas, promoting youth empowerment, employment, and economic participation.



Acknowledging BLESS's Humanitarian Efforts a "Ahl El Kheir 2" Celebration

In April 2026, BLESS was honored by H.E. Dr. Maya Morsy, Minister of Social Solidarity, during the national "Ahl El Kheir 2" celebration. This has been in recognition of the BLESS commitment to community support.



Opening of a Health Care Centre in El Moatamadeya

In February 2026, His Grace Bishop Yolios and His Grace Bishop Theodosius inaugurated new health care services at the Bishopric Services Building in El Moatamadeya, Giza.





Second Symposium on Eco-Theology: "Peace with Creation"

In October 2025, BLESS hosted and participated in the Second Symposium on Eco-Theology, "Peace with Creation," in partnership with Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), Association of Theological Institutes in the Middle East (ATIME), and other partners. The symposium gathered church leaders, theologians, and environmental practitioners to promote faith-based ecological stewardship and address environmental challenges in the region.

Experience Exchange on Sustainable Agroecology

In December 2025, as a leading institution demonstrating top agroecology practices in Egypt, BLESS participated in an experience-exchange workshop organized by our partner, Bread for the World (BROT), alongside other development organizations. During the event, BLESS highlighted its successful field models and expertise to foster collaboration and enhance community climate resilience.



BLESS advocates for Climate Resilience at COP30

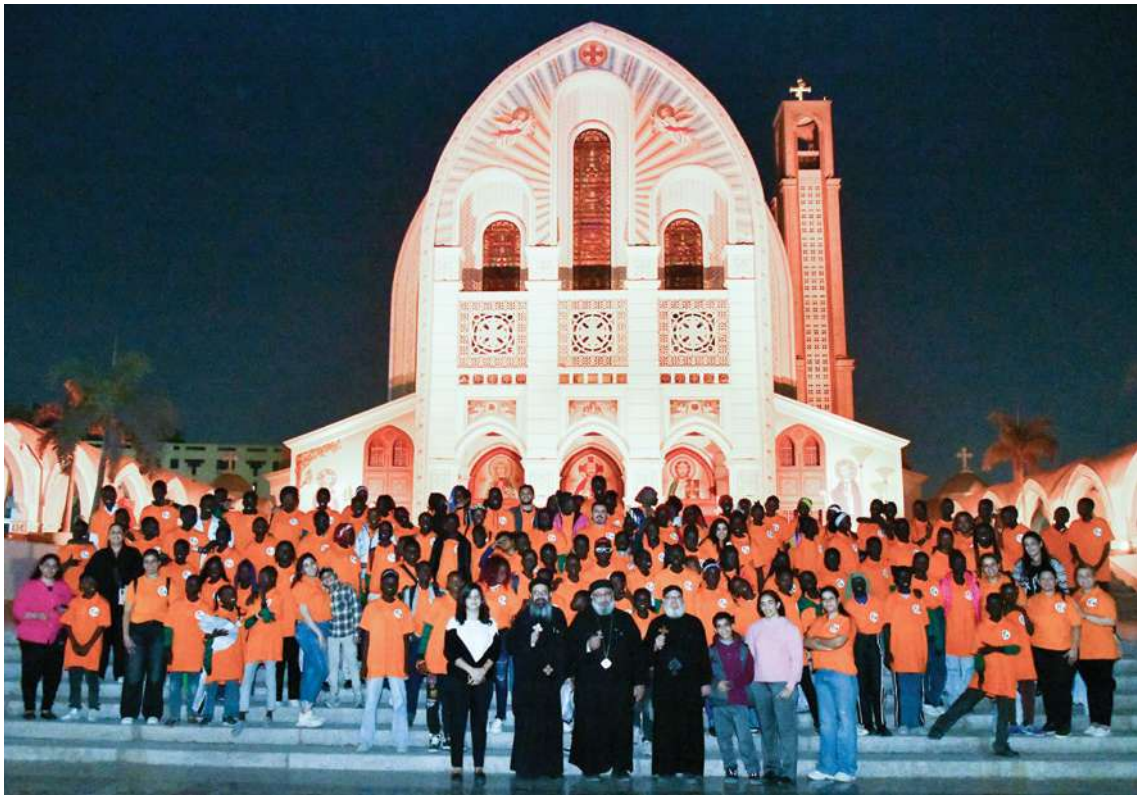
In November 2025, BLESS participated in the Gender Day activities at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, as part of the ACT Alliance delegation. The participation highlighted the importance of gender justice in climate action and emphasized the impact of climate change on rural women in Egypt.





