



**FACE**

for Children in Need  
من أجل مستقبل أفضل للأطفال

**Semi-Annual  
Impact Report  
2018**





# A WORD FROM FACE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of FACE,

2018 is a special year for FACE. Fifteen years ago, on 10 January 2003, I took a plane to Cairo to see how I could help children in Egypt and how I could contribute to improve child protection in the country. FACE was born fifteen years ago, and looking back over these years, I am filled with pride in realising the incredible achievements accomplished by our teams, and with your constant support. FACE has evolved into a reputable and respected child protection organization in Egypt, known for creating programs of quality and for its strong collaboration with public authorities in charge of child protection and with civil society partners.

I am immensely proud of our team of 185 Egyptian employees who are both passionate and committed to their work and to FACE's mission. We are proud of the protection and life support given to thousands of vulnerable children

during these past 15 years. We are proud to be setting higher standards of care in Egypt, to be contributing to changes in laws relating to foster care (Kafala), to improving the child protection system nationally and to be contributing to a better future for Egypt and all its children.

I would like to share this pride and deeply thank all our supporters and partners for their trust in us, and for helping us to support the most vulnerable children in Cairo. I would also like to thank the wonderful teams for their dedication and commitment to changing children's lives and contributing to the success of FACE in its mission.

All our thanks for your help and support along the road!

Flavia Shaw-Jackson

## NEWS at FACE

### ? THE NEXT MO' SALAH ?

THE NEXT MO' SALAH? In May, a teenager from the FACE transitional home took part in the Street Children World cup in Russia (accompanied by a FACE social worker). He joined children from other NGOs, and the Egypt team put on a great performance and achieved high results. We have no doubt that this team will give Egypt the next Mohamed Salah!!



### Advocacy in favour of Alternative Family Care

More than ever, FACE and its teams are mobilized to promote alternative care in Egypt and to develop operational procedures to ensure safe and sustainable placements of children into families. **At the beginning of 2018, FACE initiated a new project in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) and local NGO Wataneya, to create a system of identification, selection, monitoring and support of foster (Kafala) families in Egypt.** FACE and Wataneya teams are working together to draft a unified system of forms that will improve the system of placement into Kafala in Egypt, thus helping to reduce the placement of children into institutional care in Egypt.

FACE NEW WEBSITE IS NOW ONLINE. [www.facechildren.org](http://www.facechildren.org)

Our new site has been designed and put online thanks to the support of the European Union in Egypt.

### Support to MOSS to develop reproductive health education

In May 2018, MOSS invited FACE to be part of a new working group developing a reproductive health education manual for children living in institutions. The manual aims to improve their knowledge and self-protection.

# SALAM STREET CHILDREN PROGRAM



**FACE OUTREACH TEAM:** 2 teams (8 staff, including 2 females) work on a daily basis on the streets of Cairo and in MOSS institutions, during day and night-time, in order to provide support to children living and working on the streets to remain safe and find alternatives to their lives on the streets. **During the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, the team has made 7982 contacts with 2100 individual children on the streets of Cairo and in MOSS centers.**

**FACE DROP IN CENTER (DIC)** is located in Cairo's suburb. The center opens daily and provides street children and youth with a wide range of services aimed at facilitating their reintegration including education, medical, counselling, legal support, arts, sports and games, etc. **2041 contacts have been made in FACE DIC during the semester with 430 individuals (23% females);** 102 children were coming for the first time. 419 children have accessed medical care in the FACE clinic.

**FACE TRANSITIONAL HOME (TH)** looks to offer a transitional shelter to children and youth wishing to pursue a life away from the streets and follow either vocational training or full-time education, whilst being prepared for social reintegration into a family or alternative setting: **57 children have stayed in the TH over the semester (20 new children).**

**FACE CASE MANAGEMENT / REINTEGRATION** has opened 107 individual new case management files (20% females) during the semester. 89 children have been reintegrated during the first semester, with 11 of these reintegrating back into their family. 5 youths have been placed into vocational training; 60 youths have been placed into employment (mostly in restaurants or hospitality sector); 95 children received legal support; 18 children were reintegrated into school; and 167 children received support in order to remain in school and prevent drop out. 6 families received support from FACE through a grant aimed at starting up a small business (grocery shops, tailoring business). 779 follow up visits were conducted by FACE social workers visiting children in their families, schools, and places of work.

