



Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

VISION

ADEW believes that the status of Female Heads of Households (FHHs), a traditionally neglected and disempowered segment of Egyptian society, can only be enhanced through women's social, legal and economic empowerment. By providing women with economic opportunities and working as mediators between women and various governmental and private agencies, ADEW delivers women's voice to the national consciousness.

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to all of our supporters and friends across Egypt and the world. It is time to look back at 2004 - ADEW's eighteenth year of existence.

I am delighted to report that it has been a year of tremendous growth and improvement, with new programs across Cairo in addition to the governorates of Gharbia and Qalyubia. These initiatives have allowed us to extend the opportunities of empowerment and financial and social improvement to even greater numbers of the most marginalized women in our society.

ADEW, Egypt's leading feminist organization, has provided services to the most marginalized communities of women for almost twenty years. Before the struggles of Female Heads of Households (FHH) were recognized in academic and development circles, ADEW worked with these women to provide them with the services needed to enable their agency and autonomy. Recently gender mainstreaming has gained popularity within the development industry. However, ADEW steadfastly believes that women must remain the principle targets for development aid. Without this special focus, there is a tendency to ignore the specificities of women's condition and the different responsibilities she is required to undertake as part of her role in society. ADEW recognizes that women face multiple and complex structural inequalities. Therefore, women remain our primary target.

ADEW is proud of the steps we have taken in the past year towards making our programs more holistic. Over the course of the year we significantly expanded our target population, adapting our field programs to the needs of men, youth and family members. We believe that change can only occur one household at a time. For this reason, ADEW responds not only to the needs of women but also to the communities in which they live.

Last year was undoubtedly a significant one for ADEW. By expanding our vision, we embraced the opportunity to increase our impact in the field. In February, we were thrilled to announce a 9.6 million EGP grant made to ADEW by the Italian Debt-for-Development Swap. This grant funded the creation of ADEW's expansion project, which will be sustained over a period of three years. So far this expansion initiative has not only allowed us to increase the scope of our projects already established in the communities of Manshiet Nasser and Masr El Qadima, but it has also provided for the establishment of programs in areas which were previously unreachable as a result of financial constraints. Our new initiatives are currently being developed and implemented in Agouza, Esbet and Arab Elwada, as well as the Gharbia and Qalyubia Governorates on the outskirts of Cairo. Our short-term objective is to extend immediate support to women in need. In the long-term, however, our goal is to extend our support to women in a total twenty-six governorates in Egypt.

We look forward to expanding our mission at ADEW and reaching many new groups as we begin our work with society as a whole. The coming year is filled with hope and expectation. We send our sincerest thanks to all of our beneficiaries, supporters, staff and

friends. Without their unflagging support and generosity, the fulfilled dreams of 2004 would have been impossible.

**Dr. Iman Bibars,
ADEW Chairperson.**

MISSION

ADEW's mission is to strengthen and empower impoverished Female Heads of Households economically, legally and socially, providing them with the resources necessary to attain social and economic security for both themselves and their families. ADEW works on two levels to achieve its mission: On a grassroots level, ADEW provides women with micro-credit, legal aid, literacy classes, health seminars, empowerment workshops and a special program, Girls' Dreams, for the daughters of its primary beneficiaries. On the national level, ADEW works to raise awareness and promote change through its strategic use of media and the dissemination of flyers, periodicals, posters, and documentaries, as well as its effective use of advocacy, conferences, training seminars and workshops. ADEW strives to elevate the status of women in Egyptian society by providing them with the means to help themselves, and by creating a dialogue between these 'forgotten' members of society and their political, economic and social leaders to promote change.

STRATEGY:

ADEW's empowers FHHs by working in parallel on both the grassroots and advocacy levels: In order to effect the greatest change, ADEW provides basic services and program activities to women locally while simultaneously advocating change in public policy and wider public opinion.

1) On the grassroots level: ADEW's field programs developed through a micro-credit initiative, launched in the 1980s, which sought to provide FHHs with loans for small business development. However, when other crucial needs for financial and social stability became apparent, ADEW branched into new fields of assistance, including legal aid, literacy, and women's social empowerment. ADEW's programs were thus not imposed as the result of an internal organizational agenda, but were developed naturally to meet the unique needs of marginalized women in Egypt.

2) On the advocacy level: ADEW plays a critical advocacy role, influencing public policy as well as wider public opinion. Our advocacy strategy emerged out of our experience in the field, our knowledge of the socio-political condition in Egypt and our determination to speak on behalf of the marginalized women with whom we have worked for over 18 years. ADEW believes that as important as direct poverty alleviation and empowerment services are, they are insufficient interventions to create sustainable improvement in the lives of women on a national level in the long-term. Alongside the provision of direct services, ADEW plays a crucial role in influencing the broader socio-political environment in which women's needs and their rights are compromised. ADEW has identified three inter-related issues, which must be taken into consideration when developing an appropriate and effective advocacy strategy in Egypt. These are: the nature of the discourse, multi-level gender bias and the sensitivity of the approach.

