



## SUCCESS STORY

# A Win for School — and the Environment

### Club beautifies grounds and engages community to also lend its support



Photo: LIFE Red Sea Project/A. El Razik

Environment Club members at the El Shalateen Preparatory and Secondary School and Mohamed Husieny, of the Red Sea Governorate's environmental management unit, admire their efforts to improve the school grounds.

***Headmaster Nasser Ismail Mohammed said, "Students have involved their parents and others in the club activities, and are raising environmental awareness through their activities and by organizing public talks."***

Everyone at El Shalateen Preparatory and Secondary School celebrated when their Environment Club was selected as the top winner of a USAID-sponsored environmental awards program. Headmaster Nasser Ismail Mohammed praised the club members' initiative, saying, "Students have involved their parents and others in the club activities, and are raising environmental awareness through their activities and by organizing public talks."

The school, in the midst of a desert, is now surrounded by a garden, and the classrooms enclose a courtyard. Open walkways are clean, and student artwork adorns the walls as part of a major campaign to clean up, maintain, and beautify the school. Mohammed proudly said, "We are the only school in the area that doesn't have any broken furniture."

A separate, small building that bears the name "Protection for the Environment Club" in Arabic is clearly the centerpiece of the school's facilities. The building houses the products and exhibits of countless activities and projects undertaken by the 25 members of the Environment Club (20 of whom are girls). Science teacher M. Ashraf Orabi is the club's advisor, but the students themselves run the club. Many of its activities focus on recycling, and students have recycled materials to create a novel washing machine, a brick-making machine, and beautiful artwork.

The club won tools, equipment, and a digital camera that will enable them to expand their activities. Club members, in collaboration with the Red Sea Governorate's agriculture department, are now establishing a medicinal plants garden where students will learn about plants as they propagate and conserve them.