



Coptic Orphans

RESILIENCE THROUGH FAITH

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Executive Director



In 2020, one story gripped the entire world like nothing else in recent memory. But the story of Coptic Orphans in 2020 is not simply the story of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is the tale of how, by God's grace and with your support, Coptic Orphans was able to deliver much more than disaster relief in this crisis – we provided disaster resilience.

You may be used to seeing disaster relief arrive in the form of trucks unloading supplies. Disaster resilience – what Coptic Orphans delivered in 2020 with your generous giving – was different, especially during this once-in-a-lifetime COVID crisis.

What makes Coptic Orphans' work so different – and so suited for preparing families in Egypt to be resilient in the face of disaster – is that our specially trained Church-based volunteers already know each family we serve. We've worked with these families to overcome so many challenges, and we share the goal of their long-term independence, dignity, and development. Today, Coptic Orphans has 32 years of experience building resistance in communities and families, and in that time, we have impacted the lives of more than 65,000 children throughout Egypt. But we've never experienced a year like 2020. This dreadful virus did not simply afflict the widows and orphans; it battered every corner of Egyptian society. Hospitals were overwhelmed. Businesses crumbled. Schools shuttered. Even the Church – our refuge in times of trouble – was forced to close for a time. But we did not lose our faith, in God or in one another.

We were forced to drastically alter the way we operate. We distributed emergency food supplies and thousands of life-saving hygiene kits. Our offices around the world went remote. Our volunteer Reps assisted the widows and children remotely while providing the students with the means to continue their studies online.

We learned many operational and strategic lessons that will serve us well in the years to come. But the most important lessons we learned from 2020 cannot be measured. We discovered that the spirit of Coptic Orphans – from our volunteer Reps to our staff to our donors – is indomitable. With God, our dedication to helping the widow and orphan cannot be shaken by any earthly turmoil.

As you receive this Annual Report, I pray that you and your family are well. During these times, I am reminded of Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." I genuinely believe that His hand was present in all the good work Coptic Orphans was able to accomplish during this trying year.

One Body in Christ,
Nermien Riad



Who We Are

This year may have been extraordinarily challenging, but throughout all the turbulence and upheaval of 2020, one thing that never wavered was our commitment to the mission of Coptic Orphans. In 1988, Coptic Orphans began empowering the fatherless and other vulnerable children in Egypt through education. Since then, we have grown into a unique, award-winning Christian development organization that has changed the lives of more than 65,000 children throughout Egypt. Coptic Orphans works for sustainable impact. By connecting the Coptic Diaspora with Egypt, we leverage professional expertise and global resources for the benefit of the homeland, building the resilience of families and communities.