Ramadan Iftar Gathering Promoting Peace and Social Cohesion

In March 2026, BLESS organized a Ramadan Iftar gathering under the Peacebuilding Program in partnership with the Norwegian Embassy. The project is combating harmful practices and gender-based violence.



Lighting the St. Mark's Cathedral in Orange for the 16 Days Campaign

The Coptic Orthodox Church, represented by BLESS, illuminated St. Mark's Cathedral in orange to mark the launch of the global "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, promoting women's rights and a violence-free society



Support for people in Gaza

In August 2025, BLESS launched a humanitarian food convoy to support families affected by the crisis in Gaza under the initiative "Masafet El Sekka Le Ahlena." The convoy provided essential food supplies as part of Egypt's humanitarian response and solidarity efforts with the Palestinian people.



Supporting the "One Hand" Campaign

In June 2025, as part of the National Alliance for Civil Development Work initiative "One Hand", BLESS distributed food boxes to families affected by severe storms in Alexandria Governorate, through churches and mosques.



Meeting of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II with BLESS Staff

In August 2025, H.H. Pope Tawadros II met with BLESS staff and servants, where he reviewed the developmental and social programs implemented and listened to successful stories of individuals and families whose lives were positively transformed through these initiatives.



Working together to improve Nutrition in Egypt

In October 2025, BLESS joined national efforts to address malnutrition through participation in a specialized nutrition workshop that brought together government entities and civil society organizations. The gathering emphasized the importance of collaboration to ensure healthier futures for children and families across Egypt.

BLESS Coordinates social development services within the Coptic Church

The Church Development Partners Initiative (CDP)

BLESS is one of the founding members of the Church Development Partners (CDP), an initiative established under the guidance of His Highness Pope Tawadros II in 2019 to promote synergy among social and development efforts across the Coptic Church. The initiative focuses on data sharing, joint planning, and strengthening local capacities.



The Theodora Service for children with disabilities

Theodora Mission for Challenged Kids operates as a U.S.–based nonprofit that delivers direct, specialized support to children with disabilities across Egypt. Its work centers on therapy, education, family empowerment, and community outreach, implemented through a network of centers run in partnership with local church leadership.



Under the auspices of the Coptic Church, Theodora delivers services in 11 specialized centers across Egypt serving more than 450 children on a daily basis. Services include physical, occupational, and speech therapy; medical care coordination; individualized education plans; behavioral and social skills support; home visits; transportation assistance; and family counseling and parental training.



The Pope Shenouda's Educational Services

The service supports youth academic excellence and university admission through community tutoring centers with qualified teachers, while students pay symbolic fees and the service covers most teaching costs.

Number of dioceses		Number of churches		Number of students	
2024-2025	2025-2026	2024-2025	2025-2026	2024-2025	2025-2026
13	59	185	832	18,326	99,298
+46 354%		+647 350%		+80,972 442%	

Number of students in 2025-2026 academic year

Primary stage	Preparatory stage	High school stage
68,383	26,330	4,585

Koinonia Ventures (KV)

Koinonia Ventures provides access to credit and business support for ambitious individuals lacking opportunities, combining funding and advisory services with a balance of philanthropy and fiscal responsibility.

In 2025 alone, Koinonia Ventures funded 783 projects with a total investment of EGP 24.8 million, expanded into three new locations, invested in a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) platform to improve field operations, and revamped the organization's website

Fund	Total investment EGP	Expanded into
783	24.8	10
Project	million	locations

The Coptic Association for Social Care (CASC)

The Coptic Association for Social Care (CASC) is a registered non-governmental organization in Egypt, established in March 1990. It is considered BLESS›s twin sister organization and aims to expand community services across different parts of Egypt.

Renewable Agriculture Applications Project to address the impact of climate change





In 2025, CASC collaborated with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme to implement the project, "Renewable Agriculture Applications to Address the Impacts of Climate Change," in the village of Al-Adayma, located in Esna District, Luxor Governorate. The project aims to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of the Al-Adayma community to climate change by implementing innovative and sustainable agricultural solutions.



Objective 1 Improve the quality of agricultural land.

