



Community YouthMapping Going to Scale: Progress Report

July 2, 2006

I- Executive Summary

At the heart of community change is decentralization in communities, institutions, and systems. While collecting base line data and transforming information into action the young people are creating a grassroots approach that builds a sound infrastructure for decentralizing community planning and development. Community YouthMapping is a method of participation in local government processes directed to youngsters from 15 to 19 years old. Youth involvement promotes a “big picture” approach to planning, research, advocacy and policy development. For the past year, Community YouthMapping program has been engaging technical school students and their communities beyond ERP participating Idarras in six governorates as part of its scale-up strategy upon the request of many communities recognizing the need to increase opportunities for more young people to be involved in CYM. .

Since September 2005, Community YouthMapping (CYM) has been established and implemented in six Governorates across Egypt, to effectively and efficiently prepare economically disadvantaged youth and adults for either entry into unsubsidized employment or attainment of basic education and/or occupational skills leading to employment. Technical School students have successfully utilized CYM as a tool for training and development, exposure to a variety of professions, and a means for using creativity to provide meaningful contributions to community development.

Through active youth participation in the CYM process, technical school students have also been able to; gain stronger connections to their own communities; acquire various transferable skills like critical thinking and data management, working with groups, communicating, decision-making and leadership; changing perceptions of young people (specifically technical school students) by demonstrating higher level learning and professional protocol, and joining an exclusive group of young people that are contributing to the development of their communities.

Community YouthMapping Egypt has been tailored to engage the community to advocate for their active participation in the reform process. It is a dynamic community based partnership that empowers youth to use mapping and decision making tools to enhance the understanding of local places and real issues and to affect positive change. Linking youth and communities has addressed local needs, built enduring connections to place and promoted youths understanding of development.

The CYM strategy has been structured to provide a solid foundation for a system’s approach to education reform. Education reform in Egypt needs to be addressed on many levels. Decentralizing governance is an integral part of this long term process. CYM focuses on this by providing community ownership of baseline data, through its youth, and mechanisms to develop transferable skills in youth who have traditionally been marginalized.

The need for scaling up has been expressed by young people, school administrations, parents, community leaders and government officials. This progress report outlines phases for scale-up across Egypt for ERP Year 2 of operations.

II- Introduction

Preliminary findings external and internal feedback reports, from governorate specialists, youthmappers and their supervisors, demonstrated that growth occurred at the individual level and at the broader level of the field.

Sustainable economies especially in developing nations like Egypt require well-qualified youth workers to begin to assume leadership roles within their communities around the country. The benefit of the CYM training and support implemented for partnerships, from local NGOs, technical schools teachers, social workers, local BOTs and local MoE; targets skills in the areas of management, organization, youth development and evaluation. This has resulted in the potential to unleash energy and creativity of local decision makers who will, in future, possess a positive, resourceful approach to young people.

Another benefit that Community YouthMapping presents in Egypt is that it has also provided some assurance that there will be adults in the future who, beyond liking youth, are also knowledgeable and possess the skills needed to serve them effectively. Community YouthMapping has created networks to share and promote effective practice and to broaden relationships with others in communities to influence youth policies and resource allocation.

At the individual level, CYM training programs has exposed individuals to the current range of knowledge and expertise in policy and practice regarding youth development. It has also enabled individuals to establish relationships with national and local youth development policymakers and practitioners, program operators, and research organizations.

At the organizational level, especially non-governmental organizations, CYM partners used the opportunity to research and document best practices and, when feasible, implement it through their organization. This in turn has created an impact through sharing of new information with their colleagues. At the heart of community change is decentralization in communities, institutions, and systems. While collecting base line data and transforming information into action the young people are creating a grassroots approach that builds a sound infrastructure for decentralizing community planning and development.

At the level of the youth development field, cadres of people connected as a network and committed to improving practice in the field have been created through enhancement of the skills of youth-serving professionals.

