

## **The EFG Hermes Foundation Inaugurates Al Makhzan Village in Qena, Providing Access to Housing, Healthcare, Sanitation and Education for Thousands of Upper Egyptians**

*The sustainable development project is in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Initiative for the Support of the Egyptian People and includes the construction of a building in the local school, the renovation of the health unit, homes for 35 families and the provision of employment opportunities for the local community.*

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**Cairo, Egypt** — The EFG Hermes Foundation has officially inaugurated newly renovated facilities in Al Makhzan Village in Upper Egypt’s Qena governorate as part of a joint effort with the Kuwaiti Initiative for the Support of the Egyptian People. The project, which has received the full support of the Governor of Qena, General Abdel Hamid El Haggan, is the latest phase in the Foundation’s ongoing effort to promote the integrated development of impoverished rural areas in Egypt.

The EGP 9 million project was made possible through funding from the Kuwaiti Initiative and the extensive effort of the EFG Hermes Foundation since late 2014. It has helped build homes for more than 35 families in the village and provided healthcare services.

An integral part of the project focused on the improvement of education in the community. The construction of a new school building has improved the student-to-classroom ratio. Classrooms have been outfitted with new furniture and science laboratory equipment, and 1,400 school bags with all needed stationery for students arrived in time for the start of the new school year.

Additionally, a renovated health unit has been upgraded with new equipment, giving it the capacity to serve 20,000 residents from Al Makhzan and nearby villages. A new bakery has been built with a capacity to produce 4,000 loaves per day to ensure a consistent and affordable supply of bread and create employment opportunities for local residents.

Hanaa Helmy, the Head of EFG Hermes’ CSR department and Chief Executive Officer of the EFG Hermes Foundation, commented on the project’s completion, saying, “We are truly delighted to see the results of the hard work and dedication to this project come to life. Since its inception, this results-oriented joint effort with the Kuwaiti Initiative has placed the people of the Al Makhzan village at the forefront. We wanted to make a sustainable and positive impact on the residents of this village; to do that, we adopted a comprehensive approach to community development that does not focus on a single area, but rather aims to rehabilitate communities as a whole.”

An important aspect of the project is the village-wide sanitation and the procurement of a sanitation truck managed and run by the local community development association CDA to generate income by providing services to adjacent villages.

HE Dr. Ghada Wali, Egypt’s Minister of Social Solidarity, who announced the joint project launch in late 2014, emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts such as these between

the public and private sectors, while also extending appreciation to the Kuwaiti Initiative for its support of development efforts in the project.

“The rehabilitation of Al Makhzan was an extensive project that took two years of exemplary joint-efforts that successfully tackled challenges facing the impoverished rural community of Al Makhzan,” Dr. Wali added.

The Head of the Kuwaiti Initiative for the Support of the Egyptian People, Mrs. Adla Al-Sayer said, “With the help of an established entity such as the EFG Hermes Foundation, our initiative was able to identify real challenges facing Upper Egypt’s underprivileged communities and extend the necessary resources to bring about a holistic development framework. The success of this project lies in the fact that all resources have been carefully allocated and based on careful studies conducted by our partners on-the-ground.”

The successful two-year-old partnership is a testament to the strong ties between Egypt and Kuwait as well as the Foundation’s unwavering commitment to sustainable development and the implementation of integrated solutions to the challenges facing communities in rural and underserved areas in Egypt.

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#### **About the EFG Hermes Foundation**

As part of its social responsibility towards the communities in which it operates, EFG Hermes established the EFG Hermes Foundation in 2006 as an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization.

The Foundation aims to help people and institutions overcome the financial, educational and health-related challenges facing our society by supporting innovative and sustainable programmes that increase opportunities for those most in need to make a positive change in our local communities. The EFG Hermes Foundation mainly focuses on integrated development programmes in Egypt by helping combat widespread diseases and supporting holistic development initiatives in the housing, water, sanitation and income-generation areas.

Since its launch, the Foundation has played a significant role in the development of the society by working with reputable institutions and NGOs on several projects including and not limited to: Hepatitis C Awareness and Combat; Hepatitis B Vaccination campaign for college students; Microfinance; Poverty Alleviation of Ezbet Yacoub in Beni Sweif and recently in Al Makhzan Village in Qena; Support Health Education programmes in Assiut University; Support Children with Cerebral Palsy; and Support Education initiatives in collaboration with KidZania.

EFG Hermes is also committed to youth empowerment through the sustainability programmes that leverage our financial expertise and capitalize on our human talent to create sustainable value for the stakeholders and the communities we serve. Contributions include programmes in education, the environment, youth mentorship and employment.

For further information, please visit: [www.efghermesfoundation.org](http://www.efghermesfoundation.org)

#### **The Kuwaiti Initiative for the Support of the Egyptian People in collaboration with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society**

The Kuwaiti Initiative for the Support of the Egyptian People has been launched at the beginning of July 2013 at a time coinciding with the holy month of Ramadan and in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society. It

is the outcome of a popular civic movement spearheaded by Kuwaiti men and women who are eager to extend a helping hand to the Egyptian people in view of the critical times facing Egyptians. The vision of the Kuwaiti Initiative can be summed as an offer of financial support to vulnerable and abstinent Egyptian families, as well as individuals throughout Egypt.

For further information, please visit [www.efghermes.com](http://www.efghermes.com) and stay connected with us:    

**EFG Hermes Media**  
[media@efg-hermes.com](mailto:media@efg-hermes.com)

**May El Gammal**  
Head of Marketing & Communications  
[melgammal@efg-hermes.com](mailto:melgammal@efg-hermes.com)