- Establishing the "Al-Adayma Center for Renewable Agriculture" to demonstrate and replicate the project's agricultural models.
- Implementing seven demonstration field models using climate-smart agricultural practices, including the installation of 60 biological pest control traps.
- Providing agricultural inputs, including improved seeds and environmentally friendly fertilizers, for 248 feddans of farmland.
- Providing eight agricultural machines and pieces of equipment to support 545 farmers.
- Providing equipment for soil and water sample analysis

Objective 2 Empower women and youth with climate-resilient food security practices.

Establishing mushroom cultivation and barley sprouting (soilless farming) rooms, benefiting 920 visitors.

Implementing 20 beekeeping models to promote beekeeping, honey production, and silk production, reaching 500 visitors.

Conducting eight recycling training sessions for 325 participants, transforming 10 tons of agricultural waste into value-added products.

Organizing an annual heritage festival featuring 50 rural family exhibitors showcasing local agricultural products.

Objective 3 Build the capacities of Al-Adayma, village.

Organizing five capacity-building training sessions for 1,093 male and female trainees.

Holding 14 regular meetings for the community committee.

Sending 400 early warning awareness messages to farmers.

Providing an electric honey extractor





Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Cairo

"Rise UP and Walk" AL Motamadeya branch

In partnership with the German Embassy, CASC established and equipped a new branch of the "Rise Up and Walk" Center in Moatamedia District, Giza Governorate. The center was furnished and prepared to provide speech therapy, sensory integration, physiotherapy, and specialized assessments for children with disabilities, offering renewed hope to children and their families.

The project also launched vocational rehabilitation workshops, creating pathways for inclusion, independence, and a brighter future for children with disabilities.





Family and Child Community Development Centers in Upper Egypt

In partnership with the Alliance of Civil Society Organizations and through a joint protocol signed with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, and the Ministry of Local Development and Environment, BLESS assumed the responsibility of operating and managing the Family and Child Development Centers in Sohag and Qena. Through this initiative, BLESS has revitalized these communities, fostering a renewed sense of hope and opportunity.

BLESS envisioned these centers not merely as administrative hubs, but as platforms for comprehensive development-transforming challenges into opportunities and planting seeds of optimism in the hearts of families and children for a brighter and more dignified future.













The Harvest of Hope: Numbers and Achievements Transforming Our Communities





Since the launch of operations at the "Salamoun" Center in Sohag (February 2025), followed by the "Hegaza" Center in Qena (September 2025), these centers have transformed into vibrant hubs-bringing renewed energy, fostering hope, and making a tangible difference in the lives of families and children in Upper Egypt. Through their combined efforts, both centers have achieved inspiring developmental results:





Investing in a Promising Childhood Doors of hope and care were opened wide for tomorrow's generation. Together, the two centers currently embrace 86 children in the nursery stage and in kindergarten, providing them with a safe, nurturing, and inspiring learning environment.

Unlocking Potential & Overcoming Barriers: A new ray of hope emerged for families with the launch of the «Speech and Skills Development Center» in Salamoun (October 2025). It has proudly delivered 163 speech therapy sessions and IQ tests, successfully reintegrating children into community life with confidence and joy.



Empowering Women and Building Peace (UNFPA Partnership)



BLESS believes that true transformation begins by addressing the root causes of violence through awareness, education, and community empowerment. In 2025, BLESS's strategic partnership with UNFPA focused on advancing women's rights and fostering safer communities BLESS trained 1,322 religious and community leaders across the governorates of Cairo, Giza, Qalyubia, Minya, Assiut, Sohag, and Aswan. They were equipped with legal tools and human rights frameworks to openly address harmful practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), sexual harassment, and cyberbullying. Community Engagement: 1,895 women and men participated in awareness campaigns, interactive carnivals, women's clubs, and pre-marriage counseling sessions for youth. Psychological Support: 200 women received specialized individual and group therapy, supporting their healing, confidence, and well-being.

Engaging Communities in Combating Gender-Based Violence (Diakonia Partnership)

BLESS, in partnership with Diakonia, implemented the "Engaging Communities in Combating Gender-Based Violence" project across nine communities in Upper Egypt, reaching 12,625 participants.

The project strengthened the capacity of 397 religious and community leaders to address gender-based violence and harmful practices, while community awareness activities and public campaigns reached more than 10,800 community members. In addition, 467 women and girls benefited from psychosocial support, counseling, and women's club activities.



Through strong collaboration with local church committees and volunteers, the project contributed to strengthening local capacity, challenging harmful social norms, and promoting greater protection, justice, and equality for women and girls.