ABOUT ADEW

ADEW, a non-governmental organization (NGO), as well as a non-partisan and non-denominational group, works directly with Female Heads of Households in the poorest areas of the greater Cairo area, as well as nationally and regionally to promote the status of women.

ADEW was first registered as a private non-voluntary association with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Affairs in 1987 under registration number 3528. ADEW was re-registered in

2002 under the same number in compliance with the requirements of the new NGO law 48/2002.

Building Partnerships

A consistent leader and innovator in the Egyptian development field for over seventeen years, ADEW was one of the first NGOs to work in the Manshiet Nasser area, a region known for its high levels of poverty and its low standard of living. Since this time, ADEW has established a strong relationship with many NGOs and small Community Development Organizations (CDAs), not only in the Manshiet Nasser area, but also throughout the city and country. As the largest feminist NGO in Egypt, ADEW is committed to working with other organizations not only to strengthen its own work and campaigns, but also to provide these organizations with the tools necessary to carry out their work and build their organizational capacity.

ADEW works on an as-needed basis providing training to other NGOs and CDAs. Additionally, ADEW communicates regularly with other CDAs in order to promote services and opportunities for its beneficiaries. ADEW's Media Watch and Legal Watch programs were both developed as a result of strategic networks with other organizations. ADEW believes that the best way to serve women is by strengthening all potential services available to them.

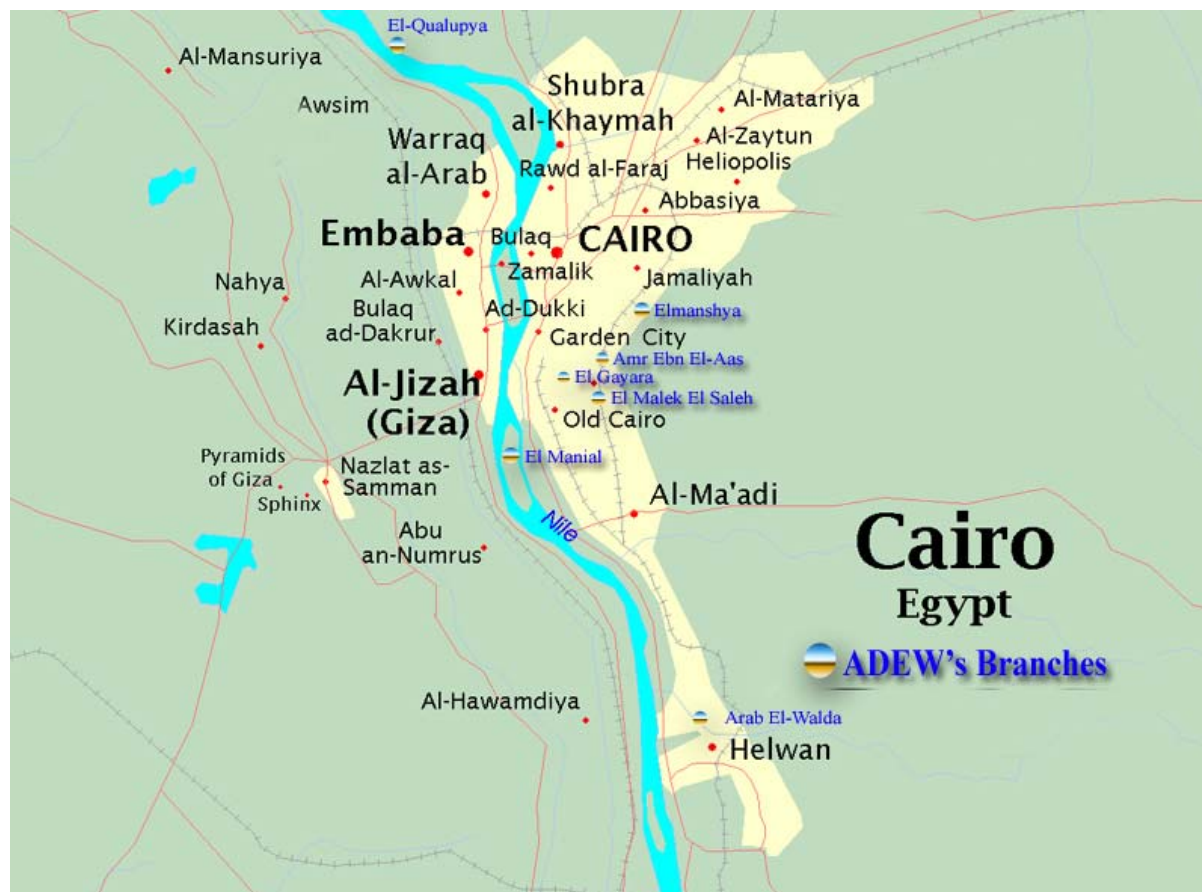
Furthermore, ADEW works on a close basis with ministry officials, government offices, and community service providers (teachers, doctors, lawyers, law enforcement) to build partnerships and increase awareness of ADEW's activities.

