



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

International Assistance

ICH-04-Report – Form

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT

Beneficiary State(s) Party(ies): Egypt

Project title:	Inventory of Intangible Culture of Craftsmanship in the Core of Historic Cairo
Reporting period:	From: 01/04/2022 to: 31/10/2022
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$108515</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$86950</p> <p>State Party contribution: US\$18750</p> <p>Other contributions: US\$2815</p>
Implementing agency (contracting partner or UNESCO Field Office):	EGYPTIAN SOCIETY FOR FOLK TRADITIONS (ESFT)
Contact person:	<p>Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Mr</p> <p>Family name: Younis</p> <p>Given name: Haitham</p> <p>Institution/position: Treasurer, representative of ESFT in the higher committee of the project</p> <p>Address: 47 SOLIMAN GOHAR ST – DOKKI - GIZA</p> <p>Telephone number: 202 37626702</p> <p>E-mail address: info@esft.info</p>
Partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project):	Cairo governorate

Implementing partners:	Mizala association for handicrafts in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar and Petah Association for training rural and urban children in the ceramic industry.
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Background

Provide a brief description of the situation existing at the time of the request and the need that the assistance aimed to address. For safeguarding of a particular element, provide a description of the element, its viability and why safeguarding measures were required. For preparation of inventories, strengthening of capacities, awareness-raising, visibility or other safeguarding not focussed on a particular element, identify gaps that were to be addressed. For emergency assistance requests, describe the nature and severity of the emergency at the time of the request.

Not fewer than 750 or more than 1000 words

Historic Cairo has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1979 in recognition of its historical, monumental, and cultural significance. Its intangible heritage and various human activities, which survived since the medieval era, made it a unique World Heritage site. It is now spreading over more than 32km². Moreover, in 2017, Cairo Governorate, represented by the General Administration of Heritage Preservation (GAHP), joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of Crafts and Folk Art. Due to the immense area of the World Heritage site, the project partners decided to work on only one intangible heritage domain to design a community-based inventory. They found that it is appropriate to choose craftsmanship, as it is considered as one of the valuable indicators of the integrity and authenticity of the site. Historically, the project area relates to the Fatimids, Ayyubids and Mamluks and Ottomans times. From this large cultural area, the section between Bab al-Fotouh and Bab al-Nassr to the North and Bab Zuwayla to the South was chosen, where it is still famous for having clusters of traditional crafts that are unique and contribute to the Egyptian Identity. These clusters have not been subject to recent comprehensive studies of their intangible cultural heritage. Presently, the project area is characterized by having a style of life which is more native rather than non-native or "western", in other words, traditional. Handcrafts are considered a great asset in such a cultural area, where older craftsmen "master artisans" still continue to live and practice their skills. It is regarded as one of the most important income-generating activities that help to overcome the problem of unemployment in the cultural area and an important cluster in cultural and creative industries in Cairo.

The crafts of this important zone are facing many challenges, which are already threatened, as traditional craftsmanship deals basically with traditional knowledge, and skills of any craft. Some skills are still practised, some in flux and others vanished. Renowned among these threatened in the apprenticeship system, a traditional system of learning that also provides the community with a code of behaviour and regulates dealings and ethics governing different forms of behaviour.

Hence, the explained current situation is important to be included within new comprehensive inventories, in particular, that the traditional intangible cultural aspects of that area have not been studied for a long time. In 1975, Asaad Nadim initiated a study on traditional crafts, which concentrated on one case study of traditional woodworking. This study exemplified the inheritance pattern of the craft, the apprenticeship system and its learning techniques, the values related to the craft and the significance of each tool and the worldview that affects the development of crafts and their craftsmanship. In 2010 the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) of the Ministry of Industry approached The Egyptian Society of Folk Traditions (ESFT) to administer a survey of the traditional crafts in Egypt. IMC presented specific information that they needed to know, mainly related to tangible aspects of the crafts. Not much information was collected on the intangible aspects or the status of the craftsmanship. The objective of this survey then was to incorporate traditional crafts in plans for the national economy. However, due to the uprising of 2011, the results of this project were not implemented. The previous initiatives are very useful as a starting point, in particular, to realize the already vanished traditional crafts, along with the absence of knowledge, skills and values of the other crafts that survived in such cultural areas. However, this project stands alone in its focus on community involvement in the inventorying process and in defining and identifying the skills and modality of knowledge

transmission.