Nurturing Childhood and Positive Parenting (UNICEF Partnership)

To protect every child's right to a safe and nurturing environment, BLESS collaborated with UNICEF to empower parents, caregivers, and community mentors with the essential tools needed to support the next generation:

Child Protection Champions

BLESS trained 203 religious leaders and community servants across Giza and Qalyubia in positive parenting and the prevention of violence against children. These leaders now serve as local advocates, actively promoting messages of compassion, positive discipline, and the importance of protecting childhood.

Positive Parenting Programs:

Nearly 4,417 Egyptian and Sudanese parents and caregivers completed specialized courses. The training covered topics from early childhood development through adolescence, focusing on establishing secure routines, promoting emotional understanding, and applying empathetic discipline.

Interactive Awareness

Through innovative psychodrama sessions, storytelling circles, and public campaigns, we reached over 5,532 people. These interactive spaces successfully taught children and adults how to identify signs of harm and utilize safe reporting channels









10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Our support to the Sudanese Refugees in Egypt for 2025-2026

Continuing a service that started in 2023 when the conflict in Sudan erupted, BLESS provided support to 2,445 Sudanese families in 2025 through multiple interventions, including multipurpose cash assistance, health and medical services, education support, and vocational training.



The Livelihoods project, in cooperation with Om Habiba Foundation, funded by the World Food Programme

In collaboration with Om Habiba Foundation, BLESS and CASC worked on enhancing the livelihoods of 303 Sudanese and Egyptians, in Ain Shams and Nasr City. The project provided vocational trainings in three fields to improve employability, increase job opportunities for vulnerable groups and enhance their self-reliance.

To promote integration between host communities and refugees, Egyptian and Sudanese participants jointly participated in vocational training activities. Participants received completion certificates to enhance their employability and access to livelihood opportunities.



Expanding Primary Health Care Access for Sudanese Refugees in Greater Cairo Project, in Cooperation with the Australian Embassy

In 2025 and 2026, this initiative, supported with funding from the Australian Embassy in Egypt, provided essential healthcare services and restored hope and dignity to thousands of the displaced and vulnerable Sudanese refugees in El Hagana, Ain Shams, and Hamamat El Koba areas.

BLESS provided health awareness seminars, mobile clinics, medication distribution and maternal healthcare referrals.

A total of 2,302 refugees benefited from health awareness activities, 1,336 refugees received medical services through mobile clinics, 994 beneficiaries receiving medication, 165 pregnant women referred for antenatal care and 340 infants received baby formula boxes on a monthly basis.









10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Our Cross-cutting priorities

The "Rise Up and Walk" program

"Rise Up and Walk" center restored hope and promoted inclusion for people with disabilities by reaching 359 participants through rehabilitation, life skills training, physiotherapy, vocational training, and assistive support services. Through these interventions, 67% of the targeted people with disabilities developed life skills that supported their integration into society, while 65% of targeted parents and community members improved their ability to interact effectively with people with disabilities.







Participants
359

New skills
65%

Improved skills
67%

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The Peacemakers program

The program engaged to a total number of 2,086 Muslim and Christian participants in community peace building, raising their awareness about the importance of accepting and respecting others regardless their religion, culture, social status, or education level through engaging them in interactive activities.



A Story of change

In the village of Al-Fath in Asyut, religious division was a growing challenge, with Muslim and Christian youth interacting in separate groups, including during sport activities where teams were formed along religious lines. Through the Peacemakers Program Sports League activities, opportunities were created to strengthen relationships between Muslim and Christian youth and promote accepting and respecting others regardless of religion. As the matches progressed, barriers gradually faded, and mixed teams of Muslims and Christians began to form, promoting increased acceptance and mutual respect. Inspired by this experience, the youth later organized joint sport activities for children on a voluntary basis, reflecting hope for unity among people beyond religious differences.





2025 in Numbers

Diocese
31

Communities
120

Participants
452,882

Men
91,623

Women
232,730

Children
128,529

Non-Christians
105,000

People with Disabilities
6,954









التحالف الوطني
الخدمات
جتماعية
نية



قطاع اسيوط
قرية الشيخ سويفى






















Health and Well-Being Cluster of programs

Restoring Health, Dignity, and Hope

In 2025, BLESS continued to improve the health and well-being of marginalized communities across Egypt, reaching around 36,000 participants in 117 communities through integrated health, housing, and emergency relief interventions.

