Instead of providing biscuits, we teaches how to make bread!

Abstract

Since its beginning, SPHER International, made sure that its programs are consistent with the United Nations Programs for the Environment and The United Nations Human Rights Office. SPHER is a London-based International non-governmental organization concerned with the affairs of human rights and the environment.

To achieve SPHER's goal of improving the level of environmental and humanitarian issues, it will implement social and economic developments in one of the Egyptian villages near Cairo, through the launch of "Project Utopia". This can be achieved through addressing the concerns of the needy, and not only by providing assistance, but also by providing solutions. Through project utopia, Sphere intends to contribute to the solutions, instead of providing biscuits for residents, SPHER teaches them how to make bread! In the sense that it will not provide them with material assistance, but rather economic development projects which will provide them with jobs, social advice, which will guarantee both a sustainable living and a clean environment.

Project Utopia is two-pronged, Economical and social; the economical side includes the construction of a huge project which not only provides jobs for residents of the chosen village, but also a good working environment. The social side, will address environmental awareness, and education in this village which will be compulsory until the ninth grade. This aspect will not only provide schools for pupils, but it will also provide job opportunities for qualified teachers.

The mechanism for implementing a sustainable development project "utopia" corresponds to a good extent with the recommendations put by the World Bank; which means investing in activities that provide jobs. By encouraging fast growing companies with high productivity, which needs a lot of labourers. The financing of the project will be through Egyptian businessmen, as well as outside investors. Egypt has an important role especially in providing schools and health centres.

The residents of the village will be the employees of the project each according to their educational level. The minimum income for labourers will be $ 500 (five hundred dollars) a month, which is based on at least $ 2.50 an hour, and that labourers will work 50 hours a week, and will receive $125 per week.

1. Introduction

Since its beginning, SPHER International, made sure that the programs are consistent with the United Nations Program for the Environment and Human Rights. SPHER International is a non-governmental organization, that bides by international environmental law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, and is committed to its principles. SPHER has a democratic and self-governing body, and it's financed by the contributions of the members of the Board of Directors, which is independent of any government, political ideology, and economical interest.

SPHER's Vision is to contribute to raising the level of human and environmental issues, focusing on human and environmental rights, and to promote more humane societies in all countries of the world. It calls for fairness towards one another, and a clean environment by any standards, to achieve sustainable development for today and tomorrow.

SPHER's Mission differs from other organizations, which are either concerned with environmental rights, or human rights, it focuses on both and how the two are linked. SPHER addresses these issues from a perspective that confirms and reinforces the importance of peace as a base to be achieve and preserve Human and Environmental Rights.

SPHER's activities aims to provide services in the areas of environment, human rights development, through educational and training programs. SPHER's other activities are as follows:

1) Development and implementation of documentary and educational films to promote human and environmental rights.
2) The exchange of experiences and case studies with other individuals with the same jurisdiction and organizations.
3) Conduct seminars and scientific conferences.
4) Investment steering interviews.

In light of all of the above, the self-sustaining village is the core of the Sphere International project. Sphere addresses Human and Environmental Rights; by implementing needed social and economic developments of a village near Cairo, which will be renamed later. This is in line with the core of human rights. Since March, 2012, the United Nations added to the arsenal of human rights, the right to enjoy a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, as well as the right to social and economic development, which Sphere aims to achieve through this project.

2. Green cities and towns self-Sufficient cities

Self-sufficient cities and green cities -also called sustainable cities- are similar to a great extent, they are all environmentally friendly cities and homes. In terms of water and energy consumption, waste disposal, air and water pollution, internal contamination, as well as voice pollution and thermal pollution. Moreover the cost of materials to build a high-efficiency house over the life cycle of the building, whether it is built in a traditional /old methods, or constructed according to modern eco-friendly specifications.

As a reminder , the most important function of green buildings is the use of local building materials, so as to reduce the negative environmental impacts, and increase the efficiency of air-conditioning with the environment in the construction, called natural materials for building materials and alternative construction, a primitive type of building material is common all the world since the dawn of civilization, but the alternative construction applications have sprung up recently in response to the problem of global warming and climate change .

As for the planning of these cities it follows what is known as environmental planning, a field of urban planning focuses on allowing communities to exist in close proximity to the sources of their livelihood, all over the globe. The basic principles of environmental planning focus on assessing the following: environmental impact, economic activities of the local population, and the impact of the technological techniques used.

Environmental Planning focuses on the issue of transportation, so it takes into consideration designs that include the self-sufficient factors, not only secure all resources, but to reduce the disadvantages that can negatively affect the environment, through the use of locally available resources.

This brings us to the economic resources of these villages or towns, we must understand how these villages and towns were built and emerged , and try to choose a business idea that fits each village or town.

3. Project Objectives

SPHER aims to spread the principles of stability and peace, and address the concerns of the needy; sometimes through providing help, and providing solutions. Through project Utopia- as a sustainable development project-, we intend to provide solutions, we do not intend to provide biscuits for residents, but we intend to teach them how to make bread, in the sense that we will not hand them material aid, but we will provide them with economic, development projects that creates jobs, social guidance, which guarantees the sustainability of a good living standard, and a clean environment.