ESFT participated in The craft tradition 'Handmade weaving in Upper Egypt (Sa'eed)' is a complex process that requires time, effort, patience and practice. Inscribed in 2020 on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

This project seeks to achieve a different methodology in view of the 2003 Convention; such methodology involves drawing up community-based inventories of intangible cultural heritage related to traditional craftsmanship because that is the first step to safeguarding it. Furthermore, raising awareness of this practice encourages the whole society, individuals as well as organisations and institutions, to become involved in its safeguarding. It is important to adopt a holistic approach to the intangible cultural heritage and should consider the community, the actors and the different social and environmental conditions that are not subject to rapid change. The development of a refined detailed website for this inventory will be a great contribution to inventorying crafts in Egypt.

Objectives and results attained

Overall, to what extent did the project attain its objectives? Describe the main results attained, focussing in particular on the perspective of the direct beneficiaries and communities. For each expected result identified in the request, explain whether it was fully or partially attained. Also describe any unexpected results, direct or indirect, whether positive or negative.

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

- * Encouraging and ensuring the widest participation in inventory and consulting procedures, through collaboration and information exchange, initiation of a communication event and beyond, through the pre-fieldwork phase. Hence, the primary role of relevant stakeholders in any upcoming inventory in Cairo and Egyptian cities is enhanced.
- * Providing a comprehensive view of the community on the intangible cultural heritage, the 2003 UNESCO Convention and its principles. This would stimulate further cooperation and open the door to new groups or individuals for new contributions in the future. This has been achieved through the social network that was created during the networking event and certainly during the capacity building of the project participants and still continues during the project period and the time after the project time over.
- * Forming of a social network between craftsmen that was developed during fieldwork, exchanging experiences and contact, which may result in many future works, which reflect the project aims till now
- * Providing the opportunity to test the capacities of local experts who have been trained through the UNESCO project to enhance the capacity building of national experts to create a pool of qualified trainers.
- * Completing the inventory of 13 traditional crafts, Which represents at least half the number of crafts targeted in the project, With all the stages of collecting, documenting and inventorying these crafts, including reviewing the inventory form from the local community and confirming their approval of the contents of the form and the information documented in it, and documenting the inventory through video and photos with the scientific specifications and requirements required by the UNESCO Convention 2003.
- * Publishing the project website as the beta version to be ready to publish the completed project inventories for the people who are concerned and for updating based on concerned groups' discussion with the local community, also the website will contain a lot of data about the project like timeline, photos and the inventories list.

Description of project implementation

Provide a description of the activities undertaken and the outputs they generated (e.g. trainings, consultation process, technical assistance, awareness raising, publications, toolkits, etc.). Also describe any problems encountered in project delivery and corrective actions taken. Describe the role of the implementing agency and of the partner agency (in the case of a service from UNESCO project) and the role of other implementing partners in carrying out activities and generating outputs.

Not fewer than 1000 or more than 1500 words

The project "Inventory of intangible culture of craftsmanship in the core of historic Cairo", subject of contract No. (4500444402) concluded between UNESCO and the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions. According to the approved timetable for project planned activities:

Activity One: Prepare an Organizational Structure for the Project.

The meeting of the project's Supreme Committee was held on September 18, 2022, which was supposed to be held in June and was postponed due to the illness of Prof. Ahmed Aly Morsi on July 20, 2022, his passing. Mr Haitham Younes become the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions representative in the Supreme Committee in the project and in the presence of Major General Alaa Rashad Muhammad, Secretary General of Cairo Governorate.