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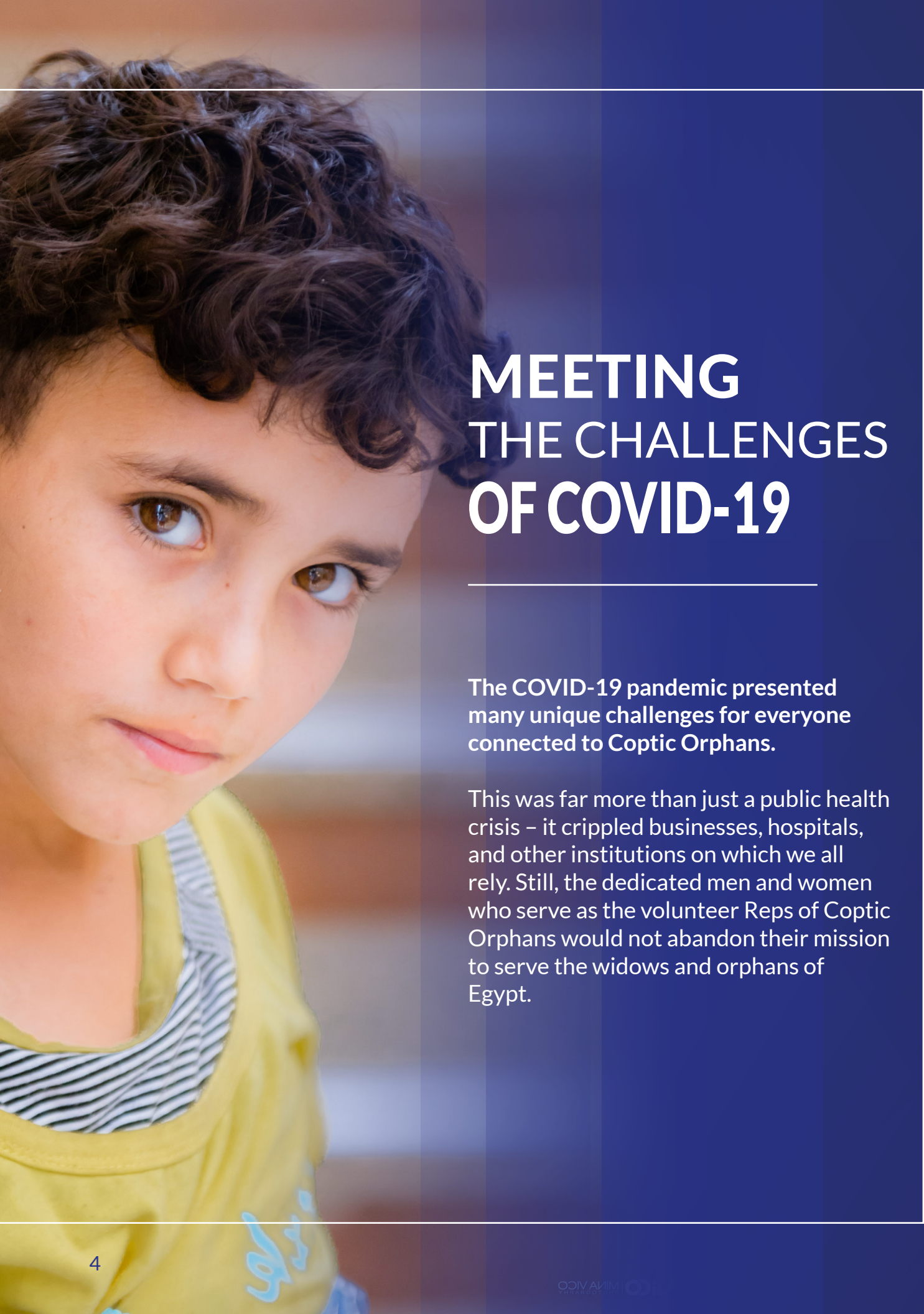
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MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many unique challenges for everyone connected to Coptic Orphans.

This was far more than just a public health crisis – it crippled businesses, hospitals, and other institutions on which we all rely. Still, the dedicated men and women who serve as the volunteer Reps of Coptic Orphans would not abandon their mission to serve the widows and orphans of Egypt.

Economic Impact

You aided 5,564 families

The worldwide economic crisis that followed quickly on the heels of the outbreak was particularly difficult for the widowed mothers of Egypt. Businesses feeling the economic crunch were quick to let go of mothers working service jobs like cooking, cleaning, and caring for the elderly. Meanwhile, some churches, which were also closed during the lockdowns, lacked the funds to provide their usual financial aid to widows and their families.

Coptic Orphans made it a priority to get these families the monthly support they have come to rely on. During the spring lockdown, we advanced our families three months' financial aid to get them through that difficult period.



Protecting the Vulnerable

You provided 6,965 hygiene kits

As soon as we understood how to stop COVID's spread, Coptic Orphans quickly sprang into action to protect our families in Egypt. Educating the families on proper safety measures was a critical first step. Our staff in Egypt produced videos teaching health and hygiene protocols for the volunteer Reps and the families they serve. The Reps bought cleaning products and masks to distribute to their families at a time when supplies were often hard to come by.

The final step in protecting the families was particularly difficult to bear. The relationship between Reps and their families is a strong one – the widows and children often think of their Reps as another member of the family. But saving lives meant that the Reps had to suspend their regular home visits to halt the spread of the virus. Though in-person visits were ruled out, the Reps were encouraged to keep offering emotional support and safety information to their families through phone calls and online visits, while keeping tabs on their needs and well-being.





YOU PROVIDED 430 LAPTOPS
for university students in the program

Protecting Those Who Protect the Children

You kept 550 Reps watching over the families

The volunteer Representatives are the backbone of Coptic Orphans. We simply would not exist without their tireless efforts on behalf of the children. But these heroes were not spared the effects of COVID – some fell sick and many more lost jobs. It was our sacred duty to care for those who care for our children, and so Coptic Orphans organized emergency medical funds and financial assistance for those Reps who needed it. To their everlasting credit, the vast majority of Reps continued to do their excellent work throughout the pandemic. We are forever indebted to them.