The Primary Health Care Program delivered comprehensive preventive and awareness services across multiple health areas.

Through 1,156 awareness courses on communicable and non-communicable diseases implemented in 2025, participants increased their knowledge and developed healthier attitudes toward disease prevention.

Through 196 mobile health clinics, BLESS reached 14,194 participants with medical consultations and treatment guidance, supported by three specialized doctors who addressed the health needs of each community.













Through 265 medical campaigns on the early detection of breast tumors, thyroid diseases, and visual impairment, 13,626 participants gained access to preventive healthcare services, strengthening early diagnosis and timely medical intervention.

Through 67 nutrition courses and 220 nutrition and hygiene awareness seminars, 7,553 children and families were supported in adopting healthy practices. In addition, medical tests for anemia and intestinal parasites, along with treatment services, were provided.

Nutrient-dense food packages are distributed to 2,200 participants, enabling vulnerable families with children to meet their immediate nutritional needs and reducing economic hardship during difficult times.



The program also empowered 4,304 women through 177 health awareness seminars addressing critical life challenges such as midlife crisis, gender-based violence, bullying, sexual harassment, and gender identity.

Maternal health support was strengthened through 25 medical days and 12 classes for 732 pregnant women, providing pregnancy treatment and follow-up. In addition, 180 family planning seminars was conducted reached 6,019 participants.

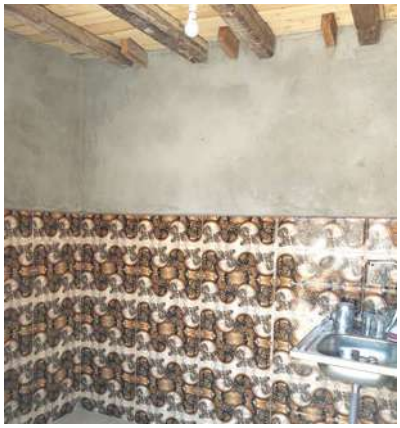
Through 423 "Towards a Better Life" awareness courses, 9,711 participants increased their understanding of addiction risks and harmful effects. In addition, 79 parental sessions engaged 1,157 fathers and 3,851 mothers, strengthening family roles in prevention, protection, and early detection.

Meet a group of women from El Maabada - Assiut governorate

A breast cancer awareness campaign was implemented by BLESS at the local health unit in El Maabada, Assiut governorate, to promote early detection and preventive healthcare among women. During the campaign, 60 women were screened, and seven cases were referred to El Shamla hospital in the governorate for further medical evaluation. One referred case was diagnosed with severe glandular inflammation and received a two-month treatment plan with follow-up. Another case was found to have a fatty lump requiring surgical removal, while the remaining cases were diagnosed with benign mammary gland conditions. The early detection and referral process increased community trust and led to a noticeable rise in voluntary screening and follow-up among women.

The Housing Conditions Improvement Program

The program emphasizes safety and dignity for vulnerable families by implementing comprehensive rehabilitation works for unsafe houses, including roof repairs, wall reinforcement, and installation of water filters, safe electrical connections, and water meters.





Through these interventions, 198 houses were restored, benefiting 925 participants, while 112 households received clean water connections and safe electrical wiring, benefiting 488 participants.

The program also equipped homes with essential living requirements such as doors, windows, and sanitary facilities, ensuring safe and dignified living conditions. As a result, 216 houses were furnished, benefiting 1,100 participants, while water filters were distributed to 424 families to improve access to safe drinking water.

Houses restored
198

Houses received clean water
112

Houses furnished
216

Families received water filters
424

The Emergency Relief Program

The Program strengthens families' preparedness and resilience. In 2025, it implemented 108 public meetings under the "Be Ready" campaign, benefiting 5,533 participants and increasing awareness of household accident prevention and emergency response.



Best Life Center for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment



The Best Life Center for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment continued throughout 2025 to provide integrated services in the fields of awareness, prevention, treatment, and psychosocial support through its preventive and therapeutic departments, contributing to supporting individuals and families, addressing addictive behaviors, and promoting mental health within the community.

First: Preventive Service Units

Awareness, Prevention, and Training Department:

During 2025, the department implemented a wide range of field and online activities, including:

Conducting 116 lectures and 151 awareness and training meetings, directly benefiting nearly 13,000 individuals across 15 dioceses and different areas.

Online awareness activities reached approximately 290,000 individuals.

Conducting 25 television interviews and producing awareness posters and educational videos.

