

The EFG Hermes Foundation Tackles One of Egypt's Most Daunting Epidemics

A successful initiative to combat the spread of the Hepatitis virus and a patented approach towards integrated development projects have earned the EFG Hermes Foundation a spot amongst some of the region's most innovative and impactful non-profit organizations

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Cairo, Egypt — Approximately 9 million Egyptians—roughly 10-14% of the country—currently suffer from the Hepatitis C (HCV). The Hepatitis epidemic has for years placed a tremendous economic burden on the government, which is struggling to provide assistance to millions of underprivileged patients who are suffering from the disease that can eventually lead to liver cancer.

“Egypt has the highest prevalence of Hepatitis C in the world. We became aware of this grim problem and the enormous strain that it has been placing on our healthcare system and decided to take action,” says Hanaa Helmy, CEO of the EFG Hermes Foundation. “In an attempt to tackle the problem at its root, we first became involved with a campaign to combat and prevent Hepatitis C at Kasr El Aini’s Internal Medicine Hospital in 2007.”

For the past 6 years the EFG Hermes Foundation has been working tirelessly in joint efforts with the Ministry of Health and Population’s National Committee for the Control of Viral Hepatitis (NCCVH) as well as other members of the private sector to control the spread of the HCV epidemic. In 2013, the Foundation made an EGP 2 million donation as part of an initiative with a large pharmaceutical company to combat the spread of the disease through a three-pronged approach; awareness, early detection, and treatment.

The initiative focuses on the treatment of children, not only because they are particularly vulnerable to the disease, but also because early detection and treatment have proven more effective in this age group. The EFG Hermes Foundation is currently treating approximately 200 patients; 100 in the Mansura Children’s Hospital and 100 in the Sherbeen Liver Institute.

The EFG Hermes Foundation has also been heavily involved in the prevention of Hepatitis B. The Foundation along with other private sector donors joined a national campaign to vaccinate public university students against Hepatitis B in 2009, which resulted in the vaccination of more than 20,000 students at the faculties of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing in 9 universities across Egypt.

After the January 25th Revolution, however, the project was temporarily halted as private sector funding was withdrawn. This year the EFG Hermes Foundation was the only private sector donor to step in and re-launch phase two of the project post-revolution enabling 7200 students in an additional 5 universities to be vaccinated.

“Lack of education and lack of services are a hindrance to the development of any country. That is why we have chosen to undertake vital projects, such as combating the Hepatitis virus, which will have maximum impact on our communities,” said Helmy.

The EFG Hermes Foundation has always taken an innovative approach to corporate social responsibility. Rather than focusing on one-off charitable initiatives it has always pursued integrated projects that are both impactful and sustainable. The positive social impact that the Foundation’s projects have had on underprivileged communities in Egypt throughout the years has earned it regional and international recognition. The Foundation has just received the Pan-African Corporate Social Responsibility Award at EMEA Finance’s African Banking Awards 2013 in recognition of its outstanding achievements in the areas healthcare and poverty alleviation.

“Whether it’s the work we’ve been doing to combat the spread of Hepatitis or smaller initiatives such as our employee blood donation drive which we plan to carry out semi-annually, we are extremely proud of what we have achieved during this critical time in Egypt’s history,” said Helmy. “Our strategy may have shifted slightly to accommodate a constrained funding environment post-revolution, but we have never stopped our activities and we hope to continue making a positive contribution to our society for years to come.”

Earlier this year, the EFG Hermes Foundation also received the Gold Medal for corporate social responsibility in the MENA region from Tatweej Academy, a non-profit organization with a mandate to promote sustainable growth throughout the Arab world.

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Notes for Editors:

About 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. The EFG-Hermes Foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization. Its mission is to assist people and institutions overcome the financial, educational and health-related challenges facing our society.

The Foundation aims to support innovative and sustainable programs that increase the opportunities for those most in need to make a positive change in our local communities. The EFG-Hermes Foundation’s mainly focuses on healthcare and poverty alleviation in Egypt by helping combating widespread diseases and supporting development initiatives in the housing, water, sanitation, and income generation areas. Other program interests include issues related to education, the environment, gender equality, employment, children rights, youth development, and microfinance.

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

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not limited to: Unite for Children: Street Children Initiative; Youth Sustainability and Viability Fund; The Paper Recycling and Graphics Center; Nazlet Hussein Housing Project in Menya; Bani Khaled Water and Latrine Facilities in Menya; Hepatitis C Awareness and Combat; Hepatitis B Vaccination campaign for college students; Microfinance; Medical Convoys; School Feeding Program; Community Center for Art for Development; Poverty Alleviation of Ezbet Yacoub in Beni Sweif; Support Children with Cerebral Palsy and the Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE).

For more information on EFG-Hermes Foundation please visit www.efghermesfoundation.org

About EFG Hermes

Established in 1984, EFG Hermes is the leading investment bank in the Arab world. The Firm specializes in Securities Brokerage, Investment Banking, Asset Management, Private Equity and Research. EFG Hermes is listed on both the Egyptian and London stock exchanges. The acquisition of a 65% stake in Credit Libanais marks the first step towards EFG Hermes's transformation into a universal bank and will enable it to expand into retail and commercial banking.

Through its operations in Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, with more than 900 employees of 25 nationalities, EFG Hermes serves a considerable and diversified client base from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe, Africa and the United States. Our clients include governments, corporations, financial institutions, high net worth clients and individual customers.

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