



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: 18/08/2021 to: 31/03/2022
Budget:	<p style="text-align: right;">Total: US\$108515</p> <p><i>Including:</i></p> <p>Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund: US\$86950</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">State Party contribution: US\$18750</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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: Morsi</p> <p>Given name: Ahmed</p> <p>Institution/position: Chairman</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:	Mezala 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, that survived since 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 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 as 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 as a great asset in such a cultural area, where older craftsmen "master artisans" still continue to live and practice their skill. It is regarded as one of the most important income-generating activities that helps 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 is already threatened, as traditional craftsmanship deals basically with traditional knowledge, and skills of any craft. Some skills are still practiced, 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 culture 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 world view that affects the development of crafts and its 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 nor the status of the craftsmanship. The objective of this survey then was to incorporate traditional crafts in plans of 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 absent of knowledge, skills and values of the other crafts that survived of such cultural area. 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 was participate on 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 culture 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

The project achieved its objectives during the period from August 18, 2021 to March 31, 2022 in achieving its objectives, whether in the short or long term.

- Involving the community in decision-making for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, through the involvement of some practitioners, NGOs and stakeholders in the organizational structure of the project management.
- 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 will be achieved through the social network that will be created during the networking event, and certainly during the capacity building of the project participants.
- Administrative preparation and implementing capacity building workshops of 46 craftsmen from Historic Cairo over 5 training days with diversity of target crafts
- The training included providing a comprehensive overview of the intangible cultural heritage, the 2003 UNESCO Convention and its principles. This would stimulate further collaboration and open the door for future artisan groups.
- Forming of social network between craftsmen that was developed during training, exchanging experiences and contacting, which may result in many future works
- Providing the opportunity to test the capacities of local experts who have been trained through the UNESCO project to enhance capacity building of national experts to create a pool of qualified trainers
- Starting the implementation of inventory and consulting procedures, and then strengthening the primary role of public stakeholders, i.e. an upcoming inventory in Cairo and Egyptian cities.

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 Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions. According to the approved timetable for project planned activities:

The first activity, preparing the organizational structure has been accomplished, as the higher committee of the project was formed. Members are Prof. Ahmed Aly Morsi, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions, and General Mohamed Hanafi, General Secretary of Cairo Governorate - the governmental partner. On September/4/2021, the first meeting of the committee was held and during this meeting the formation of the executive body was approved.

From 24 to 25 of October 2021 the second activity has been accomplished, by launching "Communication Events", it was a two-days events to communicate all stakeholders from groups and individuals working in the field of intangible cultural heritage, whether governmental or non-governmental organizations, local institutions, experts or local media interested in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, with the aim of announcing the start of the project and inviting all for participation and exchanging information. The logo of the project was developed to represent the hand of the craftsman creating one of the copper dishes

This activity resulted in communicating with (42) of the invitees from various specializations. (a list of attendee's names is Attached)

Directly after the end of the second activity (communication / networking) at the end of October 2021, the whole project's work completely postponed, due to the change of Cairo governorate representatives in the project's executive committee and financial representative (an employee in the Cairo Governorate) joined the executive committee.

On January/16/2022, The first meeting by the new executive body was held, the executive body decided to resume the activities of the project, represented in the third activity: (capacity building for the craftsmen) participating in the project.

It was decided to hold the training course for craftsmen, by trainers "who participated in UNESCO ICH TOT workshop.

The training course for craftsmen started on Sunday 30 January and lasted for five weeks, every Sunday of each week, as Sunday is the weekly holiday for craftsmen to ensure the attendance of craftsmen without negatively affecting their work. A number of 46 craftsmen were trained, and they were divided into two workshops.

- Two international facilitators of 2003 convention "Fatma Mustafa & Gehan Nabil"
- Four experts: Khaled Hussein, Rania Salah, Adel Moussa, and Haitham Younes.
- Dr. Ahmed Saeed, Executive Director of the project and the recipient of many UNESCO workshops on the 2003 Convention
- Three of those in charge of the inventory, Dr. Sherine Mohamed, Dr. Fouad Morsi and Mr. Hassan Sorour, assisted the facilitator during the training to ensure a full understanding of the nature of the agreement and the main purpose of the inventory.