## CHILD STORY

Since 2015, FACE outreach team has been working in detention centers run by MOSS to provide support services to children in detention and to help them to prepare for social reintegration. The project developed further in 2017 thanks to the support of the European Union. FACE social workers recently met a young boy called Mahmoud\* during one of their visits. Mahmoud is 15 years old, he was arrested while he was begging on the streets. He was in detention for more than 5 months and told our teams that he would rather stay there than go home. FACE social worker made sure he met with Mahmoud at each visit, to try understand why he had left home, and to encourage and support him in his plans. Mahmoud was reluctant to share his story with the center staff and so they did not have any information. After FACE spoke to the detention center management, they agreed to place Mahmoud in the FACE Transitional Home, so that he can prepare for his reintegration. After a few days in the home, Mahmoud became more confident and started to open up to social workers. He finally gave the address of his family and agreed that the social worker could contact and meet his father. It is only when the social workers met Mahmoud's father that they understood the whole story and why the boy was scared. The father explained that when he was 14, Mahmoud stole 120 pounds (6 euros) from a store and disappeared from the village. Mahmoud explained that he had stolen money and felt so scared of the owner and his father reaction that he ran away from his village. When he arrived in Cairo, he spent a few days begging on the streets before being arrested. His parents were very happy and relieved to find their son after such a long time, and the boy felt extremely happy knowing his family had been missing him. Mahmoud asked to go back to live with his family and FACE helped his father finalize all legal administrative requirements with the public prosecutor, to allow the child to stay under the care of his family. The story of Mahmoud shows how even small problems can have major consequences on the lives of children. It also illustrates the importance of the work of FACE in MOSS detention centers, to provide individual support to children and to support authorities to implement family reintegration as an alternative to the detention of children.

\*Names have been changed to protect the child's privacy



# ABANDONED CHILDREN PROGRAM



## **PREVENTION – GATEKEEPING :**

FACE family program works to prevent family break ups and child abandonment or unnecessary placement into institutional care. FACE Case Management team ensures the placing of children in institutions are a last resort, after all possibilities of family/community-based placements have been assessed.

## **ADVOCACY / INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF FAMILY BASED CARE MODELS:**

- Advocacy with government in favour of family-based care for children (versus institutional care) in Egypt through regular participation to the National Kafala Committee.
- Advocacy with government and civil society for the establishment of social safety nets for families at risk, and for preventing unnecessary placement of children into institutions.

## **FACE HOMES:**

**Four FACE homes provide high-quality care to orphans, abandoned children, and child victims of abuse.** Children receive support to reintegrate their family where possible, or to be placed in a Kafala family. Long-term institutional stay is only considered as a last resort. **197 children (49 females) have been staying in the FACE centers. 31 new children joined the program during the first semester (all in the Maadi home), a 106% increase since 2017.**

75 babies (0 - 2 years) stayed in the Maadi Home (21 girls).

41 children (2 - 6 years) stayed in the Benha Home (2 girls).

32 children (4 - 10 years) stayed in the Obour 1 Home (26 girls).

49 children (boys over 6 years) stayed in the Obour 2 Home.

All children receive access to regular medical check-ups, care, and vaccinations. The team has provided over 1200 acts of medical attention ranging from mild to serious and including prolonged hospital stays. The importance of mental health is also crucial, and the psychologist led the children in 975 individual sessions and 1319 group sessions. The Maadi center offered over 1800 massages during the semester.

44 children under 3 years accessed non-formal education; 118 children over the age of 3 are attending full time schooling.

One new-born baby girl sadly passed away in May 2018 in the Salam hospital. She was referred to the Maadi home immediately after having been found on the street and was afflicted by a health malformation. Unfortunately, due to her weak physical state, she could not be cured. The death of a child is always a tragic event for the team, and this one greatly affected them. This tragic loss however reminds all of us how important our work is to save the hundreds of children found on the street each year.

## **REINFORCEMENT OF FAMILY/KAFALA PLACEMENT WITHIN FACE PROJECTS AND OTHER PUBLIC/PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS:**

8 Case Managers/Social Workers are working full time on the in-depth assessment of the possibilities of placement into family and Kafala families for all children staying in FACE centers.

**20 children were placed or reintegrated during the semester.** FACE teams have placed 18 babies staying at the Maadi center (5 girls and 13 boys) and 2 children from Benha and Obour homes into Kafala foster families. One boy from Maadi was successfully reintegrated into his biological family.