PROGRAM AREAS

As of 2004, ADEW now operates six program areas in four geographic locations:

	Micro-Credit	Legal Assistance	Literacy	Girls' Dreams	Health Program	Arab Women Speak Out
Manshiet Nasser	√	√	√	√		√
Masr El Qadima	√	√	√	√	√	√
Qalyubia Governorate	√	√	√	√		
Gharbia	√	√	√	√		
Agouza				√		√
Esbet & Arab El Walda		√		√		√

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ADEW BRANCHES



OBJECTIVE: GRASSROOTS TRANSFORMATION

EXPANSION PROJECT.

For ADEW, 2004 was a year of rapid growth. Thanks to a nine million pound grant from the Italian Debt-for-Development Swap obtained on December 17, 2003, the scale of ADEW's services more than doubled last year. ADEW witnessed the expansion of its existing services in Manshiet Nasser with new courses offered in the literacy and Girls Dreams programs. This growth was matched in the credit and legal programs as well.

In January, a new central office was established in Masr el Qadima to administer the funds in our new areas of operation. The Qalyubia and Gharbia governorates, regions which had demonstrated a striking need for assistance as well as a strong potential for change, were selected as the sites for our new expansion program.

Qalyubia Goverate

El Qanater El Khayreya Qalyubia was identified on the basis of contacts ADEW had previously made with FHHs in the area. The Governor of Qalyubia was not only receptive to ADEW's presence in the area but indeed positively welcomed ADEW and its services. Thus, great need and a willingness to change made Qalyubia a natural starting place for our expansion project.

El Qanater El Khayreya, Qalyubia, lies on the urban outskirts of the greater Cairo area. Large economic, social and environmental disparities exist within the governorate, especially between Markaz and the villages. Eighty-five percent of girls are enrolled in basic education in the town of El Qanater El Khayreya. However, only thirty percent of girls obtain basic education in the surrounding villages. Fifteen percent of the women in El Qanater are illiterate, while in the rural areas that number rises to seventy percent. Women consist

of only fifteen percent of the formal labor market for the governorate and in El Qanater El Khayreya they compose only ten percent of the total workforce.

***Qalyubia
Governorate***

- 70% women illiterate
- 30% girls obtain basic education
- Only 15% of the formal labor market is

ADEW works in the poorest areas in and around El Qanater El Khayreya, where few community development associations (CDAs) currently exist. Most female entrepreneurs are restricted to petty vending. The income of more than half of these women is less than 150 LE per month. Over one-quarter of the Female Heads of Households in this region lack any form of regular income and are forced to depend on state assistance or handouts from mosques.

The women in this region face constant challenges in their daily lives: Both traditional customs and economic inequality contribute to their high illiteracy rates and low participation in the workforce. Many families fail to value their daughter's education, contributing to high dropout levels and encouraging early marriage. These customs also affect women's rights in general. Despite Egyptian law, village women are denied the right to inheritance and are at risk of being deserted by the heads of these traditional family structures. In addition, poor sanitary conditions, improper sewage disposal and environmental pollution lead to health risks.

Gharbia Governorate

El Gharbia, a large governorate roughly 1943.27 km in size with a population of 3,520,572, consists of eight provinces: Tanta, El Mahala El Kobra, Kafr el Zayat, Zefta, El Santa, Kattour, Bassyoun, and Samanoud. ADEW selected the El Agezi area, a squatter settlement in Tanta City and the capital of the El Gharbia governorate, as the site for its two new offices in the region.

The total population of Tanta City is four million, of which forty nine percent are women. The El Agezi District is just one of three main squatter areas in Tanta. Only twenty one percent of the formal labor force is composed of women, and yet ADEW discovered during its field research that FHHs in Tanta City represent fifty eight percent of the total female working population in Gharbia. Of these women, eighty percent proved to be illiterate. Moreover, the income of FHHs in this district ranges between 50 LE and 150 LE. While the dominant Tanta workforce is concentrated in agriculture or petty vending, FHHs mainly work in sewing, embroidery, delalahs, packing and wrapping. While ninety four percent of the girls are enrolled in preparatory school and eighty four percent are enrolled in secondary school, only twenty four percent of the girls are enrolled in higher education. This strong preference for male education is common to districts and cities such as Tanta.

ADEW's preliminary field research has shown that a high number of FHHs lack the economic means to survive, as well as the legal documentation necessary to apply for support and services. Despite the high number of target beneficiaries, the low number of NGOs actively working in the area makes ADEW's work especially crucial.

Challenges and Achievements

Women in Qalyubia and Gharbia were highly skeptical of ADEW and its activities in the beginning, and this presented a considerable obstacle as field workers attempted to establish roots in these new communities. Nevertheless, ADEW staff persevered, devoting over a month to building networks with women and community groups.

By May new field offices were opened in the governorates, and over time ADEW was able to establish program activities area by area. Given the resistance that ADEW faced, this was a huge achievement. Qalyubia and Gharbia now operate four programs each, including: micro-credit, legal assistance, literacy and girls' dreams programs. ADEW also recently spearheaded its groundbreaking domestic violence shelter program in this area. As a result of much hard work, ADEW's credibility is increasing daily in these communities, and the demand for ADEW programs continues to grow. Much headway has already been made in the new areas: in Qalyubia, 330 loans have been distributed at a total value of 269 000 EGP with a 100 percent repayment rate; 1 570 ID cards have been distributed. Similarly, in Gharbia, 260 loans have been distributed at a value of 352 000 EGP; 1 950 ID cards have been obtained, and 126 women now participate in literacy classes.

