

EIDHR Projects in Egypt

February 2006

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Enhancing the role of civil society in human rights and political reform in the Arab region (contract: 2001/564 09)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: Non profit civil firm registered under the Egyptian civil law, art 5 since 1993.
It is not registered as NGO with the Ministry of social affaires due to the fact that is it considered as a regional NGO and not Egyptian
EC funding: 800,000 € (86 % of the total costs of the project)
Expiry date: 30/6/2006
Duration: 42 months (36 + 6)

B/ Background

1. Overall objectives

The project aim at maximising the civil society contribution to the process of democratisation, politic and legislative reforms on a regional Arab level and to build up a « civil forum » to accompany the Arab League Summits

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Deterioration of democracy and civil rights in Arab countries since the end of the 90's; analysis of the impact on 11th September 2002. Despite the context, some positive opening signs amongst the Arab League justify the efforts to implement a civil forum to complement official summits

3. Geographical area

Regional programme ((Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya).

C/ Implementation

1. Specific objectives

Promote the idea of national institutions
Formulate general principles
Prioritise human rights
Create a regional approach to democracy and human rights
Promote civil society participation

2. Activities

Seminars; Regional symposium; Workshops; Surveys; Consultations and publications.

3. Final beneficiaries

Arab human rights groups, NGO's, policy makers; party leaders; youth; women's groups/leaders

D/ Progress in achieving objectives

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas

Significant changes in the context handicap seriously the project.

2. Issues and action required

The upcoming Arab summit is planned on 28/29 March in Khartoum. How does CIHRS act in preparation of the summit ?

An external evaluation is foreseen at the end of the project. The TOR of evaluation should be prepared in collaboration with the delegation

3. Cross-cutting issues: good governance

E/ Payments

Amount	230,494	244,753	136,067	108,686	80,000
Forecast date					IT2007
Paid	31/07/2003	10/03/2005	13/02/2006	13/02/2006	
Reports	Interim narrative report 2003	Interim narrative report 2004	Jan-Avr 2005		

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The Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement

Watch, monitoring and evaluation of Egyptian parliament elections to enhance democratisation (contract DDH/2005/ 106 983)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: NGO (law 2002)

EC funding: 83, 899 € (90% of the total costs of the project)

Duration: 12 months

Expiry date: 7/9/2006

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

The project aims at identifying the degree of development of democracy in the Egyptian Society in light of the recent changes (locally, regionally, and internationally), through the evaluation of the performance of the various participants in the 2005 parliamentary elections.

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Egypt lacks neutral objective entities that can monitor the elections and identify the extent of democracy in the environment surrounding it, as well as the utilized methods and tools. Such an entity should also train individuals who can then monitor and follow up on legal and other violations, or conduct scientific research that aim at analyzing and evaluating the results of elections.

3. Geographical area

20 election districts in 11 governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, Giza, Qaliobiya, Suez, Menia, Assuit, Qena, Al Wadi Al Jadid, Daqahliya, Menofia, and Gharbiya)

4. Specific objectives

The project aims at focusing on candidates, voters, and the State (represented by its various authorities)

5. Activities

Training youth to monitor elections
Reporting on the electoral process
Round table discussions
Election watch

6. Final beneficiaries

100 youth to participate in Election Watch.

Candidates

Civil society, policy makers and political activists

Academic researchers

Media

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas : cancellation of local elections in 2006
2. Issues and action required
3. Cross-cutting issues: good governance

D/ Payments

Amount	67,119.20	16,779.80	
Forecast date		I TR 2006	
Paid	12/09/2005		
Report			

The Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement

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The Egyptian Association for training and human rights

Training journalist in covering elections and writing fair and unbiased press reports (contract: 2005/106 983)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: Non governmental non profit association
EC funding: 71,618 € (90% of the total costs of the project)
Duration: 12 months
Expiry date: 26/9/2006

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

Non communicated

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Egypt witness in 2005 and 2006 three major democratic transformations in its movement towards political reforms. The first is the Presidential elections in which there will be more than one candidate for the first time in its history. The second is the Parliamentary elections and the third is the local Councils elections (Municipalities) by the next year 2006.

