

**REQUEST BY A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION TO BE ACCREDITED TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY  
CAPACITY TO THE COMMITTEE**

**Deadline: 30 April 2023**

**for examination by the Committee in 2023 and accreditation by the General Assembly in  
2024**

*File may be downloaded at:*  
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>

*Please provide only the information and supporting documentation requested below.  
Annexes cannot be accepted.*

**A. Identification of the organization**

**A.1. Name of the organization submitting this request**

A.1.a. *Provide the full official name of the organization in its original language, as it appears in the supporting documentation establishing its legal personality (section D.2. below).*

Gameyet Al-Saïd Lil Tarbeya Wal Tanmeya جمعية الصعيد للتربية والتنمية

A.1.b. *Name of the organization in English and/or French.*

Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development

**A.2. Address of the organization**

*Provide the complete postal address of the organization, as well as additional contact information such as its telephone number, email address, website, etc. This should be the postal address where the organization carries out its business, regardless of where it may be legally domiciled. In the case of internationally active organizations, provide the address of the headquarters.*

Organization: Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development (AUEED)

Address: 65 Obeissy Street, Daher 11271

Telephone number: (+20) 225898364 – (+20) 225889634 – (+20) 225882484

Email address: aueed@aueed.net

Website: <https://upperegypt.org.eg>

Other relevant information: <https://www.facebook.com/AkhmimAndHagazaCrafts>

### A.3. Contact person for the correspondence

*Provide the complete name, address and other contact information of the person responsible for correspondence concerning this request.*

Title (Ms/Mr, etc.): Ms.

Family name: Lahham

Given name: Hélène (known as Loula Lahham)

Institution/position: Director of Akhmim Project

Address: 65 Obeissy Street, Daher, Cairo 11271, Egypt

Telephone number: +20 225898364 – +20 225889634 – +20 225882484

Email address: [loula@auheed](mailto:loula@auheed)

Other relevant information: WhatsApp number (+20) 122 3806556

### A.4. Country or countries in which the organization is active (Paragraph 91(b) of the Operational Directives)

*Identify the country or countries in which your organization actively operates. If it operates entirely within one country, indicate which country. If its activities are international, indicate whether it operates globally or in one or more regions, and list the primary countries in which it carries out its activities.*

☒ local

☒ national

☐ international (please specify)

☐ worldwide

☐ Africa

☐ Arab States

☐ Asia and the Pacific

☐ Europe and North America

☐ Latin America and the Caribbean

Please list the primary country(ies) in which it is active:

**EGYPT**

**B. Organization's competence, expertise, and experience in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (Article 9 of the Convention and paragraphs 91(a) and (c) of the Operational Directives)**

**B.1. Objectives of the organization**

*Describe the objectives for which your organization was established, which should be in conformity with the spirit of the Convention. If the organization's primary objectives are other than safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, explain how its safeguarding objectives relate to those larger objectives.*

*Not to exceed 300 words*

The Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development operates in Upper Egypt since 1940.

**Activities:**

- 1) Educational services
- 2) Health services
- 3) Small, medium and micro enterprises
- 4) Economic development
- 5) Skills development
- 6) Preserving tangible and intangible heritage**
- 7) Cultural and Artistic development**
- 8) Sports and Scouting Activities
- 9) Supporting rights of women, children and people with disabilities
- 10) Environmental Development
- 11) Community Development
- 12) Social Assistance and Humanitarian Services
- 13) Providing Hotel Services
- 14) Elderly Care
- 15) Developmental Media Production
- 16) Research and Studies

**In all its developmental activities, AUEED seeks to maintain Egyptian national identity through addressing all forms of poverty: cultural, financial and that related to capacity and skills, and through reviving Upper Egypt's cultural and artistic, tangible and intangible heritage.**

We are committed to respect human rights; especially within the most marginalized groups, within the framework of international conventions on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**The Community Center of Akhmim, a pioneer experience in protecting Egyptian Heritage**

The city of Akhmim sits on the eastern bank of the Nile, some 200 km north of Luxor. Its main crafts were handweaving and embroidery. Textiles were made using linen threads, cotton, silk, and wool. While embroidery uses silk, golden and silvers threads.

It is significant that, when referring to the city, the geographer Strabon (ca. 64 BC-ca. 30 AD) does not mention anything except the ancestral presence of weavers.

Famous for the majority of Pharaonic and Coptic textiles that are exhibited in the world's greatest museums, Akhmim still has a good number of hand looms producing cotton textiles with various patterns allowing to compose traditional or modern designs.