SHELTER PROGRAM

ADEW's shelter program at Beit Hawa, or The House of Eve, offers a new approach to assisting and empowering women who seek a refuge for themselves and their children from violence in their homes. Through its fieldwork for this program, as well as its work in the genesis of the shelter itself, ADEW has become a pioneer in addressing domestic violence in Egypt. Recent studies have indicated that there is a striking shortage of services available to victims of domestic violence. In fact, while writing her dissertation, Dr. Iman Bibars, ADEW Chairperson, discovered that ninety six percent of ADEW's target population had endured some form of physical or sexual domestic abuse. In response, ADEW developed the Beit Hawa Project in 2003, a program that provides a comprehensive alternative for abused women and children in Egypt.

The shelter program targets both FHHs as well as other marginalized women throughout the greater Cairo area. The House of Eve will be based on communal living arrangements, with the capacity to accommodate twenty families. Trained ADEW staff and professional counsellors will be available twenty-four hours a day to facilitate living arrangements, and to provide women with both individual and group support. Women will have access to all of ADEW's services, including the flagship micro-credit program, which will help them to rebuild their lives and gain a measure of independence. ADEW will also provide further services such as play therapy and trauma counselling directly to children who have either experienced or witnessed violence.

Challenges and Achievements

For ADEW's newest and most innovative project, 2004 was an important year. ADEW has successfully secured the necessary resources to establish the shelter. The shelter's physical needs and systems of financial support were achieved through intensive fundraising, and grants from the NGO V-day as well as the Japanese Embassy were secured to refurbish the shelter building. ADEW also received donations from its new networks with individuals throughout the Cairo community and abroad, including schools, community groups, charities and individual supporters overseas. These new supporters helped ADEW complete both hard and soft furnishings in the shelter.

ADEW has taken many security precautions to ensure the safety of women seeking shelter at Beit Hawa. This effort was bolstered by the installation of safety mechanisms, including window protection, balcony railings and an intercom system. Arma Sheild additionally donated a shatter-resistant film to be used on all of the windows.

At the end of 2004 a grant was obtained from EED (Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst) for core shelter funding, permitting ADEW to begin hiring staff. Indeed, 2004 has left the shelter in the final stages of preparation. With the establishment of policies and procedures, training and hiring staff has been scheduled for early 2005.

The year has not been without its challenges. Although widespread, the notion of domestic violence is not widely recognized in Egyptian society. ADEW continues to struggle not only with educating the public about women's basic needs, but also debunking the myth that "women's rights" is a concept imported from the west. New partnerships with other NGO's devoted to ending violence against women have helped ADEW increase its impact in altering society's perception of domestic abuse.

MICRO-CREDIT PROGRAM

Founded in 1987, ADEW's micro-credit is the organization's oldest program. During the initial trials of the micro-credit program, it became evident that FHHs were faced with other pressing needs in addition to their economic problems. ADEW's programs initiated since that time have always been in response to these expressed needs.

The micro-credit program is intended to alleviate poverty by giving women a means of financial independence. Women are often deprived of the ability to borrow, save and invest in productive activities because they lack access to the formal banking system as well as larger credit programs. These systems also require collateral and legal documents such as ID cards, which most women do not possess. By providing them with the needed credit, these women are able to become involved in income generating activities, which in turn allow them to develop economic self-reliance. Through this process ADEW's micro-credit program works to create a self-sustaining and reliable financial service to the most marginalized women in Cairo.

Credit Model:

Key Features of Loans:

- Voluntary savings within a five-person group, based on the Egyptian Gameeya system.
- Rapid loan approval and renewal with a twenty day maximum between the first loan application and loan disbursement.
- Average loan size of 300 to 1200 LE with some flexibility in the size of loans to meet different needs.
- A six or twelve month repayment schedule with fortnightly installment repayments.
- A twenty percent administrative fee to cover ADEW operating costs.

Loan Screening Criteria:

- The woman must be a Female Head of Household with a monthly household income of less than 150 LE for a family of four or more individuals.
- The woman must either have an existing business or a concrete idea for a new income-generating project.
- The woman must live in the project area and join a five person beneficiary group.
- The woman must repay her loan installments on time in order to qualify for another loan.

ADEW offers a system of group lending based on a model of informal savings associations called "Gameeyas" which traditionally operate on every level of Egyptian society. The ADEW loans are dispersed to self-selected groups of five women with individual and legally binding trust receipts, and a group contract which group members sign to co-guarantee each other's loans. Family members cannot join the same group. Failure by one member to repay a loan results in the denial of future credit to all members. Strong social pressure to repay individual loans is thus exerted on each member. Additionally, an obligatory financial training is provided to these women, in which skills are combined with opportunity in order to create more financially aware women with the resources to operate their new businesses.

ADEW uses specific criteria to determine an applicant's needs. The criteria ensure that the program reaches the most marginalized women in the communities where ADEW operates its field programs.