The meeting was held at the headquarters of the General Bureau of Cairo Governorate, in the presence of the Project Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director, who presented a detailed report on the project's status after the last meeting, which discuss the timetable, administrative and financial report for the project were reviewed, and the Executive Board's report on the implementation of the project's work was reviewed.

The Supreme Committee commended the effort made by the Executive Board and called on the board to adhere to the project schedule and focus on the project's objectives.

During this period the Executive Committee held seven meetings on the dates 18 of April, 19 of May, 19 of June, 25 of July, 29 of August, 24 of September, and 31 of October. All those meetings were held at the headquarters of the Egyptian Society For Folk Traditions (ESFT), The approved administrative headquarters of the executive body, those meetings discussed the following points:

- Selected and agreed the fieldwork collection teams and accept the list of volunteers.
- Distributed the purchased equipment to the fieldwork collector teams, such as cameras, audio recorders, and memory cards.
- Fieldwork collection groups have been trained on how to use these tools and have also been instructed and trained on how to train community members to use them to assist with the crafts inventorying and documentation.
- Scientifically review the collected fieldwork material for the inventory, which includes the inventory form and the field material (video, audio and photos) in terms of their conformity with the terms of the project and the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, UNESCO 2003, where the work of the field collection teams is reviewed on more than one phase to ensure the accuracy and quality of the results.
- The final version of the inventories films goes through a number of preparation phases, which are: selecting the best-recorded shots from per each craft from the fieldwork group, collecting information and filling out forms, carrying out montage operations, presenting the film to the local community after montage, scientific review of the information that has been documented, preparing a final formulation of the form, writing down the final text of the accompanying sound on the film. In the same language as the speaker, to ensure full access to the information in the video and to avoid any inconvenience recorded, all of the above should be translated from Arabic into English.

- More than one workshop was held with fieldwork collection groups and volunteers, collectively and in cases of individual requests, individually, to collect observations, lessons learned, difficulties and obstacles that hinder work in the field, and to follow up the development of the local community's capabilities in absorbing what is required of it regarding the implementation of the agreement and the steps of the project, 3 workshops were held collectively during the meetings that took place on March 19, April 23, and August 12, 2022, more than four individual meetings were held with members of the inventory groups at separate times.

- Prepared detailed report by the Executive Council on the implementation of the project work and the position of the project during the previous period, as the timetable, administration and finances for the project were reviewed.

Activity Four: Field Work (Inventorying)

First Team

Main Researcher: Dr. Shereif Salah

Volunteers: Amira Salah, NourhanFawzy.

Second Team

Main Researcher: Ms. HanenTarek

Volunteers: Shrouk Emad, Dina El-Beltagi.

Third Team

Main Researcher: Adel Mousa

Volunteers: Salma Gado, Ebrahim Abd El-Aziz.

Fourth Team

Main Researcher: Dr Shereen Mohamed

Volunteers: Amgad Samuel, Fuad Morsi.

Fifth Team

Main Researcher: Tamer Rezk

Volunteers: Mahmoud Khalaf, Adel Abd El-Moneam.

The teams began to collect information, where the Cairo governorate facilitated the security procedures for them, and the Executive Committee, in its meeting held on Saturday, March 19, gave some guidelines to researchers about the elements that must be taken into account in the inventory.

Knowing that the below mentioned inventorying list goes through several stages, as follows:

1. Data collection by fieldwork (video - audio - photos).
2. Writing inventory form in Arabic.
3. Review and edit the inventory form.
4. Film editing and subtitles in Arabic and English.
5. Filling the ICH-07 forms (video and photos) in Arabic.
6. English translation for each inventory form, the ICH-07 forms (videos and photos) and the final editing film.