It took careful planning, outside-the-box thinking, and plenty of hard work, but together with the Reps, we were able to meet the countless challenges of COVID during 2020. In fact, these challenges only strengthened our resolve to never abandon the widows and orphans of Egypt, and to keep supporting their inborn bravery, ingenuity, and resilience.

Continuing to Advance Education

You empowered 8,239 students

The pandemic and ensuing lockdown hit near the end of the 2020 school year, and the Egyptian Ministry of Education decreed that students must complete online research projects instead of the usual final exams. This put poor students without home internet connections at a tremendous disadvantage. The field staff in Egypt made it a priority to equip these families with home internet so that none of our 8,239 students would fall behind.

Although in-person classes returned in the fall for students in elementary through high school, Egyptian universities stayed remote. However, many students lacked the money to buy a laptop for online learning. The entire Coptic Orphans team was thrilled and grateful when sponsors and donors stepped up and purchased 430 laptops for all university students in the program who needed one to continue excelling academically.





A Family's Resilience

Soon after the pandemic broke out, Nadia, a mother in Assiut, developed a high fever and felt short of breath. She called the Coptic Orphans Rep, Christine, who serves her family.

Christine encouraged Nadia to go straight to the hospital, where she tested positive for COVID. Nadia was told to return home immediately and quarantine herself.

However, Nadia feared for her son, who suffers from asthma and an immune system weakened by taking a Hepatitis-C drug.

When Christine learned of the situation, she immediately sprang into action.

First, she helped Nadia move her son out of their tiny house and into a relative's home, where he would be safe from infection.

Next, to protect the family's other three children, she provided Nadia with detailed knowledge of how to social distance safely, and with cleaning supplies to keep their home's surfaces sanitized.

To be sure the family made it through the crisis, Christine hand-delivered both the cleaning supplies and healthy foods right to the family's door.

Perhaps most importantly, she checked in on Nadia's psychological state every day, because she knew that feeling abandoned and uncared-for would further weaken her immune system.

Thank God, all these precautionary measures worked. Nadia recovered. Coptic Orphans also provided the financial assistance she needed for her medical expenses. Nadia and her children expressed their gratitude to Christine for caring for the family like they were her own.

Preparing for the Future

While the COVID crisis had the world scrambling to survive the present, it also increased the urgency of planning for an uncertain future. Coptic Orphans has always been a forward-looking organization focused on building resilience in families and communities. We used the lessons of 2020 to move our operation closer to meeting the demands of a post-COVID world.

Like most countries, Egypt is quickly transitioning to a cashless economy in which paper money decreases in importance and bank accounts become essential. This transition might be relatively easy for the upper crust of society, but it can be painful for the impoverished widowed mothers and orphans, particularly in remote villages. The spring lockdowns highlighted just how difficult it can be for our families to get cash payments in case of emergencies.



Coptic Orphans is fully committed to achieving the financial inclusion of our families in this cashless economy. The move will take time – thousands of our families have never used debit cards or bank accounts – but plans are already being made to educate and assist these families on how to adapt to the modern economic system.

And we are not stopping at financial inclusion for our families – Coptic Orphans is going digital in every area of the organization. Plans are underway to outfit our volunteer Reps and staff with tablet computers to drastically cut down on the amount of paper used when conducting their critical work in the field. This is essential to improving efficiency and protecting the environment, and will eventually save money that would be better spent on the families we serve.

The world grows more complex and more digital every day, and the pandemic has only sped up these trends. Rather than focusing on the downsides of these massive changes, Coptic Orphans spent 2020 preparing our resilient mothers and children for a future of online learning and integration into the digital economy!

Names and other personal details are changed to protect the dignity and privacy of the families in our programs.

Testimonials



“St. James says in his epistle, ‘Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world’ (James 1:27). I thank Coptic Orphans for allowing us, the privileged members of our Coptic community, to support our extended family in Egypt and the opportunity to fulfill this biblical command.”

- Fr. David Hanna -

“It’s incredible to consider the great work God has accomplished through Coptic Orphans over the past three decades. Countless lives have been transformed, and the long-term impact across generations is truly innumerable. I am proud of the work done by Coptic Orphans and I pray that God would continue to open doors for this organization to continue its great work.”