ADEW grants women loans without a guarantor, as experience has proven that women can and do guarantee each other independently when they are placed within a solidarity group. Our ninety eight percent repayment rate is clear proof that this model works. At the same time, the group-lending model offers incredible side benefits: It enhances a sense of community

among Female Heads of Households, and provides these women with support mechanisms, which break down their sense of isolation from mainstream society.

Furthermore, women draw on these solidarity groups to resolve personal problems and to share business knowledge and skills. Additionally, when women become microcredit program recipients, they become integrated into a service network where they can learn and benefit from all of ADEW's programs.

Micro-Credit Achievements

	Loans Distributed	Beneficiaries	Groups of Women	Value of Credit	Repayment Rate
Manshiet Nasser	1024	1024	207	650 800	100%
Masr El Qadima	1907	1907	381	1 080 700	100%
Qalyubia Governorate	330	330	66	269 000	100%
Gharbia Governorate	260	260	72	35 230	100%
TOTAL					

LEGAL AID

ADEW's legal services garnered increasing attention last year. As a result of increasingly high demand, legal services were extended to other governorates and to the new offices in Qalyubia and Gharbia as part of ADEW's effort to meet these expressed needs. There are three components to ADEW's Legal Aid Program:

- 1) ADEW ensures that women obtain ID cards and other legal documents, covering all costs of the process.
- 2) ADEW helps sponsor women in court cases, raising an average of fifty cases per year on behalf of women in regards to the personal status law.
- 3) ADEW conducts meetings with participants twice a week to raise awareness about women's legal rights.

Legal Documents

ADEW has discovered that more than seventy percent of FHHs in Egypt have no legal documents whatsoever. This lack of identity cards, birth certificates and marriage certificates has exacerbated women's marginalization, as without legal papers women cannot enrol their children in school, obtain social security benefits, secure formal employment, file a court case or obtain a voting card. As a result of traditional views, which discourage female work outside of the household, few parents obtain identification for their daughters. Unfortunately, without these papers women remain without legal rights, and current procedures for obtaining legal documentation are lengthy and expensive. These obstacles discourage many women, most of whom are illiterate and lack self-confidence, from obtaining their legal documents.

In order to issue ID cards, ADEW purchases the forms on women's behalf, helps them to complete the forms, and obtains the necessary signatures and paperwork.

Legal Awareness and Court Cases.

Two awareness seminars are held every month in each governorate, with an average of twenty women per seminar. The seminars are in close proximity to the women's homes in order to ensure their presence, and address issues raised by the women themselves. These issues include obtaining legal papers, the personal status law, how to file a court case and more. ADEW also staffs two lawyers in each field office to assist women in filing their court cases.

Legal Program Achievements

	Birth Certificates	ID Cards
Manshiet Nasser	1 688	4 759
Masr El Qadima	1 605	4 484
Qalyubia Governorate	464	1 570
Gharbia Governorate	801	1 950
TOTAL		

Om Islam

The story of Om Islam represents one of the common scenarios faced by women who lack adequate knowledge of their rights. After years of abuse from her husband, Om Islam traveled to Cairo from her rural village with her five young children with the hope of beginning a decent life away from the abuse of her husband and his family. She was able to come to Cairo, find residence, and find a good job. She was able to provide a good upbringing for her children for 5 years. Her husband tracked her down and demanded that he stay with them. For the next 2 years he took the majority of her paycheck and continued the abuse and violence of before. After years of hard work, Om Islam once again found herself trapped and helpless. Her husband told her that she could never divorce him and that he had the right to take control of all her money. Not knowing where to turn, she sought the help of a neighbor she knew had recently attended a session on women's legal rights. With her neighbor's help Om Islam realized that her husband had been telling her lies. She visited an ADEW field office and ADEW staff are currently helping her file for divorce and alimony. She has vowed to help other women like herself gain the knowledge and power they deserve.

GIRLS DREAMS PROGRAM

ADEW's Girls' Dreams Program helps young girls to dream beyond the narrow confines of their social environment. ADEW provides girls aged eleven to twenty with an interactive environment in which they can build self-confidence, nurture self-esteem, and develop life skills. Few of the Program's participants attend school and have few dreams for their future. Often they lack opportunities for interaction with their peers, and suffer from low self esteem.

Teaching Methods

Girls' Dreams draws on a variety of teaching methods in order to create program accessibility and to advance the goals of its curriculum:

- Popular television programs are used to generate topical discussion on issues related to gender roles as well as the status of women and girls in society.
- Books, magazines and personal staff anecdotes complement girls' general interests and are used to cultivate an informal approach to literacy. The aim is to instill a desire for education among the girls and to encourage them to continue their education.

- Arts and crafts are taught in classes, not only to encourage skills development, but also to promote a positive self-image. Arts and crafts offer a unique form of self-expression and self-satisfaction, which these girls generally lack.
- Sports activities help girls to develop healthy bodies as well as a sense of physical well-being and self-confidence.
- The open forum offered and encouraged during classes enables girls to speak about the problems that they cannot otherwise discuss. Through this group approach girls often discover that their problems are not unique. Professional psychosocial counselling is available on an individual basis if needed.

