NADRF has managed to implement a large number of activities in unprivileged villages in many governorates in Upper Egypt which allowed it to acquire a large experience on challenges facing women in these areas, and their needs. In this regard, NADRF began a series of activities for political empowerment for women since 2006 in cooperation with international organizations, most importantly the National Endowment for Democracy. In the course of the implementation of these activities, NADRF managed to make a diagnosis to the most irritating problems and challenges, which hinder women to practice their rights without restraints. Following are the most serious challenges against women in Upper Egypt:

1. The high rate of illiteracy in Upper Egypt in general, and among women in particular,
2. Problems resulting from the culture of the male-dominated society and outdated traditions and habits such as preventing girls from completing their education, child marriage and consequent problems of reproductive health, preventing from their shares in inheritance,
3. Women in particular are suffering from poverty as a result of lack of economic opportunities for independence and self-determination
4. Harmful practices against women most importantly female genital mutilation and health problems as a result of early pregnancy,
5. Domestic violence including beating, insulting, expulsion from home … etc,

NADRF concluded that all these problems and challenges squander all efforts exerted to empower women politically and make them without the proper impact, because they are not empowered socially or economically. So, NADRF plans to address these challenges as an initial step in the way of assisting women getting their independence and self-determination to respond to all efforts of political empowerment, because women cannot react with efforts of empowerment while all these burdens are laid on her shoulder. For more information on NADRF, please go to <http://www.nadrf.com/>

All the best,