III- Scale-Up Progress

In the past year, reports from existing youthmappers and supervisors; central and local CYM monitoring by CYM Governorate Specialists; and local stakeholders; have provided valuable insight on Community YouthMapping. Internal and external feedback was documented in local reports.

Through Community YouthMapping, youth are creating a grassroots approach that builds a sound infrastructure for decentralizing community planning and development; advocating their active participation in the reform process. In turn, this has led to a creative approach towards positive change. CYM has become a method of participation that promotes an overall approach to planning, research, advocacy and policy development. CYM is a new approach towards decentralization in governance and management for local governments who wish to strengthen citizen participation in governance at all-levels. CYM team summarized progress reports and feedback into national and local accomplishments:

A- National Accomplishments

1. Endorsement of government bodies: Realizing the importance of CYM on technical school students and in creating a comprehensive database that will benefit governorates, government bodies and decision makers have become increasingly interested towards ensuring that the process continues throughout their governorates.
2. Incentives to participate: strong links between local communities and youth have led community leaders to endorse and support the efforts that have been made by youthmappers; recognizing the skills that young people have gained through the process, many have contributed through educational scholarships in fields such as computer maintenance and skills, international student exchange and internships.
3. Skill Building: Over 1200 technical school students have been trained on interviewing skills, professionalism, how to conduct comprehensive surveys, data collection, data analysis, database creation, reporting, and team-work, how to conduct focus groups, computer and internet skills, public speaking, how to deal with crisis situations and communication skills. Youth have realized that the skills gained through CYM have triggered willingness in becoming more involved with issues within their surrounding environment through a positive manner.
4. Comprehensive database: ERP Idarras in six governorates have complete and comprehensive database with regards to the existing resources that are available in communities. Stakeholders through the CYM quarters have full access of this database, as it is web based, and its analysis.
5. Taskforce: Using a participatory approach, staff members working with CYM in coordination with local MoE offices have been able to carefully choose their supervisors and youthmappers from technical schools across governorates that are willing to learn new skills while building on the concept of volunteerism.

6. Process enhancing youth ability: CYM process has enhanced youth ability in community participation and triggered an innovative approach to hands-on education.
7. Funding from local businesses: Local businesses aware of their commitment towards their communities have provided funding to the production of CYM uniforms for their local youth, free facilities for training and transportation for governorate field activities.
8. Employability: Skills acquired during CYM and the high visibility of youthmappers within their communities has led MoE, NGOs and internationally funded programs to employ technical school youth and their supervisors as credible field researchers and event organizers.
9. Local Trainers: CYM Egypt is now equipped with its own set of local trainers, members of local NGOs and technical school BOTs, to conduct the scale-up training for field activities as well as IS training.
10. Replication: CYM Egypt has become a successful and replicable program in the Middle East. In Jordan, the School-to-Career program select CYM Egypt's trainers to conduct YouthMapping training.



B- Governorate Accomplishments to date (June 2006)

1. Beni Sweif:

- a. **Scale-up** 581 technical school youth and 46 supervisors have been trained on CYM skills in five educational Idarras: Ahnasia, Somosta, Fashn, Beba and Beni Sweif.
- b. **Phase 2 of data collection methods:** Focus Group Discussions for CYM in Ahnasia: 66 technical school youth participated in focus group discussions as facilitators, documenters, and session recorders). 753 participants participated in focus groups from six different sectors of the community- NGOs, parents, farmers, local businesses, students, and teachers.
- c. **647 Youthmappers and 62 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**
- d. Arab Academy for Science and Technology in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
- e. ICT scholarship provided to 40 youthmappers per month, in coordination with the local Community Development Association.