Challenges and Achievements

In 2004 several exciting initiatives were realized within the Girls Dreams Program. In cooperation with the BBC, ADEW's Girls' Dreams participants had the opportunity to attend a three-day self-expression training session. The girls created audio-visual materials documenting stories about their lives and future aspirations. This helped improve the girls' communication skills and increased their sense of confidence and self-image.

Last year witnessed several improvements within the Program: As part of a re-evaluation in 2004, ADEW contracted an external evaluator. As a result, ADEW hired an experienced program supervisor; retrained its program facilitators; and introduced new methodologies to the program. The new program is based on a one-year graduated curriculum, encompassing three modules. The first module encourages the improvement of personal skills, including communication, self-esteem and confidence building. The second focuses on developing practical skills such as sports, crafts and literacy. Finally, the remaining module is dedicated to employment apprenticeships for older girls and further development of literacy skills for younger girls. Classes are held four times a week, led by two facilitators each.

The new changes have increased the effectiveness of the Girls Dreams program. However, girls still face considerable challenges when attempting to apply their new skills as few opportunities exist. For this reason, ADEW would like to initiate a vocational training program for Girls' Dreams graduates, but requires new funding in order to do so.

Hend's Story- Manshiet Nasser

Hend first heard of ADEW's Girls' Dreams

Program from her neighbor, who her of a class where she learned crafts and made new friends. She also had a wonderful teacher who she admired very much. Soon Hend joined the classes herself. At the age of ten, Hend's father expected her to marry in two short years, but the Girls' Dreams classes helped Hend envision a different future, particularly after learning of the health risks associated with early marriage. After developing new friendships and talking about her dreams, Hend gained the courage to tell her father that she did not want to marry so soon. Using the skills she learned from her teacher, Hend negotiated with her father and convinced him to delay her marriage for another five years. Now Hend has returned to school and hopes to continue her education.



Girls Dreams Achievements

	Classes	Participants
Manshiet Nasser	9	180
Masr El Qadima		
Qalyubia Governorate		
Gharbia Governorate	5	111
TOTAL		

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

ADEW's literacy program provides adult women with the opportunity to enjoy their right to basic education and allows them to develop critical learning skills. Over fifty percent of women in Egypt are illiterate, and this number rises sharply in economically disadvantaged communities. ADEW is working hard to transform the status quo. These literacy classes follow a government-recognized program for teaching adults, thus when a woman completes the two-part literacy program, she obtains a qualification recognized by employers. At the end of the first stage, ADEW sets its own internal exam to prepare women and assess their progress.

ADEW took great steps towards increasing women's literacy in 2004:

- The literacy program was expanded in Manshiet Nasser as the number of courses increased threefold.
- The program was also extended in the new field offices, with four classes established in Qalyubia and Gharbia.
- Literacy field instructors improved their listening skills at a one-day training. They were also provided with social and domestic violence awareness training.
- ADEW hosted a party for the graduating classes of its literacy program and awarded prizes to the women. The event was held at the Egyptian Cairo Club.

Literacy Achievements

	Classes	Participants	Graduates from level one	Graduates from level two
Manshiet Nasser				
Masr El Qadima	10	175		
Qalyubia Governorate				
Gharbia Governorate	8	126	N/A	N/A
TOTAL				

Awatef's Story

When Manshiet Nasser resident Awatef was ten, her mother, who was the bread-winner of the family, fell ill. Awatef dropped out of the fourth grade and took a job working in a ceramic factory, earning LE 4 for a 12-hour day. She continued to work to support her family, eventually marrying at the young age of 16 and starting a family of her own. She never returned to school and was only able to read at a second grade level. "My mom felt like education was something that can be put off and that was never important for a girl anyway and besides it was much better to learn a skill that would make money," Awatef says. "But

taking care of your siblings is needed right away. I was illiterate but not by choice." Awatef struggled for years to find jobs that did not require reading skills. She says being illiterate is "like walking around with a constant fear, praying that no one will ask you to read something." When her boss at the ceramic factory called her "an illiterate," she didn't know what the word meant and thought it was an insult. He told her that she would never amount to anything and she would continue to be under his control. That day, she decided to change. She joined ADEW's literacy classes where she was so determined—and so successful—that other women also working to overcome illiteracy were motivated to continue with their studies.

HEALTH PROGRAM

ADEW's health program is a two-tiered service, which simultaneously links women to state clinics while also providing them with grassroots assistance, including health awareness training sessions. ADEW provides discussion forums, and information sessions specifically on the topics of nutrition and reproductive health. Specialized information is also provided regarding menstruation, pregnancy, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), birth control, childcare, child development, vaccinations and nutrition for children.

ADEW's health program covers two fundamental components: medical check-ups for women, and raising women's health awareness.

Medical Check-Ups for Women

ADEW currently has a clinic in Misr El Qadima, where a contracted gynecologist conducts an average of 10 check-ups twice a week.

Through this project, ADEW plans to contract a gynecologist on a full-time basis in addition to a full-time medical general practitioner to diagnose various cases and refer the women to specialists. This is made possible through a contractual agreement with three health centers in various areas of Misr El Qadima, who provide follow-up and treatment.