Volunteer Servants Department:

The department continued supporting and expanding the network of volunteer servants in churches and dioceses through:

Working directly with 28 churches and 4 dioceses.

Participation of more than 112 servants in regular service activities.

Organizing forums, field visits, and various training events.

Receiving and referring treatment and awareness requests through the hotline.

Multimedia and Documentation Department:

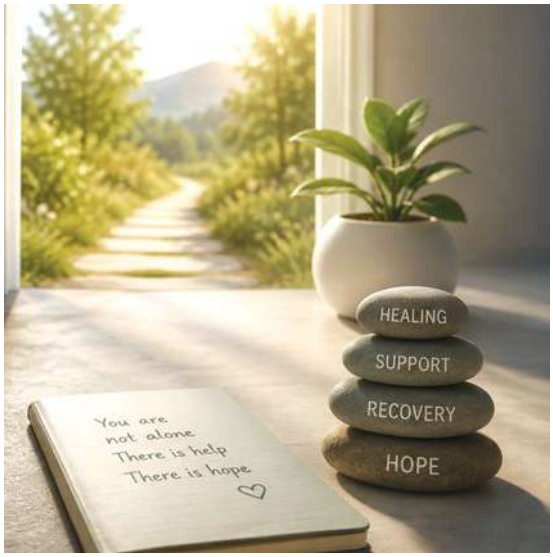
The department played an active role in documentation, online publishing, and digital awareness. Key achievements included:

Publishing various awareness materials through social media platforms, reaching more than 65,000 individuals.

Producing and designing educational videos, posters, and training materials.

Research Department:

The department continued preparing and reviewing studies and scientific materials while supporting research and documentation activities related to mental health and addiction treatment.



Second: Curative Service Units

Outpatient Clinic Department:

The department provided specialized psychological and addiction treatment services throughout the year, including:

Receiving 141 new addiction cases.

Following up on 4,480 ongoing cases.

Receiving 390 new psychological cases and 970 ongoing psychological cases.

Referral 150 cases to hospitals and 75 cases to the rehabilitation house.

In addition, the preparation of "Dar El Farah Convalescence House" was completed in preparation for its official opening in 2026.

Family Counseling Department:

The department continued providing psychosocial and family support through:

Conducting 41 family meetings attended by 931 families.

Providing hundreds of individual counseling sessions.

Continuous follow-up with families through phone calls and WhatsApp messages.

Organizing social and spiritual activities for families and recovering individuals.

Recovery Care Department:

The department focused on supporting and following up with recovering individuals after completing treatment through:

Organizing regular therapeutic support groups for recovering individuals.

Providing individual sessions and continuous phone follow-ups.

Holding monthly liturgies and spiritual and social activities.



The BLESS Education and Life-long learning Cluster of Programs

Learning that Restores Hope and Opens New Horizons

The Education and Lifelong Learning Cluster created pathways of hope through education, inclusion, and empowerment, reaching 14,489 participants across 75 communities and strengthening the learning skills and personal development of adults and the upcoming generation.





Participants
14,489

literacy Certificats
1,183

Continuing of education support
468

The Adult Education program

Through the Adult Education program, hope was renewed for 1,860 adult learners, including 1,669 women, while 5,120 community members gained greater awareness about the importance of education. As a result, 86% of learners passed their exams, 1,183 obtained literacy certificates, and 468 continued their formal education, opening new doors for learning, dignity, and future opportunities.

The Improving the Standard of Education program

The Improving the Standard of Education program brought hope for a brighter future to 5,962 students across 52 villages through academic support and reading and writing improvement courses.

Additionally, 598 children gained ICT and computer skills, opening new opportunities for learning and future success.



The Unleashing the Potential of the New Generation program

The Unleashing the Potential of the New Generation program reached 3,048 children through early childhood services, summer schools, and character-building activities, creating safe spaces for learning, growth, and hope.

The program established 11 play centers across 17 villages, provided healthy nutrition to 912 children, and helped 70% of the targeted children increase their self-confidence and ability to express their ideas.









Story of Hope

Mariam Melad from the Manshiet El Sad El Aly community in Cairo faced years of hardship after a severe birth injury caused a permanent disability and interrupted her education. Economic challenges forced her to work, placing her dreams of learning out of reach.

Through the support and safe learning environment provided by BLESS, Mariam returned to education with determination. She completed her literacy, preparatory, and secondary studies, and today she is in her fourth year at a Higher Institute of Administrative Sciences while working at a school.

