

Through the joint efforts of the World Bank and a local civil society organization, women in Egypt are finally getting registered, and gaining access to important social and education services.

Box 4.11 Helping Alleviate Poverty among Egyptian Women: The Power of Partnership

In many of the poorer communities in Egypt, people—particularly women—are not registered at birth, making it impossible for them to access basic rights and services. In fiscal 2001 the Bank’s MNA staff teamed up with an Egyptian civil society organization, the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights, to support women’s access to identification cards and birth certificates, through the Bank-sponsored Development Marketplace. The project funded some of the costs of issuing identification cards in the Greater Cairo area and raised awareness among other NGOs, the media, the general public, and the government. As a result of the campaign, women who have received identification cards are filing for and receiving inheritances, registering for literacy classes, voting, and receiving pensions.