4. Geographic background of the Arab Republic of Egypt

The Arab Republic of Egypt, one of the transcontinental countries, they is located in Asia and Africa, despite most of the republic located in the north-east of the continent of Africa, the Sinai Peninsula, located in the western extension of the Asian continent. Overlooking the red Sea to the east, and the Mediterranean to the north. The Nile River prongs to the east and west and the Nile Delta is one of the most fertile of Egypt.

The administrative structure in the Republic of Egypt consists of 27 provisions, each provision is divided into centres, and the centres are divided to towns and villages and communities.

The Arab Republic of Egypt covers about 1,002,000 km^2, 7.8% of that is a heavily populated area, this ratio is small for a country that is inhabited by over 100 million people. Which is the highest among the Arab world, and the most populated in the African continent after Nigeria. The population is concentrated in two major cities Cairo (the capital) with over 25 million people, followed by Alexandria; the second largest city in Egypt. The estimated population growth rate is 1.3%.

5. Poverty and illiteracy in Egypt

The percentage of the population in The Arab Republic of Egypt that lives under the global poverty rate set by the United Nations; is 30% (almost thirty million Egyptians).The

percentage of poor people in the countryside can reach 50% than that in the city according to the Department of Statistics. Extreme poverty can reach 4.8% among Egyptians.12.6 % of Egyptians suffer from chronic poverty "long-term poverty," while 10.5% of Egyptians suffer from the multi-dimensional poverty, such as poor education, health and living standards.

The illiteracy rate is between 20 % and 50%, according to official sources that rate is (20%), while unofficial organizations states that rate at (50%). What's striking many rural areas residents do not allow their children to attend schools, even though education is free in Egypt! However, due to the lack of laws that obligate parents to send their children to school.

6. Project conception

SPHER International intends to launch its first developmental project in a province near Cairo - in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The village is close to Cairo (the capital) due to centralized decisions policies in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Moreover it will be easy to access by both members of the organization while visiting the project, and or by Egyptians overseeing the project implementation and daily follow-ups.

The basis on which a village was chosen rather than a city or even neighbourhood in the city of Cairo are:

First, a village of 20 thousand people is easier to control than that of large cities.

Second, villagers know each other, which mean it's easy to recognize outsiders. The premise is to create a self-sufficient community by utilizing its local resources.

Third, it's easy to find a project that provides jobs for a village that doesn't exceed 20 thousand in population.

7. Project Utopia

Utopia is a two-pronged project; economical and social. The economical part includes the construction of huge project which will provide jobs and a good working environment for the villagers. This will enable the inhabitants of the village with quality houses. This part of the project will be financed by Egyptian businessmen.

In this part villagers will enjoy a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment. As a result, many new small businesses and companies, such as cleaning, construction, paint, and others will emerge. Which in turn will provide the villagers with a healthy and clean environment. The goal is to insure a per capita income of five hundred dollars per month. ($500). Residents who earn such money will be able to renovate their homes, and some will build new houses, and perhaps they will build sports clubs etc... . Two years down the road the project may transform this village to a tourist destination, that can show the world what happens when the rich reach out to the poor where both will benefit and tourism will provide an extra income to the villagers.

The social aspect of the project will focus on raising the environmental awareness and education, which will be compulsory until the ninth grade. This will not only provide schools for pupils, but it will also provide job opportunities for qualified teachers from the people of the village. Alongside awareness campaigns, whether through visits and public lectures or social network, which can be carried out by one or more Egyptian celebrities, such as Ms. Sherihan (a famous Egyptian woman , who is an actress and was known as the spokesperson of the January 25 revolution) .

8. Implementation Mechanism

The mechanism for implementing the sustainable development project, or (Utopia) is in line with the recommendations made by the World Bank, which is investing in activities that provide jobs. Through small businesses and small companies with growing opportunities, high productivity, and job creation. On the other hand it is important to focus on the economic and environmental qualities of the business which are considered the pillars of the project and the continual investments in a modern way.

As for financing the project, it will be through attracting Egyptian businessmen first, as well as outside investors. The role of the state is important, especially in the provision of schools and health centres.

The residents of the village will be the employees of the project each according to their educational level. The minimum income for workers will be $ 500 (five hundred dollars) a month, which is based on at least $ 2.50 an hour as they will work 50 hours a week, and will receive $ 125 per week. The project does not provide accommodation and transportation as, the workers are from the same village, own their houses, and live in a close proximity from their work. It's recommended to use bikes as a mean of transportation, a clean and cheap mean of transportation. The state will not deduct taxes from workers, but it is possible to deduct a small percentage for their pension.

9. Steps and stages of implementation

For the project to come to completion, it will go through phases before, during, and after.

As for the before phase, will start on June 2016 - August 2016, the following is needed:

1. Lawful coverage, such as the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Egyptian government and Sphere. This is an important to take before starting the project; which will prevent any potential misunderstandings or conflict.

2. Preparing an economic and social feasibility study to the villages surrounding Cairo, and then choose the appropriate village, pick the project, which will be a perfect match for that village.

3. Create a positive feedback through and with businessmen and business women.

4. Keep in touch with Ms. Sherihan.