Mariam's journey reflects the power of hope and opportunity. Education restored her confidence, strengthened her independence, and empowered her to build a brighter future.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The BLESS Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability Cluster of Programs



Restoring Livelihoods, Building Sustainable Hope

In 2025, BLESS continued to strengthen the economic resilience, rural development and environmental sustainability of marginalized communities across Egypt, reaching nearly 120,000 participants in 116 communities through integrated development interventions.

The Economic Development Program transformed skills into opportunities and pathways toward lasting hope. Through vocational training, entrepreneurship support, job placements, and small business assistance, more than 5,000 participants were integrated into the labor market. As a result, 2,367 women and men secured new or improved sources of income, with average earnings increasing by 57%.





Through the business support service, several small businesses achieved income growth of up to 200%, enabling families to move toward greater financial stability and self-reliance

The Rural Development Program empowered 2,261 farmers, including 202 rural women, to improve agricultural productivity and increase their income by 9%. Through agricultural training, field visits, veterinary support, and eco-friendly composting applications, farmers strengthened both their livelihoods and environmental practices.

The program also supported women's economic participation through entrepreneurship training and grants for poultry production projects and the practical application of sustainable food production methods (Nutritional Food workshop).

Participants
120,000

Empowered Farmers
2,261

Improved income
57%





The Environmental Development Program inspired communities to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and responsible use of natural resources. Through awareness sessions, workshops, field visits, and interactive activities, participants learned practical skills in water and electricity conservation, waste management, and recycling.

The installation of LED lamps and lighting rods in 146 streets improved safety and quality of life for more than 154,000 participants while promoting affordable and sustainable energy use. Recycling initiatives, soap production from used oil, and food recycling classes encouraged communities to reduce waste and protect the environment.

Over 168,000 community members benefited from environmental initiatives such as tree planting and cleaning campaigns, field trips, interactive theatre, festivals, and awareness seminars.









Meet Martina from El Sawamaa - Sohag Governorate

"The learning made me feel that I am capable of creating the change in my home and in the lives of others. It made me realize that I truly have a role in my community."

In El Sawamaa village in Sohag Governorate, rising living costs have placed increasing pressure on many families. Martina Aziz El-Deeb faced the same challenge, lacking the technical knowledge to repair simple electrical items like LED bulbs, which meant additional expenses for her family.

She participated in an LED bulb repair workshop organized by BLESS. Through the simple skills she learned there, her perspective changed rather than throwing away burnt-out bulbs, she now knows how to repair them.

Inspired by the experience, Martina volunteered with the Environmental Development Program and began helping other women learn the same skills through community workshops. What began as a learning opportunity became a story of hope, transforming Martina from a participant into a confident community volunteer who now inspires others.





17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The BLESS Capacity Development Cluster of Programs

Planting hope, resilience and peace

In the hope of creating a community capable of shaping their development independency, the cluster interventions contributed to enhancing the skills of 1,167 youth, volunteers, field workers and community leaders in 107 targeted communities.



The Human Resource Development Program conducted eight capacity development trainings on the four BSDPs programs to 724 of program staff, coordinators, field workers, and volunteers.

The program developed the capacities of 66 of BLESS staff of several departments and units; on accounting, coding and custodial service.

The Community Empowerment and Sustainability Program implemented 13 volunteerism campaigns and attracted 385 volunteers, in order to lead the work in the field along with the fieldworkers.

Nine community initiatives and nine networking with government authorities and development associations were implemented, such as health, environmental, and rural development initiatives, a protocol with the General Authority for Adult Education, and coordination to support livestock vaccination campaigns reaching more than 16,000 animals.

1,169 participants were engaged in 834 specialized committee meetings, 260 developmental committees and 48 developmental outcome meetings, to follow up the developmental work.



Seven leader meetings for 235 participants were implemented to sustain hope for continued community engagement.

The Community Studies and Research Program trained 19 field workers on designing and analyzing monitoring tools to evaluate household needs and inform future development interventions.

The trained field workers conducted needs assessments across nine new villages, reaching 2,553 participants.

The program conducted a Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks (PACDR) in six communities with 276 participants.



Participants
1,169

Volunteers
385

Capacities development
724





A Story of Hope: El Sheikh Suefi Village

When BLESS began working in El Sheikh Suefi Village in 2023, the community faced challenges in education, health, livelihoods, and housing. Many children struggled in school, and many adults had never had the opportunity to learn.