# NATIONAL FAMILY REINTEGRATION PROGRAM



## **PRIORITY TO FAMILY PLACEMENT:**

It is a well-known, accepted, and scientifically proven fact that babies need love, attention, affection, and touch to thrive. The first years of life have a direct and measurable impact on a child's physical, mental, and emotional growth. Early institutionalisation leads to profound deficits and delays in cognitive development in comparison to children who are brought-up in family homes whether fostered or adopted. Babies/infants need to develop a relationship with at least one primary caregiver (a parent or parent substitute) for social and emotional development to occur normally and this is why FACE initiated the new program to promote family-based care.

## **RESEARCH - ADVOCACY – TECHNICAL SUPPORT:**

Since 2014, FACE has undertaken in-depth research and advocacy to raise awareness about the negative effects of institutionalisation on children and the need to develop alternative care. In 2015, FACE proposed a strategy on National Deinstitutionalisation and the creation of a "National Alternative Care Unit", which was signed and approved by the Minister of Social Solidarity and the Minister of Health. By working closely at all levels of Egyptian society (government and NGO's), FACE aims to continuously transform the current childcare institution system into a system of family-based care.

## **SUPPORT GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND TO CREATE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR**

**ALTERNATIVE CARE IN EGYPT:** Since January 2018, FACE and local NGO Wataneya have worked to support MOSS in the creation of a new Kafala placement system. FACE and Wataneya have set up a system of operational procedures, including different forms of assessment, selection, monitoring, and support of children placed within Kafala families in Egypt. This work is led by the FACE Country Director and Case Management supervisor, with the support of a UK-based researcher and specialist in alternative care, James Farley of Durham University. Mr Farley provided technical assistance to FACE throughout the process. The draft procedures and forms was presented to MOSS and other stakeholders in early July 2018.

## **SUPPORT TO KAFALA FAMILIES:**

Considering the strong demand for support from Kafala families, FACE conducted several information/support sessions with families receiving children or willing to take children into Kafala.

15 couples (30 individuals) attended the sessions, which provided a mix of legal information, practical tips, and information on positive parenting. FACE is planning to work with MOSS and Egyptian authorities in order to standardize these sessions and assist authorities in offering similar sessions at a larger scale throughout the country.



# TRAINING PROGRAM



**FACE Training Program** aims at ensuring continuous and quality capacity building for FACE teams in order to maintain high-quality service and remain responsive to changes among the FACE target group as well as the wider environment. It also aims at being able to answer the many requests for training and technical support from government and civil society, without affecting the quality of FACE services.

**The Street Children program training team took part in a total of 64 days of training during the first semester (92 participants).** Main topics of training: Basic staff training (child development and on FACE target group, basic social work, and communication skills); Case Management; child positive reinforcement (practical and theoretical); FACE Child Protection Policy; non-formal education; life skills; basic medical care; training of trainers. Specific training was conducted for 15 case managers during 4 days of theoretical training and 50 days of field training.

**The family program training team conducted a total of 32 days of training during the semester (238 participants).** The trainings topics were similar but with an additional focus on childcare techniques and in particular childcare techniques with very young children. This is absolutely essential to maintain high-quality services when working with babies and young children in FACE centers. 19 staff received an external training on fire safety from the Civil Defence Department in June 2018.

## TRAINING TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS

In 2018, FACE designed new training modules for teenagers about sexuality and reproductive health. This was inspired by a new collaboration with MOSS regarding sexuality and reproductive health sessions for adolescents living in MOSS institutions. FACE is taking a leading role in a working group led by MOSS on this topic.

The FACE training director and technical advisors initiated a review and update of all external training programs. This will ensure that all training responds to the needs of each organisation. A recent example includes offering training on case management to local NGO Banaty, which works with street girls. This was in collaboration with FACE local partner, Family Roots Association. Two FACE trainers conducted 5 days of in-house training for 21 Banaty staff. 7 FACE trainers and case managers also conducted field training to 15 Banaty social workers.

During the first semester of 2018, the FACE training team also initiated new training partnerships with different organizations such as Banaty and the Sawiris Foundation. The first results will be presented in the end of year report.





Flavia Shaw-Jackson  
[flavia@facechildren.org](mailto:flavia@facechildren.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/FACEchildren>

[https://www.twitter.com/FACE\\_children](https://www.twitter.com/FACE_children)