## B.2. Domain(s) in which the organization is active

*Tick one or more boxes to indicate the primary domains in which the organization is most active. If its activities involve domains other than those listed, tick 'other domains' and indicate which domains are concerned.*

- ☒ oral traditions and expressions
- ☒ performing arts
- ☐ social practices, rituals and festive events
- ☐ knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe
- ☒ traditional craftsmanship
- ☐ other domains - please specify:

*Briefly describe below your organization's work in relation to the domains chosen (if your organization cuts all domains, explain how).*

*Not to exceed 250 words*

The Association of Upper Egypt Association established the "Akhmim Community Centre" with the aim of enhancing women in this city, as women make more than half of its population. In order to achieve this human development, the Association began to teach and train girls and women to engage in the crafts of hand weaving and embroidery, since it was the main occupation of the people of Akhmim thousands of years ago, both men and women. Hand weaving dates back to the Pharaonic times, while the brilliance of embroidery with silk, gold and silver threads dates back to the Coptic and Islamic eras.

With regard to oral customs and traditions, most forms of traditional embroidery are inspired by Egyptian academic references and museum heritage, present in Egypt and abroad, and have origins that are referred to. The forgotten aesthetic decorations are brought back to life on new artworks, so that they will not disappear, as well as topics of free embroidery (free art), most of which come to record happy or sad customs, religious and social traditions, practices and celebrations of rural or bedouin society in Upper Egypt or in Egypt in general. And in order to stimulate the creative imagination of the women artists, folk tales, travels and excursions are organized, and new embroidery artworks stemming from the heart of the Egyptian heritage are born. While the decorations of the hand-woven fabric produced by the Centre go back to the Pharaonic civilization (key of life, scarabeh, flowers...).

## B.3. Primary safeguarding activities in which the organization is involved

*Tick one or more boxes to indicate the organization's primary safeguarding activities. If its activities involve safeguarding measures not listed here, tick 'other safeguarding measures' and specify which ones are concerned.*

- ☒ identification, documentation, research (including inventory-making)
- ☒ preservation, protection
- ☒ promotion, enhancement
- ☒ transmission, formal or non-formal education
- ☒ revitalization
- ☒ other safeguarding measures – please specify:

We are intending to create a local museum of handweaving and embroidery in our Community Centre of Akhmim to preserve this heritage from extinction. The project is ready and we work on the financing.

#### B.4. Description of the organization's activities

*Briefly describe the organization's recent activities and relevant experience in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including those demonstrating the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee. Relevant documentation may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.*

*Not to exceed 550 words*

Sixty years ago, and answering a request from AUEED, a team of the international women's Grail movement has been settled in Akhmim in the premises of a disused school, without any pre-established plan, encouraged by the founder of the AUEED, tightly attached to the rich heritage of this locality.

The new created "Akhnim Community Center" was dedicated to girls from underprivileged backgrounds who had not attended school. The fact of meeting together, helped them to express themselves in freedom, through games and theater scenes of their own composition.

These girls expressed the desire to be productive. Nothing better than to build on the textile tradition of this historical city. From fabrics acquired from weavers' workshops, tablecloths decorated with openwork fringes were born. Some women wanted to embroider on these fabrics, following the example of the workshops run by social pioneers in various villages. The successful participation in a handicraft exhibition in Cairo in 1963 gave them the courage to develop the production. Since then, an annual exhibition of Akhnim Community Center products is held regularly in Cairo.

Rather than embroidering butterflies and flowers, the Center preferred to draw inspirations from the patterns found on ancient textiles dating from the Greco-Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras, thus perpetuating a centuries-old tradition. Soon after, some of the girls wanted to produce spontaneous designs through embroidery, each refining a very personal style over the years. Their embroideries present scenes of daily life, rural sides where trees and palm trees dominate, as well as compositions inspired by landscapes they discovered while hiking outside the city of Akhnim, where women are confined to their dark houses. Much effort has been made to protect the artists from outside influence and preserve the authenticity of their expression.

In 1971, in order to support the Center's own needs, looms were installed, and Center members were introduced to weaving by a master weaver whose sisters were active members of the Center. This initiative caused a stir in the local society, which was attached to traditions and did not like the idea of women becoming weavers in a profession that had been exclusively male until then. Very quickly, the tensions calmed down.

This was how the three areas of activity evolved: handweaving, classical embroidery and free artistic embroidery, associated to naive art. This does not take into account the ancillary areas, such as warping, work on the spinning wheels, winding the wires to supply the shuttles, administration, keeping accounts and inventories, financial operations, etc. Many exhibitions of their works have taken place since 1963 in Egypt itself as well as in Europe and Northern America.

Today, the AUEED struggles for more appearance and presence of this historical heritage in the national and international societies, so it participates in all available local and worldwide possible exhibitions. AUEED participated in the Climate Summit Conference COP 27 in Sharm Al-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2022, answering a kind invitation of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, where it displayed and sold textiles and embroideries produced by the women of the Centre in front of visitors from more than 190 countries. The AUEED also works to train new generations of weavers and embroiderers to ensure the protection of the know-how of the antique culture of this city and its transmission from the old generation to the next.