2. Menia:

- a. **Scale-up:** 508 technical school youth and 58 supervisors have been trained on CYM skills in five educational Idarras: Menia, Malawy, Beni Mazar, Samalout, and Abou Korkas.
- b. **Phase 2 of data collection methods:** Focus Group Discussions for CYM in Abou Korkas: 62 technical school youth participated in focus group discussions as facilitators, documenters, and session recorders). 1410 participants participated in focus groups from six different sectors of the community- NGOs, parents, farmers, local businesses, students, and teachers.
- c. **570 Youthmappers and 65 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**
- d. Arab Academy for Science and Technology in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
- e. Education Reform Idarra endorses and promotes CYM throughout the governorate.
- f. CYM management of high scale event, i.e. Minister's visit to Menia.
- g. Local businesses endorsing CYM by participating in the production of uniforms and providing job opportunities.
- h. Local and international NGOs providing scholarships to CYM technical school youth; i.e. Chamber of Commerce, SAFAR- Jordan.
- i. European International Institute partners with CYM by providing principal youthmappers with a two-year scholarship at their institute upon graduation from technical school.

3. Qena:

- a. **77 Youthmappers and 7 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**

- b. Arab Academy for Science and Technology in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
 - c. NGOs actively participating in scale-up in Qena by having its members participate on volunteer basis as field supervisors.
4. Aswan:
- a. **36 Youthmappers and 4 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**
 - b. Youthmappers begin phase 2 of data collection: Focus groups.
 - c. Arab Academy for Science and Technology in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
5. Fayoum:
- a. Phase 1- Place-Based surveys conducted in Fayoum Idarra.
 - b. **43 Youthmappers and 5 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**
 - c. Arab Academy for Technology and Science in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
 - d. Parents endorse CYM through networking in other Idarras and provide internships for youth.
6. Cairo:
- a. Phase 1- Place-Based surveys conducted in El Marg Idarra.
 - b. **47 Youthmappers and 7 supervisors participate in CYM on complete volunteer basis.**
 - c. Arab Academy for Technology and Science in corporation with the Ministry of Communications provides youthmappers with 20 scholarships and internships on IT and maintenance.
 - d. CYM management of high scale event, i.e. Corner Stone event.
 - e. NGOs endorse CYM through networking in other Idarras.
 - f. Initiation of collaboration between E1 New Vision and New Horizon and CYM. Youthmappers will be trained on these programs, where the most skilled will be selected to become facilitators for other youth participating.



IV- Recommendations

In summary, Community YouthMapping has been able to achieve the following results:

- ☒ Connecting people;
- ☒ Staff training and developing a sustainable program that contributes to youth workers' skills;
- ☒ A shared commitment at both the local and national levels to increase work opportunities and improve outcomes for young people – especially disadvantaged young people – and their families.

In our scale up efforts, there still remain critical issues that are integral to the success and sustainability of CYM across Egypt. Below are the main critical issues that will be address during the remainder of ERP's program duration (2007- 2009), which are core to CYM scale up.

Critical Issues	Strategy	Objectives
National Trainers Network	Training of Trainers	Increase local trainers' capacity to reach scale up target.
	Information Sharing	Provide strategies and identify effective techniques for training
	Cross Site Meeting	Share findings and review training techniques.
Local Data Collaborative (LDC)	Creation of local data collaborative	Bring public-private sector partners to connect with CYM.
	NGO Development	Sustainable local structure.
	Local Data Collaborative	Development of data management.
School Extra Curricula Activities	Development of informal education track	Link CYM skills to basic education.
Government Support	Endorsement of government bodies	Create a dialogue with political leaders; and national and local stakeholders.
Private Sector Partnership	Strategic presentations with private sector partners	Identify the 'gives and gets' for corporate sector.
Funding Diversification	Advocating for youth and staffing incentives	Identify and present multiple CYM applications.
Program Links	Governorate reform Idarras	Decentralization through youth empowerment.
	Creative Science Education Initiative (CSEI)	Youth participation in sustainable development
Assessment & Evaluation	Develop a work-based learning plan in the Egyptian context	Identify standards to effectively measure performance and development of local CYM teams
	Conducting CYM impact evaluation	Identify and document the impact of CYM in individuals, communities and systems