Yet hope began with education. Over three years, more than 750 students received academic support, helping them stay in school and improve their performance. Reading and writing courses helped 150 children overcome learning difficulties, while 54 learners gained digital skills. Adult literacy classes empowered 85 participants, and the upgraded Montessori Play Center increased enrollment from 20 to more than 60 children.





As learning opened new opportunities, transformation spread across the village. Safer homes and improved sanitation reached 478 participants through 94 housing improvement interventions. Fifty-two small enterprises created new livelihood opportunities, while environmental and rural development programs engaged more than 2,000 community members. At the same time, 302 participants strengthened their leadership and volunteer skills through 49 capacity-building activities.





Between 2023 and 2025, BLESS implemented 463 activities, reaching 21,843 direct participants. Today, El Sheikh Suefi stands as a story of hope-where education sparked change, communities grew stronger, and families gained new opportunities to build a brighter future.





The Aghapy Program

Aghapy is one of the departments under BLESS. The program aims to restore hope and dignity for underprivileged families by covering costs related to girls' marriages, costs of medical surgeries, addiction recovery services, treatment of chronic diseases, provision of prosthetics, and care for widows.

Total number of support

2,742

Participants received healthcare support (medical surgeries and hospital expenses)

1,416

Families received monthly support

1,128

Brides supported with marriage costs

105

Assistances were provided to those affected by the events

476

Emergency relief support provided

155

Students received educational expense assistance

576

Received assistance for medical surgeries and hospital expenses

Success story

A 62-year-old retired woman living with her 76-year-old husband faced a life-threatening diagnosis, after she suddenly lost mobility and was found to have cancer lesions in the brain, lungs and liver. After exhausting their resources on initial treatment and being unable to afford immunotherapy, hope was restored through the support of the Aghapy Program, which covered the full cost of treatment.

Following the start of immunotherapy, medical reassessment showed a remarkable response of more than 90% improvement, with restored mobility and significant control of the disease. The patient continues her treatment journey, reflecting a renewed story of hope, healing, and restored dignity.



BLESS Expenses in 2025

Program		Cost (EGP)
	Community Development Activities	**145,048,756**
	Education support programs	**25,766,269**
	Health care support program	**21,256,157**
	Peace makers and youth program	**1,906,167**
	Economic development program	**16,033,760**
	Rural development program	**18,757,279**
	Housing improvement program	**15,585,462**
	Environmental Development program	**11,405,942**
	Capacity development	**5,408,980**
	«Rise Up and Walk» Program for people with disabilities	**2,916,711**
	Addressing Population Growth, Family Planning Issues and Social Norms through Capacitating Coptic Religious Leaders project (in partnership with UNFPA)	**2,297,639**
	Peace. Love. Tolerance (in partnership with UNICEF)	**924,613**
	Combating substance abuse (Best Life Center for Mental Health and Addiction Prevention)	**7,475,622**
	Building community consensus against gender-based violence and Harmful Practices	**12,702,039**
	Engaging Communities in Combating Gender Based Violence	**2,612,116**
	Humanitarian Aid Support	**78,044,479**
	Aghapy Program (Healthcare, education, marriage cost support to the needy)	**48,634,551**
	Support to refugees from Sudan (cash support and health care support)	**28,493,651**
	Humanitarian aid to Gaza during the war	**916,277**
Program planning, monitoring, evaluation and documentation		**2,096,604**
Staff and administrative Cost		**23,373,248**
Total BLESS Expenses in 2025		**248,563,087**

Our Partners 2025 - 2026

































BLESS UK


























الهيئة العامة للخدمات البيطرية
General Organization for Veterinary Services


الهلال الأحمر المصري
EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT


Ain Shams University
معهد الدراسات والبحوث البيئية


التحالف الوطني
لعمل الأهلي التنموي
THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CIVIL DEVELOPMENT WID


حياة كريمة
لكل مصري .. لكل مصرية


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جمهورية مصر العربية
وزارة التضامن الاجتماعي




وزارة الشباب والرياضة
جمهورية مصر العربية


MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
وزارة التربية والتعليم والتعليم الفني


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الهيئة العامة لتعليم الكبار


وزارة الزراعة
مركز البحوث الزراعية
ARC
معهد بحوث البساتين
Horticulture Research Institute



























The National Committee
to Eliminate FGM











BLESS Communities in 2025



"And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

(Romans 15:13)



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