7. Publishing all the above on the project website (www. ichc.esft.info).

The inventory groups completed an inventory of 13 traditional crafts, namely: Oimaji (wood engraving), Traditional tailor, Traditional upholstery craft, Al-Sheftshi (copper engraving), Al Qasabji (Thread embroidery), Bookbinding, Silver craft, Blacksmithing, Marble engraving, Zincograph, Khayamiya (hand-stitched cotton appliqué over heavy cotton back), Tanning and Bamboo.

The participants in the field inventory groups faced more than one problem that was addressed, including the craftsmen's preoccupation with preparing their work, which requires them to leave their workshops at times, which requires re-coordination for other visits. The craftsmen also suffered from a lack of marketing for their products, which was represented by the Cairo Governorate. In the Department of Heritage Preservation in the preparation, implementation and provision of more than one exhibition of heritage products produced by artisans, as well as the complaint of artisans in the local community about the small number of new generations that need technical education and practical training to acquire the industrial craft, which needs to be addressed in the future in cooperation with Concerned authorities such as the Ministry of Education, the governorate and other government agencies, and representatives of the local community from NGOs.

Community involvement

Provide a description of the mechanisms used for fully involving the community(ies) concerned. Describe not only the participation of the communities as beneficiaries of the project, but also their active participation in the planning and implementation of all activities.

Not fewer than 300 or more than 500 words

To ensure the highest participation of the community in the planning and implementation of the project, three representatives of stakeholders were hired within the project's executive body, General Ahmed Helmy, representative and chairman of the Mizala association for handicrafts in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar. Eng. Islam Sherif Noor, representative of the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions. Mr Hassan Ibrahim, representative of the Petah Association for training rural and urban children in the ceramic industry. All of them are representatives of NGOs working and effective in the field of traditional crafts in Historic Cairo.

During the two days of events which the project was announced in October, events were organized on Sunday and Monday 24th and 25th of October, as Sunday is the day off from work for all craftsmen In Historic Cairo, in order to ensure the highest attendance and participation of craftsmen. Al-Azhar Park was chosen as a venue for the events due to its location within the historical Cairo area, making it accessible to all craftsmen.

- Based on the requests of the craftsmen and their desire to participate in the training workshop, the project increased the number of participants from twenty craftsmen to forty-six craftsmen who were trained in two groups.

- In response to the request of the Craftsmen who participated in the training workshop, the executive committee of the project organized an exhibition of craft exhibits, where the craftsmen displayed a number of their craft products, the craftsmen also explained the skills related to those crafts, which gave the craftsmen a sense of pride and celebration of their heritage.

- The closing ceremony included a discussion session in the presence of all stakeholders involved in the project, the craftsmen, the Cairo Governor, the UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo and The Executive Committee of the project to discuss the development of the project

and future plans related to it. Where the craftsmen led the discussion and expressed their problems, needs and suggestions for the development of traditional crafts, and all the stakeholders listened to them. There were many decisions to help the craftsmen continue and practice their living heritage.

- The craftsmen's workshops inspired many ideas about ways to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage related to traditional crafts only in Historic Cairo, but in all Egyptian cities and they presented a proposal for the work of craft schools in which the craftsmen themselves would teach, a luminous participation by the craftsmen community that can shape the future of crafts.

- All workshop activities were video recorded to document the participation of craftsmen in the activities. Notes were made on what the craftsmen needed and their expectations.

- The community actively participated in the process of inventorying 13 heritage elements, as at least three forms were filled out for each element by the craftsmen practising the craft in their workshops, The inventory forms were presented to the local community for review and evaluation after the scientific reviews that were carried out, and the community approved the documentaries that were reviewed.

Sustainability and exit/transition strategy

Describe how the benefits of the project will continue after the project has been completed. Where appropriate, describe the steps undertaken to ensure the following:

- *Sustainability of activities, outputs and results, including with reference to how capacity has been built under the project. Also describe any planned follow-up measures to ensure sustainability.*
- *Additional funding secured as a result of this project, if any. Indicate by whom, how much and for what purpose the contributions are granted.*

Describe how the ownership (of activities, outputs, results) by stakeholders and the community(ies) in particular has been promoted.

