



Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas (PDP)

Context

Egypt's cities are growing rapidly, often in the absence of any governmental urban planning. Around 20 million people currently live in the Greater Cairo Region, the majority (around 60 per cent) in informal, underserved and densely built areas. There is a lack of basic social services and physical infrastructure, such as, health centres, schools, youth centres, access to drinking water, sewage and waste disposals, as well as, access to job opportunities. The large population density results in high environmental pollution. Generally, the residents develop their habitat independently without obtaining building permits, which often results in their deprivation of public services and infrastructure. Due to the major changes in Egypt, residents expect quick and tangible improvements in their living situation, and the government and civil society organisations can hardly accommodate the increasing needs and expectations of the poor urban population.

The PDP is an Egyptian-German development measure implemented by the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It started in 2004 and it is now in its third phase (2010- 2018), with core-financing by BMZ, as well as financing by the European Union (EU) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) with a total amount of EUR 49 million. In addition, the PDP receives LE 1 million annual contribution of the Egyptian government to the programme.

Objective

Public administration and civil society organizations collaborate in improving services and environmental conditions for the poor urban population.

Approach

The development measure is operating on all levels, cooperating with decision makers on the national, regional, and local levels on upgrading informal areas. The PDP disseminates and anchors participatory methods and instruments for integrated urban development through relevant national institutes, local administrations, and civil society.

In addition to this, the PDP builds capacities of local administration, youth representatives, local leaders, NGOs and the private sector to support them in enhancing the services and environmental conditions in their areas.

To support urgent and concrete measures, the PDP awards grants for small and medium-scale projects to improve the living conditions and upgrade physical, social and socio-economic infrastructure in nine selected informal urban areas in Greater Cairo Region. Complementary grants are given to the governorates for small and medium scale infrastructure projects in the selected areas. Youth, women and civil society organisations are actively engaged in the planning, as well as, in the implementation, operation and maintenance of the measures.

An integrated community-based solid waste management system is introduced in two poor urban areas in Qalyubeya Governorate, taking into consideration the needs of informal waste collectors and recyclers already operating in the sector. The issue of climate change and its consequences for informal urban areas is raised for the first time in Egypt, in order to, increase awareness and promote initiatives improving the resilience of the poor urban population.

Results

As a result of the programme's work, on the governorate, district and local levels participatory approaches are applied in dealing with informal urban areas. Decision makers are informed about the situation and are aware of methodologies and instruments to improve the livelihoods of the local population and alleviate urban poverty. The ability of the local administration, civil society and private sector organisations to provide more needs-oriented and coordinated services in informal urban areas has increased.

Development priorities are identified by local residents, enabling the application of participatory urban development methodologies and reducing social marginalization. In close cooperation between local administration, civil society and the private sector, concrete solutions for improving the social and infrastructural services of informal urban areas are sought, and concrete measures implemented, enhancing the role of civil society and private sector. As a result of the grant scheme, the living conditions of the urban poor have been improved.

Environmental conditions in selected informal areas are enhanced through the implementation of an agreed-upon solid waste management strategy by local NGOs and public administration. The improved waste management systems will not only benefit the local population, but also have demonstration character for other areas in Egypt. In 2014, the Advisory Board on Cities and Climate Change (AB-CCC) was established and held several stakeholder meetings, contributing to knowledge exchange and encouraging collaboration. Additionally, participatory pilot projects were initiated for protecting houses against the increasing summer heat ("architectural measures") and for introducing income generating urban agriculture schemes to the communities.

Partner

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