

Foreword

This book is a continuation of an academic and practical on-the-ground initiative started by Marwa El Daly, the author of this book, who holds her PHD from Humboldt University in Berlin. The book derives excerpts from her PHD Thesis that was a full fledged study on philanthropy and the Third Sector in Egypt. El Daly obtained her BA and Master's degree from the American University in Cairo (AUC). Her MA was obtained in affiliation to the Political Science Department with a specialization in Professional Development with a Thesis entitled: Private Philanthropy in Egypt: Local Philanthropy as an Alternative Giving Mechanism for Sustainable Development in Egypt. This thesis was a pioneering exploratory research in the field of philanthropy and the social responsibility of the private sector towards development and it made evident that more comprehensive and representative research interventions are needed, especially that primary quantitative data on neither philanthropy nor corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Egypt existed. Upon fulfilling her MA thesis, El Daly received a Rockefeller scholarship to join the Center for the Study of Philanthropy and Civil Society in the City University of New York as an International research fellow. This fellowship resulted in a study on Islamic philanthropy in the United States, its mechanisms and the Diaspora community and how its resources are channeled to development work.

Upon returning back to Egypt, El Daly resumed her professional life in the Third Sector. As a senior staff and the creator and Program Manager of Philanthropy for Development Program in the Center for Development Services (CDS) which is an international development organization affiliated to the Near East Foundation (NEF). El Daly developed a proposal to undertake a comprehensive study on philanthropy in Egypt to be the primary reference on local philanthropy and means to direct giving and volunteering to development work. This proposal was met with interest by the CDS and a proposal for cooperation was submitted to the Ford Foundation, which in return funded this national study on philanthropy in part of its larger interest and initiative in this field and as the base for what became the Philanthropy Center at the American University in Cairo (AUC) Meanwhile the Maecenata Institut for Third Sector Research in Germany welcomed Marwa El Daly as an international fellow and through this link the El Daly was admitted as a PHD candidate with Professor Peter Heine at the Humboldt Universitaet Berlin, who kindly accepted to be the supervisor for this work.

Thus, this book is one of Marwa El Daly's recommendations in her MA Thesis at AUC and an update of her PHD Thesis at Humboldt University of Berlin. This linkage between the academic world and the field work it entails with the experience of the researcher as a development practitioner who seeks to use the results of the study to translate it into development programs and on the ground interventions to enhance living conditions, is another distinctive measure characterizing this work.

In 2007 and while completing her Doctoral Thesis, Marwa El Daly founded the first Community Foundation in Egypt registered in 13 May 2007 as Waqfeyat al Maadi al Ahleya or Waqfeyat al Maadi Community Foundation (WMCF) to revive the concept and application of a *waqf* or endowed foundation with a modern secular function and structure. It is not only the first community foundation serving one geographical area, Maadi and its outskirts, to be established in Egypt, but it is the first *waqfiyya* institution to be termed as such and registered as a foundation under the Ministry of Social Solidarity. Upon this achievement, which together with the national study on philanthropy is considered the ground breaking field work for this work, El Daly was selected as a Social Entrepreneur from the Arab Region by Ashoka in July 2007 in recognition for her efforts in promoting institutionalized philanthropy and reviving the *waqf* endowment system to achieve change and development. The Waqfeyat al Maadi Community Foundation was considered by this international organization a ground-breaking model that paves the way for further innovative revolutionary changes in world development. Synargos Institut also recognized El Daly as an Arab Social Innovator and embraced El Daly as a fellow as well. In 2013, El Daly received the African Philanthropy Award by the African Global Network for this work on philanthropy. In 2014, El Daly put a clause in Egypt's new constitution (clause 90) that commits the government to revive and modernize the *waqf* model. Thus, this has been a continuous work linking theory with practice, establishing models and lobbying for change.

Marwa El Daly is currently an Assistant Professor teaching management of NGOs, Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at the American University in Cairo (AUC), the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) at the Public Policy and Administration Department (PPAD).