The training schedule is as follows:

-The first workshop: Sunday, January 30: The workshop dealt with introducing UNESCO, presenting the 2003 Convention, the objectives of the Convention and safeguarding measures, and reviewed the inventory form and a practical application facilitated by Dr. Fatma Mustafa and Dr. Khaled Sabah

-The second workshop, Sunday, February 6, the workshop dealt with the cultural heritage associated with traditional crafts and discussing the items of the inventory list. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Rania Salah and Mr. Adel Musa

- The third workshop, Sunday, February 13, the workshop dealt with the terms of the agreement and free, informed and informed consent. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Gehan Nabil and Dr. Ahmed Saeed

- The fourth workshop, Sunday, February 20, The workshop dealt with the role of civil society in safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage and the role of craftsmen in safeguarding. The workshop was facilitated by Haitham Younes, Sherine Mohamed and Fouad Morsi.

- The closing day of the workshops On Sunday, February 27, a grand closing ceremony was organized that included an exhibition of traditional crafts held by the artisans participating in the workshops. A discussion session was devoted to the needs of the craftsmen to preserve their cultural heritage of traditional crafts, The dialogue was very rich, as many craftsmen spoke and presented their problems and suggestions to solve these problems, as well as many ideas and visions about the development of Egyptian heritage crafts.. Implementation of a questionnaire about the craftsmen's satisfaction and about what is the next step form Their point of view is to move forward with the project and also to explore future steps for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage not only in Cairo but in all Egyptian cities.

Attended the closing ceremony

- Egyptian Society for FolkTraditionas, Haitham Younes, Ahmed Saeed and a number of employees

- Major General Khaled Abdel-Aal, Governor of Cairo, who listened to the requirements and needs of craftsmen, which led to the creation of a permanent exhibition of craftsmen to display their craft products. The governor's response was quick and supportive of the craftsmen by promising to establish a permanent exhibition of heritage crafts. The governor also handed over certificates to the participating craftsmen.

- Ms. Samaa Mostafa, representing the UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo, who listened closely to the needs of craftsmen and their proposals regarding the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage

- Executive Committee of the project Dr. Ahmed Saeed, Engineer Miral Nabil, Major General Ahmed Helmy, Dr. Fatma Mustafa, Mr. Hassan Sorour

All facilitators of the workshops praised the interaction of the craftsmen and their desire for knowledge and apply what they learn in their daily lives in order to preserve their heritage not only related to their traditional crafts, but also have an understanding of their living heritage that they practice on a daily basis.

A large media coverage of the workshops for craftsmen was carried out, including pictures of the workshops, as well as some press conversations with craftsmen, facilitators and stakeholders. Below are some of the media sites

- <https://3yonnews.com/1809774>

- <https://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/3424174.aspx>

- <https://www.elmogaz.com/733873>

-<https://www.dostor.org/3727457>

- <https://fb.watch/b5ZnVihoWG/>

- <http://www.nafeza2world.com/Msr/971437>

- <https://www.facebook.com/219901624808618/posts/2572508566214567/?d=n>

In parallel, field inventory teams were prepared. A large number of young researchers expressed their desire to work as volunteers in field work. Accordingly, the Executive Committee decided, in its meeting held on February 20, to distribute volunteers to field work teams, where five teams were prepared, headed by one researcher and are assisted by a number of junior researchers, each team provided with list of crafts to work on it, and they are organized as follows:

First researcher : Dr. Shereif Salah

Second researcher : Mis. Nourhan Fawzy

Third researcher : Mr. Adel Mousa

Fourth researcher : Dr. Shereen Mohamed

Fifth researcher : Mr. Tamer Rezk

The teams began to collect the field, 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.

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 (Mezela) association for handicrafts in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar. Mr. Islam Shereif Nour, representative of the Egyptian Society for Folk Traditions. Mr. Hassan Ibrahim Othman, 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 events in which the project was announced in October, The 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.

