

Early Childhood Development and Protecting Children's Rights in Egypt

A partnership between CEOSS & SAM

Background

Egypt is home for over 100 million people — nearly half of them are children and youth — and almost one in every three Egyptians lives below the poverty line.

Amidst those numbers are millions of children growing up in challenging circumstances: children separated from their families and placed in institutions, orphanages, or pushed into child labor and life on the streets.

While some children lose their parents, poverty remains the most common reason that families feel forced to give up their children — hoping for a better future that rarely comes.

Egypt was one of the first twenty countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, showing early commitment to children's wellbeing. Yet, many children still lack access to protection, identity, education, health care, and the right to be heard.

A Shared Vision

CEOSS and SAM share a belief that **every child deserves a safe family environment and a chance to thrive.**

Together, we aim to **reverse the negative development for children in Egypt** — offering alternatives to orphanages, institutions, and street life.

Our shared purpose is simple yet powerful:

To give children and children's rights a new voice in Egypt.

What We Aim to Achieve

Through this collaboration, we want to:

- **Disseminate knowledge and awareness** on children's rights through national and community platforms.
- **Train and empower child rights ambassadors** who would lead local change.

- **Mobilize partnerships and local actors** to create alternatives to institutional care.
 - **Develop a long-term working model** adapted to Egypt's cultural and social context — ensuring children grow up in safe, nurturing families.
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The Partnership

CEOSS – Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services

CEOSS is one of Egypt's most respected developmental organizations, deeply rooted in social justice and community empowerment.

Their work connects them with governmental institutions, civil society, and faith-based organizations, giving them a strong platform to advocate for children's rights.

CEOSS contributes with:

- In-depth knowledge of Egypt's social landscape.
- Networks and relationships with key partners.
- Local expertise and access to communities.
- Experience in managing national and international developmental programs.

SAM

SAM brings extensive international experience in social justice, children's rights, and development cooperation.

Their work with the **Orphanage Dialogue** model has inspired new ways to support vulnerable children and families in several countries.

SAM contributes with:

- Expertise in child rights and family-based care.
 - The Orphanage Dialogue methodology and training materials.
 - Experience in advocacy and international collaboration.
 - Training and mentoring of local child rights ambassadors.
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A Model Built on Equality

This partnership is based on **mutual respect, shared learning, and cultural understanding**. No party controls the other — instead, we meet as equals with one shared goal: to strengthen children's rights and wellbeing.

The main aspects that shape our mutual cooperation are our shared **values, compassion, and commitment to children's welfare**.

How We Work

The project is rooted in the **Orphanage Dialogue**, a proven approach that brings together families, communities, and institutions to find alternatives to institutional care.

By listening to local voices and building on Egypt's traditions, the collaboration will:

- Develop practical community-based solutions for child care and protection.
 - Strengthen family support through education, awareness, and micro-solutions.
 - Empower leaders, educators, and organizations to champion children's rights.
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Our Joint Experience

Together, CEOSS and SAM build on decades of experience from both local and international development work.

Our partnership merges **CEOSS's deep local understanding** with **SAM's global perspective on child rights and social transformation** — a collaboration that ensures lasting impact and sustainability.

Voices of Change

“When we invest in families,
we invest in the future of children
— and of Egypt.”

CEOSS & SAM Joint Statement



PHOTO: Private, Malin Åkvist ©

Join Us in Strengthening Children's Rights

Every child deserves love, dignity, and opportunity.

You can be part of this change by supporting the partnership between **CEOSS and SAM** in our mission to protect and empower children across Egypt.

**To support or learn more, please contact:
Funding and Investments Unit, CEOSS**

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🌐 <https://ceoss-eg.org/?lang=en>