Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Activity: Empowering the informal city (25-0002571)

Id	25-0002571
Date	27-11-2025
SAP application number	

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Key data

Activity basics

Type	Standard
Short name	Empowering the informal city
Contract party	Cairo Lab for Urban Studies Cluster (30081248)
ODA	Yes
Amount EUR	40000
Start date	15-01-2026
End date	15-12-2026
Full name	Empowering the Informal City: Climate Justice and Local Solutions
Summary	The project aims to: -Address the climate crisis, particularly urban heat, in informal residential buildings through their specific typology and urban fabric. -Revalue and reinterpret “traditional” passive cooling techniques in regional heritage lost due to modern building technologies and construction industry. -Empower local communities by developing low-cost and low-tech interventions that can be produced and maintained locally, thus lending them agency. -Frame these climate adaptation solutions in the wider context of the global struggle for climate justice, and involve local residents and international experts in these conversations. -Disseminate the local knowledge and technologies developed in the project to wider audience in both Egypt and the Netherlands. -Capitalize on the ongoing Dutch-Egyptian collaboration through knowledge exchange and hands-on design-build workshops.

Activity details

Date of receipt of proposal	22-10-2025
Proposal’s reference number	MINBUZA-2025.2679816
Budget holder	Ambassade Caïro (8251KAI)
Limit access	No
Related activity	

Accounting data

SAP application number	
Funds center	KAI Culture and development contribution (1705U02050005)

Policy data

Cooperation modality	Project support
Technical assistance	0% of the activity budget
CRS code	16010 Social Protection
Policy Keywords	
Refugees & host communities	No
Team Europe Initiative	No
Policy Markers	
__Trade & The Economy	Not targeted
_Security & Stability	Not targeted
Biodiversity	Not targeted
Climate change: adaptation	Principal
Climate change: mitigation	Significant
Desertification	Not targeted
Equality between men & women	Not targeted
Migration	Not targeted
Explain your choices	The project mainly aims to create a more equitable and socially just living environment for the large population of Cairo's informal housing areas, in the context of the escalating climate crisis. The proposed scalable solutions will be based on a re-interpretation of 'forgotten' low-tech passive principles that are found in the historical and ancient architecture of Cairo.

Beneficiary location

Beneficiary location	Country
Country	Egypt
Location type	District
Specific location	Ard El-Liwa

Policy Appraisal

Policy relevance

- What policy objectives, as set out in the annual plan, policy notes etc., will this activity contribute to?
  The activity will contribute to strengthening the civil society by providing residents with agency to address their needs on a local scale - preparing to adapt for the serious impact of the climate crisis in Egypt in the coming decades and initiate a wider conversation on climate justice and mitigation in informal neighborhoods.
  The project will also play a role in heritage preservation and supporting creative industries by reviving old architectural structures and further developing them.
  The project will contribute to knowledge exchange and democratization of knowledge by disseminating the local knowledge and technologies developed in the project to wider audience in both Egypt and the Netherlands.
  It will also capitalize on the ongoing Dutch-Egyptian collaboration through knowledge exchange and hands-on-design-build workshops.

Rationale

- What issue/problem will be addressed by the activity
  The activity will address challenges related to climate change as well as people's ability to adapt to it using traditional architecture solutions.
- Why does the activity help to address the issue/problem?
  The activity will empower and educate local communities by developing low-cost and low-tech interventions that can be produced and maintained locally.
-
  For ODA activities over EUR 250.000, please explain the Theory of Change

Contextual analysis

- Who is/are the target group(s) and why?
  The target groups are mainly the local communities in Cairo especially the area of Ard El-Liwa.
- Who are the other main stakeholders?
- The main stakehoders are the local communities, Cluster (the Egyptian implementing partner, Ap+E (Dutch research organization) and Loom (Dutch practice for cultural transformation).
- To what extent have stakeholders been involved in formulating the proposal?
  The proposal was put together by the 3 Dutch and Egyptian practices for the benefir of all stakeholders.
- Is the intervention aimed at a specific geographical location, and if so, why?
  Yes, the intervention is aimed towards a specific area in Cairo which is Ard El-Liwa, an informal neighborhood of approximately 150,000 residents in Cairo. The selection of this specific area is based on the fact that the marginalized and precarious communities living in the informal neighborhoods are already dealing with the most immediate effects and will face serious problems as the climate crisis deepens in the decades to come.

Additional remarks (if applicable)

Results

Climate

4.5. Empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations

Indicators
What has been achieved by this activity on Empowerment of groups in vulnerable situations?
Measurements:

Climate Change Adaptation (SDG 13.1)

Indicators
What has been achieved by this activity on Climate change adaptation (SDG 13.1)?
Measurements:

Climate Change Mitigation (SDG 13.2)

Indicators
What has been achieved by this activity on Climate Change Mitigation (SDG 13.2)?
Measurements:

Strengthened Civil Society

Locally led Development

Indicators
EUR of MFA financing going directly (or maximum through one intermediary) to local actors
Measurements:

To what extent has the affected population/target group been included in the programme design, discussion of progress and planning of activities?
Measurements:

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring

- Specify what reporting information is required for this activity, based on the activity analysis decision tree (see Help).

Final reports:

Narrative and financial reports: To be submitted by 1 February 2027

Finance

Budget breakdown

- Include an overview of the activity budget, including overhead costs.
- Is the budget arithmetically correct?
- Are the amounts/rates in the budget acceptable?
- Briefly explain the structure of the budget.

Budget:

Project management, organization & design fee	20.000,00	
-CLUSTER (co-curation, implementation, community outreach,		
-exhibition installation)		8.000,00
-AP+E (co-curation, workshop coordination, technical advice)		6.000,00
-Loom (co-curation, workshop coordination, technical advice)		6.000,00
Materials / production	12.500,00	
-2-3 prototypes of local solutions		5.000,00
-Models and other materials for the exhibitions + installation		3.500,00
-Graphic novel design		2.000,00
-Printing of graphic novel and exhibition brochures		2.000,00
Travel Egypt	4.000,00	
-1 trip AMS-CAI for 2 persons (tickets and accommodation)		1.800,00
-1 trip CAI-AMS for 2 persons (tickets and accommodation)		2.200,00
Venues `	1.500,00	
-Rental and 2-3 Venue (Cairo, Alexandira and Port Said)		
Expenses	2.000,00	
-Local transportation		500,00
-Hospitality		400,00
-Books		300,00
-Overhead and admin cost		800,00
TOTAL	40.000,00	

- Are overheads proportional to outputs? What is included? What is recharged?
- Is implementation conditional on the budget being amended in an inception phase? (Specify the requirements that the budget must satisfy and the date by which the budget must be amended)

Overheads are very reasonable. The budget is arithmetically correct.

Earmarking

- Is the Dutch contribution to the programme earmarked (i.e. reserved for a specific purpose)? If so, specify the reasons why.

It is a EKN only project.

Prepayments

- Based on the prepayment decision tree (see Help), do the payments need to be entered as prepayments and why? In the case of a lump sum, assess this against the applicable criteria and give the reasons for your choice.
- What is the maximum percentage that can be paid as prepayment, and why?
- Which are the reporting obligations on the basis of which prepayments can be closed?

Payments are recorded as advance. Justification will be done based on the final financial report.
The last payment of 5% will be done after approval of the final report.