The logo of the project was developed to represent the hand of the craftsman creating one of the copper dishes

-During the third activity of the workshops, the craftsmen showed a lot of celebration of their craft and their eagerness to continue the crafts and pass them on to future generations and showed a lot about the skills associated with their craft

-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 participating 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 that included 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 of what the craftsmen needed and their expectations.

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 network of communication between the craftsmen, so we find that in the events that were held in October, most of the time was given to the craftsmen to communicate with each other.

The project has prepared within its agenda many activities that would ensure sustainability and benefits accruing to the craftsmen community in Historic Cairo after the end of the project, including the training of 46 craftsmen representing various traditional crafts. The list of craftsmen in the Young Craftsmen was chosen to draw the attention of young people towards the profession of traditional crafts. Establishing accessible website that will provide information to all stakeholders about traditional crafts in Historic Cairo, which contributes to ensuring the sustainability of information and public benefit from the project after its completion

The project continued its work during its third activity, "building the capacity of craftsmen" to achieve sustainability, as a large number of craftsmen were trained "more than what is stipulated in the project" in order to fulfil their desire to participate in the workshop to gain knowledge about how to safeguard their heritage. At the end of the third, sums of money were distributed to all the craftsmen who participated in the training, as a kind of financial support that may help in sustaining their crafts.

The Governor of Cairo attended the closing ceremony of the craftsmen's training workshops and promised to establish a permanent market for the products of the craftsmen, which ensures that it contributes greatly to the sustainability of craftsmen and their crafts.

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

-At the end of October 2021, the whole project's work completely postponed due to radical change of representatives of the Cairo governorate in both higher and executive committees, which had a negative impact on the project as the project postponed for two months, November and December, and also the failure to access some documents related to the project. One of the lessons learned from this situation is working on project archive whether paper and electronic and make it announced and available to all project members.

-During the project's two days events which held in October, the activities were carried out on two days, Sunday and Monday. the new executive body notices the large attendance of craftsmen was on Sunday "the day of the craftsmen's holiday" and the absence of many of them from attending on Monday "because of the work on Monday." One of the lessons learned from this situation is to organize all of the activities of the training workshop for craftsmen only Sundays of every week to ensure a large participation in training.

-Some crafts in the Historic Cairo District suffer from the abstinence of many young people to practice it, 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 in not only towards the project, but towards their heritage, its value and the importance of its safeguarding. the training workshop schedule was developed to motivate young people to continue practicing these crafts

The period from December 31, 2021 to March 31, 2022 is the period allocated for the third activity related to capacity building of artisans representing 20 crafts on the intangible cultural heritage. One of the challenges that the project faced was persuading the craftsmen to participate, the Sunday of each week was set as the "artisans' weekly holiday" as the date for holding the workshops, and thus the workshops received a great turnout by the craftsmen.

One of the lessons learned through this situation is to organize workshops and events according to the circumstances of the trainers

During the ceremony, a discussion session was held with the participation of all professional stakeholders, Cairo Governorate, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo, the executive body of the project. During the session, the craftsmen presented some of their demands and needs, which were appreciated by the Governor of Cairo, who promised to help and support by making a permanent market for them. One of the lessons learned from this situation is that those responsible for traditional crafts must listen to the needs of craftsmen and help them

Also, during the closing ceremony, the craftsmen presented many ideas for developing traditional craft, including the establishment of a craft school in which the craftsmen themselves would teach craft skills and teach them to the new generations.

One of the lessons learned, that the craftsmen community is the most capable of putting forward ideas about developing their heritage.

Members of the executive body attended with facilitators all the capacity building workshops for craftsmen in order to identify any problems and obstacles to solve them immediately

One of the lessons learned from this is that those responsible for the project must be

constantly present during the events and activities to ensure the achievement of 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.

Lessons learned is keeping everyone informed supports the project and ensures success

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)

- Media links that published about the project during its third activity
- Workshop photos
- Photos of the certificates of attendance that were distributed to the craftsmen
- Photos of the closing ceremony

Name and signature of the person having completed the report

Name: Ahmed Morsi

Title: Chairman of socitey

Date: 07/05/2022

Signature:



الجمعية المصرية للموروث الشعبي
EGYPTIAN SOCIETY
FOR FOLK TRADITIONS