## B.5. Description of the organization's competence and expertise

*Provide information on the personnel and members of the organization, describe their competence and expertise in the domain of intangible cultural heritage, in particular those that demonstrate the capacities of the organization to provide advisory services to the Committee, and explain how they acquired such competence. Documentation of such competences may be submitted, if necessary, under section D.3. below.*

*Not to exceed 200 words*

### **The Community Center of Akhmim personnel are composed by:**

- 1) 150 girls and women who work as handweavers, and/or embroiderers (classical/free spontaneous). A group of these women work as well in the ancillary areas, such as warping, work on the spinning wheels, winding the wires to supply the shuttles, administration, keeping accounts and inventories, financial operations, etc.
- 2) Their age varies between 19 and 75 years old. The elders usually teach the young ones the knowhow in both handweaving and embroidery
- 3) A Centre Manager who holds an experience of over 20 years in social Work and in weaving.
- 4) An Academic and artistic consultant who holds a MA in Egyptian Textiles from Cairo University.
- 5) A Project Director who holds a High Diploma in Folk Arts, with special mention on Akhmim Free Spontaneous Embroidery, from the Academy of Arts, Cairo. The Director of the Project published a book (The Tales of Akhmim Women) which document this art, considered to be an extension of the ancient Egyptians' drawings on the walls of temples and tombs.
- 6) A general administration of the NGO in Cairo who is strongly supporting their activities.

## **C. Organization's experiences in cooperating with communities, groups and intangible cultural heritage practitioners (Paragraph 91(d) of the Operational Directives)**

*Briefly describe below how your organization collaborates with communities, groups and, where appropriate, individuals that create, practise and transmit intangible cultural heritage.*

*Not to exceed 350 words*

AUEED works with more than one group that practice and transmit intangible cultural heritage:

**The Community Center of Akhmim**, which revives the weaving and embroidery heritage of Akhmim, as described earlier.

**The Wood Workshop of Hagaza**, created in 1986 to revive the wooden crafts of this historical village of carpenters and protect it from extinction.

**The Choir of Upper Egypt**, founded since more than 30 years ago to revive the artistic and musical cultural heritage of Upper Egypt and preserving it from loss. The group currently has 65 singers, story tellers and musicians.

**The Choir of Thebes**, which reproduce folk songs and dances from the Nubian Artistic Heritage of Upper Egypt. The team currently includes 35 boys and girls, giving the opportunity to make the child feels the importance of his role in society.

**The Classical Tahtib and the Modern Tahtib Groups**, playing and dancing with the Egyptian wooden stick. Most of the Tahtib practitioners were only men, especially in the rural areas where the stick was used by the people as a sign of masculinity. The rules of the game are based on the values of mutual respect, friendship, courage, strength, chivalry and pride. Tahtib was included in

the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in the Unesco in 2016, through an application submitted by AUEED.

In all its activities, AUEED develops intellectual, cultural and artistic awareness of children, youth and adults, consolidating values of coexistence, citizenship, tolerance and peace-building, by providing an environment that allows interaction, mutual learning and free expression, to enable them to discover themselves, their potential and capabilities by using all available technical tools and capabilities.

Furthermore, AUEED set a child protection policy and procedures, including the internal procedures committed by the Association to provide a safe environment for children and young men and women to protect them from harm, abuse, while they are in AUEED work area.

AUEED ensures that all the staff is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities in implementing the policy. All employees have signed the Code of Ethical Conduct, which includes appropriate and inappropriate practices of employees.

**D. Documentation of the operational capacities of the organization (Paragraph 91(e) of the Operational Directives)**

## D.1. Members and personnel

Provide proof of the participation of the members of your organization. It may take diverse forms such as a list of directors, a list of personnel and statistical information on the quantity and categories of the members; a comprehensive membership roster usually need not be submitted.

Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.1.'

Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development  
Board Members Names and Information  
2022