3. Geographical area

The training courses take place in Cairo

4. Specific objectives

Train Egyptian Journalists working for national, Partisan, Independent Newspapers and Magazines on how to follow up, monitor the upcoming elections, and write fair and unbiased press reports. It includes the training on writing press reports on basis of international, scientific press standards and codes of ethics; basics of elections processes and laws; institutions; evaluating the electoral process.

5. Activities

12 training courses (1/month x 12 months)

Booklets

6. Beneficiaries

240 journalists

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas : cancellation of local elections in 2006
2. Issues and action required
3. Cross-cutting issues : good governance, institutional development

D/ Payments

Amount	57,294.60	14,323,06	
Forecast date		I TR 2006	
Paid	1/12/2005		
Reports			

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Egyptian centre for women's rights

Women in democratic transition (contract 2005/108-936)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: NGO (law 2002)
EC funding (%): 100,000 € (66,27%)
Duration: 24 months
Expiry date: 28/09/2007

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

Women in Democratic Transition project aims to increase the political participation of Egyptian women as voters, leaders and decision-makers. The project will target women from all governorates in Egypt for awareness raising about the importance of voting and being politically active

2. Origin, context and key assessments

The growing demand for change both from society and at the official level has become too powerful for the regime to ignore. Several opposition groups have become active and are pressing for their demands, attracting domestic and international attention alike. However, although all of these movements aim to reform Egyptian political culture and society, none have prioritized women's participation or women's interests in their platforms.

3. Geographical area

26 governorates

4. Specific objectives

Encourage and empower Egyptian women to participate in political life
Support women in obtaining leadership positions
Raise awareness of women's rights

5. Activities

"Cadre School"
Gender-sensitive campaign monitoring (discussion circles)
Studies: critical analysis of the elections
Actions towards Media
Seminars
Consultation Trainings

6. Final beneficiaries

40 discussion circles = 3,000 women

“Cadre School” = 50 women running for parliament and 100 women running for local council seats

Local community organizations.

Female local council and parliament members

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas
Cancellation of local elections in 2006
2. Issues and action required
3. Cross-cutting issues : gender, good governance

D/ Payments

Amount	47,915.71	42,084.29	10,000
Forecast date		I TR 2006	ITR2007
Paid	1/10/2005		
Reports			

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Land Centre for Human Rights

Supporting and developing farmers rights and participation

(Contract 2005/111-846)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: NGO (law 2002)
EC funding (%): 91,123.00 (72%)
Duration: 24 months
Expiry date: 18/12/2007

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

The project aims at shedding light on the deteriorated economic and social situation of the Egyptian farmers and providing means or mechanisms through which they can improve their conditions.

2. Origin, context and key assessments

After five years of the implementation of the Tenancy Law 96/1992 several changes that affected the land acquisition and ownership in rural Egypt have occurred. This project is designed to develop mechanisms and means to provide solutions for the problems that resulted from the enforcement of the Tenancy Law, among others:

- *Lack of access to information*
- *Deprivation of all land tenants from credit resources*
- *Lack of registered documents for land tenancy*
- *Increase of the prices for agricultural inputs*
- *Increase of landless agricultural labourers, with a lack of minimum legal guarantees,*
- *Social insurance, job security, low wages, etc.*
- *Violations of the farmers' right to housing.*
- *Insufficient compensation*
- *Specific issues for women*

3. Geographical Area

Governorates of El Behira – El Daqahleys – Qena – El Sharqeya – El Menya.

