FACT SHEET
Girls’ Improved Learning Outcomes (GILO)

OVERVIEW
From February 2008 to its scheduled end in March 2013, the Girls’ Improved Learning Outcomes (GILO) Project has evolved from direct provision of training, technical support, classroom furniture, and IT equipment to selected primary and preparatory schools in four (4) governorates of Upper Egypt to Cairo-based technical assistance to muderiyas, idaras and central ministry for the national roll-out of MOE’s Early Grade Reading Program. In addition, GILO has provided ongoing technical assistance to MOE decentralization.

EARLY GRADE READING
MOE adopted the GILO Early Grade Reading Program (EGRP) as a national program. Key milestones include:

2012-2013: Design and implementation of Grade 2 EGRP in phonics, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

June 2012: Professional Academy of Teachers certifies Grade 1 EGRP.

June 2012: Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) instrument adapted, piloted and ready for implementation.

2011-2012: Production of scripted phonics lessons plans with 13 routines for Grade 1. MOE Planning Teams formed in 27 governorates to lead national EGRP.

Oct 2011: MOE baseline Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) of 1098 Grade 1 students (half boys, half girls) in 60 Beheira and Cairo schools.

Apr 2011: Post-intervention EGRA conducted with Grade 2 pupils in 28 GILO-supported and 30 control schools in Fayoum, Minia and Qena confirm very significant improvements in Grade 2 reading skills after seven months’ implementation of the pilot GILO Early Grade Reading Program:
- +174% in syllable reading,
- + 77% in word reading,
- + 68% in oral reading fluency. Increases are net gains greater than gains by control group.

2010-2011: MOE Working Group for Early Grade Literacy leads training and coaching of all Grade 1-2 teachers in 166 schools using draft lesson plans and resources.

2009: Baseline EGRA conducted with 2,876 Grade 2,3,4 pupils in 28 GILO-supported and 30 control schools in Fayoum, Minia and Qena. MOE requests GILO support to improve instruction of early grade reading.

2008: Adaptation and pilot testing of Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) instrument in Arabic.

Key EGRP Outputs and Achievements
- 35,000 Grade 1 teachers trained in EGRP.
- 320 EGRP trainers certified.
- 48,000 packages of Grade 1 EGRP materials disseminated to 16,000 primary schools.
MOE DECENTRALIZATION
Since 2008, GILO continues USAID support for strengthening decentralized management of MOE and the General Authority for Educational Buildings (GAEB). Noted achievements with GILO support:

- MOE adoption of standard funding formula, based on enrollment and poverty, to allocate school maintenance budgets directly to schools.
- Decentralized allocation and direct disbursement of MOE budget for Technical Education from Ministry of Finance to muderiyas.
- MOE applies Fiscal Discipline Manual for decentralized management.
- Authority to plan, fund and decide school construction projects transferred from GAEB Central to MOE muderiyas in each governorate.
- Decentralization Support Units established and staffed in MOE central, muderiyas and idaras.
- Over 1,400 muderiya and idara administrators trained to implement decentralized systems.

GILO SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS
From 2008 to July 2011, GILO provided direct training, technical assistance, coaching, classroom furniture, and IT equipment to 166 MOE primary and preparatory schools in Beni Suef, Fayoum, Minia, and Qena governorates. GILO-supported schools were chiefly in villages of lagging girls’ enrollment.

- Over 2,700 classrooms, 160 computer labs and 50 science labs furnished; 60% of schools receive filtered Internet.
- Communities address constraints to girls’ access to learning. Aggregate increase of 5.7% in net enrollment rate for girls in supported schools.
- Basic management information systems installed in 100% of supported schools and administrators trained in its use. IT Maintenance Team of 3-4 persons trained in each school.
- 99% of supported school complete self-assessments and School Improvement Plans and prepared for accreditation.
- Significant improvements in classroom teaching and school management as measured annually using standard USAID Egypt protocols (SCOPE and MAP).
- Strengthened execution of school improvements and maintenance in 99% of supported schools.

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Goals of GILO Support to Schools

- Expand girls’ access to quality education in remote and deprived areas of Upper Egypt.
- Improve the quality of teaching and learning in targeted schools and idaras.
- Strengthen school management and governance.

GILO supported teachers, supervisors, school principals, school social workers, and board of trustees (BOTs) to achieve the following results:

- Professional training and development of: 9,200 teachers, 2,550 instructional supervisors, 1,960 school administrators, 1,680 educational supervisors, 1,270 school-based supervisors. All trainees complete 24+ training hours.