Serial	Name	Responsibility in the Board	Occupation outside the Board	Mobile Number	Address	Email
1.	Wahid Naguib Guendy	President	Owner of for Electrical Works	01222162501	12 Ahmed Fahry Madinet Nasr	wahid-naguib@hidco.net
2.	Laila Rashed Iskandar	Vice-President	Consultant in Education and Development – Former Minister of Urban Development	01222127972	18 Chagaret Al-Dorr Street, Zamalek	reciclaodressdi@gmail.com
3.	Bahaa Goshra Al-Raheb	Treasurer	Electrical Engineer	01222150736	Compound Square, 90 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Building no 81, 5 <sup>th</sup> Settlement, New Cairo	bahaaelraheb@hotmail.com
4.	Nagwa Michel Farag	Secretary	Development Former Consultant in the UN	01222221086	2 Khaled bin Al-Walid, Massaken Sheraton	nagwafarag.srd@gmail.com
5.	Antoun Labib Abdel-Malak	Member	Former Chairman of the International Exhibitions Authority	01225003959	4 G Mourad Street, Daher, Cairo	tonylabib53@hotmail.com
6.	Suzy Mahfouz Ibrahim	Member	Consultant of obstetrics and gynecology and head of the infection control team at Al-Zawiya General Hospital	01287855958	228 Mohamed Mokhtar Street, Hadeak Al-Gobba	suzy.mahfouz1@gmail.com
7.	Ziad Salwat Berzi	Member	Dentist	01001810981	9 Mohamed Pasha Riad Street, Heliopolis	ziadberzi@yahoo.com
8.	Mariam Shawki Ebeld	Member	Freelance Lawyer	01006309693	Grand Gate, Behind Modern Academy – A3 –	marimbeshai@gmail.com

### Akhmin Project Team 2023

Name: Ms. Helene LAHHAM (known as Loula LAHHAM)  
Occupation in Akhmin Project: Akhmin Project Director,  
Original Job: Journalist specialized in Folk Arts and Culture,  
Diplomas: Holder of a High Diploma in Folk Arts, 2003  
Experience: Working in the Akhmin Project for more than 35 years.  
Phone: +20 122 3806556  
Email: [loula-2000@gmail.com](mailto:loula-2000@gmail.com) [loula@aued.net](mailto:loula@aued.net)

Name: Mr. Hany ZARIF  
Occupation in Akhmin Project: Academic & Artistic Consultant of the Project  
Job: Deputy Director of the Coptic Museum in Cairo  
Diplomas: Holder of a MA on Egyptian Textiles  
Phone: +20 122 757 8274  
Email: [hanyz-scaegypt@yahoo.com](mailto:hanyz-scaegypt@yahoo.com)

Name: Mrs. Samira ATTIA  
Occupation in Akhmin Project: Director of the Akhmin Community Center  
Diplomas: Holder of a BA in Commerce  
Phone: +20 122 246 4672  
Email: [samiradel74@yahoo.com](mailto:samiradel74@yahoo.com)

In addition to two vendors with Commerce University Degrees

Association de la Haute-Egypte pour l'Education et le Développement (AHEED)  
Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development (AUED)

**Acknowledgement**

The Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development is a public association registered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity under No. 576 of 2009, acknowledges that it owns and manages the Akhmin Community Center, Sohag Governorate, and that its management is carried out by Ms. Helene Antoine Lahham (Loula Lahham), director of the Akhmin Project, and her ID number is 260062202421. She is authorized by the association to direct the Akhmin Project, and this is her signature.

*[Signature]*

This is an authorization by the Association.

Ing. Hany Sabongui  
Director General

*[Signature]*

Stamp of the Association

جمعية الصعيد  
للتربية والتنمية

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قرار

تقر جمعية الصعيد للتربية والتنمية وهي جمعية ذات صفة عامة مسجلة بوزارة التضامن الاجتماعي تحت رقم 576 لسنة 2009 بأبي توفيق وتنفذ مركز الخدمة المجتمعية بالمحرم بمحافظة سوهاج، وإن ادارته تقوم بها الأستاذة هيلين التون لاهم (العيرفة باسم لولا لاهم) مديرة مشروع اكمين ورقمها القومي هو 260062202421 وهي موكسة من قبل الجمعية بإدارتها مشروع اكمين وهذا هو تفويضها.

*[Signature]*

هذا القرار من الجمعية يتخذ.

م. هاني صبولجي  
مدير العام

*[Signature]*

ختم الجمعية



If it is not already clearly indicated in the documentation provided under section D.2., submit documentation proving that the organization has existed for at least four years at the time it requests accreditation. Provide documentation showing that it has carried out appropriate safeguarding activities during that time, including those described above in section B.4. Supplementary materials such as books, CDs, DVDs or similar publications cannot be taken into consideration and should not be submitted.

*Please attach supporting documents, labelled 'Section D.3.'*

## **E. Membership in the ICH NGO Forum**

Indicate below whether your organization wishes to join the ICH NGO Forum. Please note that membership is contingent upon the accreditation of your organization by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention.

For more information on the ICH NGO Forum and its activities, please see <https://ich.unesco.org/en/ngo-forums-00422>.

☒ Yes

☐ No

## **F. Signature**

The request must include the name and signature of the person empowered to sign it on behalf of the organization requesting accreditation. Requests without a signature cannot be considered.

Name: Hélène Antoine Lahham (known as Loula Lahham)

Title: Akhmim Project Director

Date: 18 April 2023

Signature: 