4. Specific Objectives

Providing direct legal aid to farmers

Studying and documenting current farmers problems

Increasing awareness by trainings

Supporting civil society organizations, farmers and political actors in rural communities in terms of introducing the principles of democracy and human rights,

Promoting cooperation between rural organisations to launch short-term campaigns among different actors

Linking women rights, democracy and the improvement of economic conditions in the countryside.

5. Activities

Legal aid (300 cases)

Monitoring (2 reports)

Study “Participation and Improvement of Income”

12 symposia

4 training courses

Workshop “Farmers Program on Income and Democracy in the Egyptian Countryside”.

Newsletter: The Farmer (1/year)

12 pamphlets (a pamphlet per two months).

Three posters

6. Final beneficiaries

Farmers

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas : bird flu
2. Issues and action required
3. Cross-cutting issues : gender, conflict prevention, good governance, environment

D/ Payments

Amount	36,505.00	45,506	9,112
Forecast date		IIITR 2006	ITR 2008
Paid	26/12/2005		
Reports			

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The Arab centre for the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession

Campaign for women judges in Egypt (contract 2005/110-988)

A/ General Information

Legal status: Regional non governmental, non profit organisation (registered in France)

EC funding (%): 93,025 € (90%)

Duration: 12 months

Expiry date: 1/12/2006

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

Mobilization of the local public opinion for empowerment of women as judges and prosecutors; accomplishment of non discrimination on the base of sex in judicial position and activation of women participation in the public life and state affairs administration.

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Non communicated

3. Geographical Area : all governorates

4. Specific Objectives

Change the Egyptian government's stand that rejects women judges and prosecutors

Change the community culture towards women as judges.

Encourage the women rights to prominent positions in the society in order to limit the violations against Egyptian women in general

5. Activities

Workshops for women judge in Egypt (300 beneficiaries)

Training courses for candidates for judicial positions in Egypt (80 beneficiaries)

Field studies

Awareness campaign on the right of woman to possess judicial positions in Egypt

5. Final beneficiaries 380

Female lawyers– judges – prosecutors – law women graduated- parliament members.

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas : results of 2005 elections
2. Issues and action required
3. Cross-cutting issues : gender, institutional development, good governance

D/ Payments

Amount	74,420.00	18,605	
Forecast date		ITR2007	
Paid	14/12/2005		
Reports			

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Centre for Egyptian Family Development

Family Court step forward civil and legal rights of Women (contract 2005/109-529)

A/ General Information

Legal status: NGO (law 2002)
EC funding: 97,253.00 (87.3%)
Duration: 24 months
Expiry date: 31/12/2007

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

To promote and monitor civil and legal women right's and to prevent violations of their civil and legal rights, abuse of power, address injustices and to draw attention to errors in legal and administration process concerning women inside Family courts.

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Family court laws are a good step toward enable women to get their civil, legal and social rights. The main purpose of family courts is to receive and solve any problems related to family members especially women who believe they were subjected to any form of discrimination or abuse of their rights from the side of husband, or other relatives. But what the implementation of this laws are still have a lot of problems (administration and technical)

This current situation is due to some reasons as the selected employees are not prepared well, laws target groups not oriented on how they can benefit from this the laws, Family court judges are separated from the community problems although they come from the same background of these communities, the family court places are not human places for the women and children.

Centre for Egyptian Family Development(CEFD) implemented a survey in Aswan, Qena and Sohag family courts and also held individual interviews with 500 women in the three governorates to know exactly how we can empower women to use Family courts as a legal way to get their rights .