Describe, if relevant, how tools, processes, outputs, etc. have been adopted, adapted, replicated and/or extended for future use (e.g. in other regions, communities, elements, or fields of intangible cultural heritage).

Not fewer than 100 or more than 500 words

Since its first activity, the project has been keen to create a communication network between craftsmen, as most of the time is devoted to craftsmen communicating with each other, and the project is keen, through direct communication with craftsmen, to maintain this network.

The project has prepared within its agenda many activities that will ensure sustainability and benefits to the artisan community in Historic Cairo after the project ends, including the training of 46 craftsmen representing various traditional crafts. The list of artisans has been selected from young artisans to draw the attention of young people towards the profession of traditional crafts. Creating an accessible website that provides information to all stakeholders about traditional

The Crafts in Historic Cairo project contributes to ensuring the sustainability of information and public benefit from the project after its completion.

What was promised by the Governor of Cairo during the closing ceremony of the training workshops for craftsmen was completed by adopting markets for craftsmen's products to ensure their significant contribution to the sustainability of craftsmen and their crafts.

Economic benefit for artisans.

The forms filled out by the craftsmen and the video recorded directly with them will

contribute to the preservation and sustainability of the item.

Publishing the project website as the beta version to be ready to publish the completed project inventories for the people who are concerned and for updating discussion with the local community and contains a lot of data about the project like timeline, photos and the inventories list.

Lessons learnt

Describe what are the key lessons learnt regarding the following:

- *Attainment of expected results*
- *Ownership of key stakeholders and community involvement*
- *Delivery of project outputs*
- *Project management and implementation*
- *Sustainability of the project after the assistance*

Not fewer than 300 or more than 750 words

Since the two-day project activities were held in October, the activities have been carried out on Sundays and Mondays. The new executive body notes the large attendance of craftsmen on Sunday, "the craftsmen's day off," and many of them were absent from attendance on Monday, "because of working on Monday." Among the lessons learned from this situation during the current period, and this was emphasized to the field collection teams, is not to deal with artisans in the field of collection on their weekly day off.

Some crafts in the historic Cairo neighbourhood suffer from the reluctance of many young people to practice them, so the project was keen to communicate with young craftsmen through representatives of civil society associations present in the project to attract them and arouse their interest not only in the project but also in their heritage, its value and the importance of preserving it.

The artisans emphasized, more than once, some of their demands and needs, which were appreciated by the project authority regarding the establishment of a permanent market for them. One of the lessons learned from this situation is that those responsible for traditional crafts should listen to the needs of the craftsmen and assist them.

One of the lessons learned is that the artisan community is the ablest to come up with ideas to develop their heritage.

Before changing or amending any of the items, it is necessary to communicate and refer to UNESCO and clarify the goals and objectives behind the change to give permission for the change or amendment, which ensures that the project continues on the right track. One of the lessons learned is keeping everyone informed supports the project and ensures success.

The establishment of exhibitions is of paramount importance to artisans, and work has been done to organize the largest possible number of them in cooperation with the Cairo Governorate, with the financial return of sales being allocated to artisans.

the goals and success.

- Before changing or amending any of the items, communication and reference to UNESCO shall be made and the goals and objectives behind the change are explained in order to give permission for the change or amendment, which ensures that the project continues on the right path. One of lessons learned is keeping everyone informed supports the project and ensures success.

- The holding of fairs is of paramount importance to the craftsmen and we will work to organize as many of them as possible.

Annexes

List the annexes and documentation included in the report:

- publications, evaluation reports and other outputs, when applicable
- progress reports prepared during the contract period
- list of major equipment provided under the project and status after termination of contract period
- other (please specify)

- Photos of some inventory forms.

- Financial status excel file.

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Haitham Younis

Title: Treasurer, representative of ESFT in the higher committee of the project

Date: 1211/2022

Signature:

هيثم يوسف حاد الحوي

