

LEAD POLLUTION CLEAN-UP IN QUALIUBYIA, EGYPT, 2008



Lead contamination from closed down secondary lead smelters in Shoubra El Kheima, Qalyoubia, posed serious health impacts on the people residing and working in the area. To address this problem, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Egypt (GOE) designed a lead clean-up component (LIFE-Lead) under the Livelihood and Income From the Environment (LIFE) program. The project succeeded in remediating 11 contaminated sites, namely, seven secondary lead smelter sites, a copper smelter, a medical center, and two nearby schools. For each of these sites, the remediation technology was specified based on the optimization of costs and avoidance of health risks. The project also involved detailed designed, tendering, supervision of works, and site clearance for each of the remediated sites, and entailed community involvement, public participation, and capacity building activities. Additionally, the project extended policy/legal support to regulators to insure the integration of site remediation in the standard environmental practices in Egypt.

LIFE-Lead contracted Environics to carry out the environmental assessments required for its activities. This involved participation in scoping meetings, and the preparation of Environmental Assessment studies according to USAID requirements and Environmental Impact Assessment Studies according to the requirements of the Egyptian Environmental Law.