Upper Egypt Governorates are very poor economically and far away the center (Cairo) of all serious events. Therefore, Upper Egypt women need a very serious and strong support to help her to get her civil and legal rights through family court and other systems

3. Geographical Area

Governorates of Aswan, Qena, Sohag

4. Specific Objectives

Prepare the family court staff to deal with their responsibilities
Improve family court places to welcome women and children.
Improve family court laws to address women issues (inheritance, family problems)
Provide social, legal and civil rights support to women

5. Activities

Selection of 3 NGOs per governorate and constitution of a “NGO committee” to pilot the project
Establish Counselling Offices in Aswan, Qena and Sohag
Handling family court Complaints of Aswan, Qena and Sohag Women:
Meetings with Judger committee
Tailored Capacity Building program for Conflict Resolution offices staff in the Family Court
Training Workshops and Seminars: 2 Seminars monthly per governorate
Civil, Legal Services for Women
Media Awareness Activities (Seminars with media personnel; production of a documentary film; brochures in English and Arabic; Posters
Establish a friendly place for women within the family courts in Aswan, Qena and Sohag
Studies on Family court performance
Analysis of all Complaints and issues Received by Family Counselling Offices

6. Final beneficiaries

12000 women in Upper Egypt
120 family court staff
12 Judges

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas
2. Financial execution
3. Issues and action required
4. Cross-cutting issues: gender, institutional development

D/ Payments

Amount	40,660.00	46868,00	9,725.00
Forecast date		ITR2007	ITR2008
Paid	27/02/2006		
Reports			

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(CEFD)**

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Al Shehab Institution for Comprehensive Development

Defending the rights of refugees (contract 2005/109-511)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: NGO (law 2002)

EC funding: 54,439.10 € (88 % of the total costs of the project)

Duration: 18 months

Expiry date: 06/06/2007

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

To reduce the discrimination against the displaced persons and refugees who reside in Al-Haggana

To make the local community aware of refugee issues

To facilitate contact between refugees and local NGOs that provide services to them.

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Three million or more Sudanese live in Egypt but the number of refugees registered with UNHCR by the end of 2003 was 5,000 only. Despite the fact that Egypt has signed the UN Refugee Convention, it did not implement the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol; in addition Egypt has no domestic asylum laws. Therefore, it is left to NGOs to defend the rights of refugees and provide them legal aid services, education, health care services, job training etc...But majority of the international and local NGOs provide assistance only to those refugees who are recognized as refugees by the UNHCR. Many refugees, especially the Sudanese, live in Ezbet Al Haggana, one of the most marginalized slum areas in Cairo, located on North-East of the city. The main reason that leads the refugees to live in Al Haggana is it cheaper and safer to live there since this area is considered illegal; there is no presence of government authorities. The population faces problems related to right of housing and associated services like water, sanitation and electricity. Furthermore, most of the local community faces problems such as extreme poverty and hunger, violence against women and children, illiteracy, child labour, and high rates of unemployment. Health care facilities do not meet the demands of the local community.

In this context, the refugees suffer discrimination. They live segregated from the rest of the population. The NGOs and Churches that provide services to refugees aggravate the situation by providing services to them separately from the Egyptians. The refugees suffer of violent acts committed against them by the local community, both verbal and physical. Violence starts among children.

3. Geographical Area

Cairo, Nasr City, Al Haggana (Ezbet Al Haggana)

4. Specific Objectives

To defend the rights of refugees

To provide group activities for the sudanese and the Egyptian children

To raise awareness of the local community about refugee issues

To improve the services towards refugees, of NGOs in Al Haggana

To inform the refugees on the services available

5. Activities

I- Awareness raising campaigns of the residents and NGOs located in Al Haggana region

a. Artistic and sportive group activities program for the children

b. Training of young volunteers

c. Refugee day” for schools

d. Focus Group Discussions for Al Haggana residents

e. Newsletter

f. Workshop for local NGOs

II- Facilitation of contact between refugees and NGOs

a. Publication and distribution of a NGO Yellow Page.

6. Final beneficiaries: 4,750 people ; 17 NGOs

The refugees living in Al Haggana

The residents of Al Haggana, especially children and youth.

NGOs and religious establishments in Al Haggana

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas

Changed occurred after the dramatic events concerning sudanese refugees, in December 2005 ?