Accordingly, through this project's life ADEW will conduct an average of 17280 medical check ups for women in Misr El Qadima.

Raising Women's Health Awareness

ADEW's Health Program seeks to provide women with information about reproductive health and to educate them about long-term consequences of hazardous traditional practices such as FGM and early marriage. It also helps to introduce them to methods of maintaining healthy bodies and minds, and even incorporates environmental education. As a result of its long years of experience and its regular program assessments, ADEW has concluded that to efficiently reach women, small or medium-sized group sessions, which provide a safe and comfortable environment allow participants to discuss sensitive issues more openly.

Challenges and Achievements

Last year a large number of women in Masr el Qadima benefited from ADEW's health program. Twelve training sessions were offered to between twenty and thirty women twice a week. Moreover, full check-ups for Girls' Dreams participants were provided by visiting medical doctors, and a discussion about nutrition, early marriage, and FGM awareness was also included. Additionally, the program included awareness classes for teachers of Girl's Dreams courses, which emphasized the fundamentals of health.

As a result of ADEW's work, the health service is well known throughout the community. Last year between eight and nine hundred women visited the ADEW Masr El Qadima office,

where field staff coordinated a visit to the state medical center for specialized care. Furthermore, a series of health seminars were given in Manshiet Nasser. Approximately 960 women attended 48 of these meetings in 2004.

The health program is of considerable importance to the women whom ADEW serves. For this reason, more funds are urgently needed to sustain and expand ADEW's health program into Qalybia and Gharbia.

Health Awareness Program Achievements

	<u>no. of cases</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>Checkup cases</u>	<u>3146</u>	<u>31460.00</u>
<u>Cases Transferred to Consultative doctors</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>11900.00</u>
<u>Cured Cases on government's expense</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>29200.00</u>
<u>Cases have operations in different specialization</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>21000.00</u>
<u>Cases have compensating devices</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9950.00</u>
<u>Cases have free medicines</u>	<u>398</u>	<u>9980.00</u>
<u>Pectoral diseases (asthma) remedy</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>1512.00</u>
<u>Derma tic diseases checkups</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>4890.00</u>
<u>Esoteric diseases checkups</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>5960.00</u>
<u>Pectoral diseases checkups</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>3800.00</u>
<u>Pediatrics</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>3780.00</u>
<u>Symposia no.</u>	<u>62 symposia</u>	<u>8060.00</u>

ARAB WOMEN SPEAK OUT

ADEW's "Arab Women Speak Out" program offers women the chance to develop self-confidence and to overcome their feelings of powerlessness. The program teaches women leadership and negotiation skills, developing their ability to actively contribute to their community and resolve conflicts. The program deals specifically with issues identified by the participants themselves. Through this process women learn to support one another and to assert themselves.

"Arab Women Speak Out" participants meet in groups of twenty either in the women's homes or at the ADEW offices in Manshiet Nasser and Masr El Qadima. Women attending the program are between eighteen and fifty, nearly all married. There are approximately twenty women in each group, which meet for three-hour sessions over a period of three months. The atmosphere is relaxed and comfortable, encouraging women to speak out and express their feelings.

New Initiatives

Last year, Arab Women Speak Out facilitators received two training workshops. The first, an internal workshop organized by the ADEW program coordinator, presented new methodologies to field staff, familiarizing them with program objectives and the tools used in training. Second, Dr. Magda Adly, a professional psychologist, facilitated a workshop aimed at improving the listening and counselling skills of field workers.

Om Mohamed's Story

After participating in the Arab Women Speak Out program for several weeks, Om Mohamed noticed that her life began to change. The program helped her develop negotiation skills and the courage to be honest with her husband about her feelings. Om Mohamed worked many long hours to support her family, as her husband did not work. She felt tired from all of this work, but was afraid to tell her husband of her exhaustion. However, after expressing her feelings with other women and sharing her experiences with these new friends, Om Mohamed gained the courage to express herself at home. Her husband realized that he needed to appreciate his wife's work, and he began to empathize with her situation. Finally Om Mohamed was able to encourage her husband to find a secure job.



Arab Women Speak Out Achievements

	Number of Participants	Number of Classes
Manshiet Nasser	405	19
Masr El Qadima	430	22

OBJECTIVE: ADVOCATING CHANGE

Part of ADEW's mandate is to raise public awareness of the socio-economic challenges faced by Female Heads of Households. ADEW advocates for change in both public policy and in wider public opinion. ADEW's approach to advocacy adheres to three core principles:

- 1) Identifying the issues: ADEW advocates on behalf of the issues raised by women themselves. ADEW uses the stories heard from women in the field to transform their concerns into far-reaching campaigns.
- 2) Using the language of protection and survival: The discourse of "women's rights" is often culturally misrepresented. It is viewed as an imported western discourse, and as such, ADEW has adopted the discourse of women's protection and survival in order to gain greater acceptance in Egyptian society.
- 3) Bringing women's voices out from the margins: ADEW's advocacy campaigns bring women's voices directly to decision makers, the media and the general public. ADEW is thus a voice for the voiceless, allowing policy makers and the general public to understand the challenges faced by socio-economically disadvantaged Female Heads of Households.