- Fr. Anthony Messeh -

“When I got infected, I did not call any of my relatives; instead, I called you to look after my son. I prefer to knock at Coptic Orphan’s door in times of trouble.”

- Program mother infected with COVID-19 -

“I’m very proud of my time with Coptic Orphans; they helped me continue my education. Now I encourage my younger sister to join the program and reach the highest levels of education.”

- Minerva, Not Alone participant -



UN Consultative Status

Coptic Orphans was greatly honored this year when the United Nations granted us consultative status with its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This is the highest status granted by the UN to non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



Consultative status allows Coptic Orphans to participate in many events, including regular sessions of ECOSOC, its functional commissions and its other subsidiary bodies. NGOs with consultative status may attend official meetings and make oral statements. Its members are permitted to meet with official government delegations, UN officers and other NGO representatives, and can also organize and attend parallel events that take place during the session, such as debates, interactive dialogues and panel discussions.

Charity Navigator



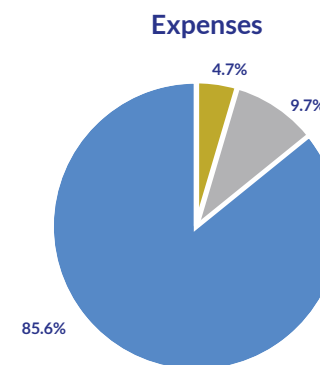
In 2020 Coptic Orphans was awarded the highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, North America’s independent charity evaluator, for the 10th consecutive year. This award is a testament to our sound fiscal management and commitment to transparency and accountability.

Statement of Activities

For the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019

	2020	2019
Revenue and Support		
Contribution	\$ 15,242,990	\$ 12,395,062
Net Investment Income	591,178	517,218
Total Revenue and Support	15,834,168	12,912,280
Expenses		
Program services		
Child Development	8,233,298	7,455,111
Community Development	119,605	456,076
Total program services	8,352,903	7,911,187
Support services		
Management and General	709,076	800,168
Fundraising	1,494,752	1,390,485
Total support services	2,203,828	2,190,653
Total Expenses	10,556,731	10,101,840
Other Non-Operating Income		
Net unrealized and realized gains on investments	3,656,957	2,652,888
Change on foreign currency valuation and other gains	147,308	287,286
Total other non-operating income	3,804,265	2,940,174
Net Assets		
Change in Net Assets	9,081,702	5,750,614
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	30,588,286	24,837,672
Net Assets, End of Year *	\$ 39,669,988	\$ 30,588,286

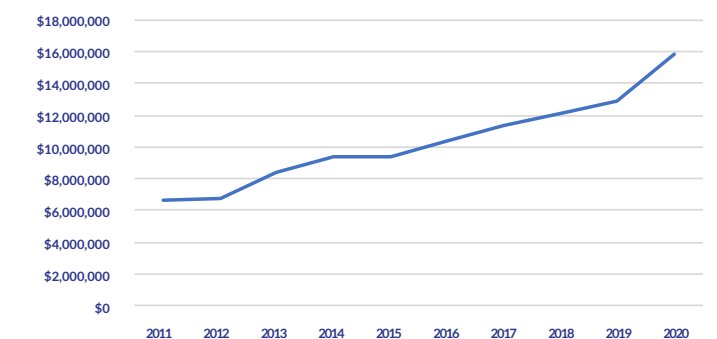
* Because Coptic Orphans places the highest value on serving the children despite any crisis that may strike Egypt or the Coptic diaspora, we maintain a nearly 12-month reserve of operating expenses (included in “Net Assets”). This ensures we will be there for the children no matter what.



■ Total Program Services ■ Fundraising ■ Management and General
Current and future

For every dollar you donate, more than 85 cents goes to the children of Egypt. We use only 9.7% of the money for fundraising and 4.7% for management and administration.

Total Revenue increase over time*



While Coptic Orphans’ revenue has shown tremendous growth, we have never lost focus on maintaining responsible stewardship over the resources entrusted to us. Our financial accountability and reporting processes have been praised consistently over the years.

* Per IRS Form 990.

Audited by UHY, LLP Certified Public Accountants. Audited financial statements are public and available upon request.



Coptic Orphans

"We appreciate very much what you are doing... you are saving God's children... As it says in the midnight prayers, you 'remember those who have no one to remember them.' " H.H. Pope Shenouda III

***From all of us at Coptic Orphans, we thank you very much.
May God bless you!***

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