2. Issues and action required

3. Cross-cutting issues: conflicts prevention

D/ Payments

Amount	36,2260.88	18,178.22	
Forecast date		ITR2007	
Paid	14/12/2005		
Reports			

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Human Rights Association for the Assistance of Prisoners (HRAAP)

Defending prisoners and detainees rights (contract 2005/111-031)

A/ General Information

Legal status: NGO (law 2002)
EC funding: € 85,919 (90% of the costs of the project)
Duration: 12 months
Expiry date: 28/11/2006

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

To improve the living and medical conditions of prisoners
To advocate legal rights such visits, medical care, education and legal assistance

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Egypt has about 44 prisons, entirely depending on the Minister of Interior. The conditions of detainees are very bad ¹. The prisons lack the minimum standards of decent living conditions: overcrowded, lack of hygiene and ventilation, lack of clothes and covers; bad nourishment; diseases; threatens against prisoners. The most important violated rights are the right to visits and communication, to medical care, to physical safety and to education.

3. Geographical Area

Egypt

4. Specific Objectives

Improve the living conditions and access to legal rights to the prisoners
Gather information regarding torture cases in Egyptian prisons, police stations and detention places.
Provide legal aid to torture victims.
Raise awareness among lawyers concerning torture prevention.
Advocate improvements to the living conditions of prisoners
Prepare recommendations

¹ The background information results partially from the experience of HAARP with prisoners and detainees in 19 prisons

5. Activities

Fieldwork: collection of individual complaints submitted by prisoners and/or their families.
Visits to Prisoners (500 visits / year) & their families
Legal assistance (750 law suit/year)
Annual report

6. Final beneficiaries

Prisoners and their families; lawyers; torture victims; human rights activists

C/ Progress

1. Changes of the context and in the key assessment areas
2. Financial execution
3. Issues and action required
4. Cross-cutting issues: good governance

D/ Payments

Amount	40,660.00	46868,00	9,725.00
Forecast date		ITR2007	ITR2008
Paid	27/02/2006		
Reports			

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Association of the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW)

Women are full citizens too; empowering Egyptian women to actively participate in the political sphere (contract 2005/106-875)

A/ General Information

Legal Status: NGO (law 2002)

EC funding: 98,569 € (50% of the total costs of the project)

Duration: 12 months

Expiry date: 6/09/2006

B/ Implementation of the project

1. Overall objectives

To increase women's political participation in the upcoming elections

2. Origin, context and key assessments

Not communicated

3. Geographical Area

Four areas in three governorates (Cairo, Gharbyia, Qalubya):

- Manshiet Nasser (Cairo, Moqqatam Hills)
- Masr el Qadima (Cairo)
- El Qanater (Qaluybeya, semi-rural area)
- Mashala (Gharbeya, rural area)

4. Activities

- I Increase the number of Egyptian women voters through issuing voting cards and raising their awareness about the importance of political participation in the electoral process.
 - Activity 1: issue 8,700 I.D. and voting cards
 - Activity 2: 36 public meetings
 - Activity 3: 6 local public conferences

- II Monitor, train and assist Egyptian women candidates who plan to run for public offices:
 - Activity 1: training and mentoring program for women candidates for parliamentary, local and syndicate elections
 - Activity 2: practical assistance for women candidates in their election campaigns
 - Activity 3: media committee to support women political candidates

Activity 4: manual on the training and mentoring program

III: Advocacy for legal changes concerning women participation in political life:

Activity 1: lobby decision makers, establish a fund to sponsor

Activity 2: lobby decision makers and government officials for the application of a quota system for women's representation

Activity 3: 3 national conferences

Activity 4: 3 press conferences

Activity 5: publication

Activity 6: Success stories of Egyptian women's political participation

6. Final beneficiaries

Women in rural and urban low income areas (34,800 women)

Women who wish to stand for a public office regardless of their political affiliation (90 women)

Community leaders, decision makers,

Media

Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women

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