This year, ADEW expanded its media and advocacy units to reach numerous constituencies: policy and decision makers, other non-governmental organizations, the media, as well as the general public. In order to raise public awareness and foster debate on

the role of women in Egyptian society, ADEW's Media and Training units carried out a variety of activities:

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS 2004

Conferences and Symposiums:

Notable among the many conferences and symposiums that ADEW organized and participated in last year are the following:

- In cooperation with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), ADEW held a conference entitled "My Life." This conference gave young Egyptian girls an opportunity to express their hardships and challenges in their own words. The conference was held at the Marriott hotel and was attended by 150 participants.
- In co-operation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) ADEW hosted "Women's Citizenship in the Arab World". This was a regional conference held at the Arab League, which specifically addressed the legal status of Arab Women. Local women discussed the problems they faced as a result of their lack of legal papers. The participants of this conference hailed from women's councils in countries throughout the Arab world.
- ADEW hosted a regional conference at the Nile Hilton entitled "Arab Women and Political Participation". The conference uncovered women's political experiences in the Arab world. Two hundred participants from thirteen Arab countries contributed to the event.
- The press conference "New Rising in 2004" presented ADEW's expansion project to the media. Additionally, as an expression of ADEW's new transparency policy, the 2003 and estimated 2004 budgets were also presented.
- ADEW organized a cultural festival for children in the areas where ADEW operates its field offices. A competition was held to display children's poetry and artwork, encouraging independent thinking and creativity.

Publications:

- Three issues of the publication "Women's Eyes" were issued, providing an analysis of the images of women constructed in the Egyptian press.
- The "Media Watch Book" was published in October, providing an analytical study of women's issues as they are presented in the Egyptian mass media.
- A special issue of our "Women's Stories" magazine was printed, featuring the findings of the "Arab Women and Political Participation" Conference.
- A brochure entitled "Women's Citizenship in the Arab World" was published in conjunction with the conference held with the UNDP of the same name.
- "Our News", a non-periodical ADEW publication, discussed the findings of the two regional conferences: "The Political Participation of Arab Women" and "Women's Citizenship in the Arab World".

Special Achievements:

In April 2004, ADEW launched a new program to promote women's political participation, in which ADEW will provide political participation training for women candidates running for the upcoming parliamentary election. This is a comprehensive training course that focuses on theoretical and practical skills and is conducted following an interactive methodology. As with all of ADEW's programs, this program was specifically designed to meet women's needs. Based on researching all similar courses in Egypt and the Arab World, ADEW developed a course that is unique and different in its rationale, philosophy and approach. The program appeals to grassroots, middle class and policy makers. Through culturally and internationally accepted criteria ADEW solicited 30 women out of the 400 applications that were submitted.

ADEW chose women who had previous developmental and community based experience. The successful applicants hailed from Egypt's 26 different governorates and belong to different political parties. The training workshops intend to develop women's skills in the following areas;

- The Electoral System, law, rules and regulations
- Planning, time management and communication skills
- Technical and financial tools for running an effective election campaign
- High impact presentation skills
- Necessary skills such as mobilization of people and resources, budgeting, and public speaking

FINANCIAL REPORT 2004

Spending and expenditure inventory is completed on a monthly basis. Purchasing inventory is done every three months and by special request according to individual projects. The Ministry of Social Affairs requires all NGOs to maintain a strict inventory policy and retains the right to conduct periodical, random audits. Auditing and overall financial inventories are conducted by both ADEW and an external auditor on an annual basis.

DONOR SUPPORT

The Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women gratefully thanks all those who stood by us in 2004:

Ford Foundation
European Commission
Global Fund for Women
Global Fund for Children
Italian Debt Swap
Australian Embassy
VDay
Sawiris Foundation
Swiss Fund
Open Society Institute
GTZ
British Council
Finnish Embassy
Citibank

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Members:

Iman Bibars, Chairperson
Somaya Ibrahim, Vice Chairperson
Hana Ayoub, Treasurer
Hoda Elsada, Board Member
Gihan Gamal, Board Member
Akram Habib, Secretary
Maged Helmy, Board Member

* Every two years 30% of the board is up for re-election. The Chair was elected in 1997, and re-elected under the new NGO law in 2002 for a six-year term.

Senior Management Team

Mona Ahmed, Manshiet Nasser Branch Manager
Nermeen Fouad Fahmy, Masr El Qadima Branch Manager
Mona Shady, Expansion Coordinator (Gharbia and Qalyubia Branches).
Ashraf Aziz, Financial Manager
Shimaa El Bana, Media Unit Coordinator
Montaser Ibrahim, Legal Watch Program Coordinator
Mona Bakheet, Human Resources Manager
Rehab El Mezeini, Donor Unit Coordinator

Overall Staffing

Number of total Staff: Male- 39, Female-181
Number of Consultants: Male- 3, Female- 8
Total Number of Staff: 220

OUR OFFICES:

8/10 Mathaf El-Manial Street
Box: 1065 El Ataba Street- Cairo
Tel: (202) 3644324 - 5118677
Fax: (202) 3636345