



Participatory Development Programme in Urban Areas (PDP)

Context

Egypt's cities are growing rapidly, often in the absence of any governmental or 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 well as access to job opportunities. The extreme population density results in high environmental pollution. The local population is mostly poor, with low levels of formal education. Generally the residents develop their living environment themselves without obtaining building permits; as a result they often lack public services and infrastructure. In the aftermath of the political changes that erupted in early 2011 residents expect quick and tangible improvements of their living situation. However, the response of local government and civil society organisations is often not sufficient to meet the needs of the poor urban population.

Objective

The objective of the PDP is to improve the living conditions for the poor urban population through improved environmental conditions and better service delivery by public administration and civil society organisations.

Approach

The programme is operating on all political levels, cooperating with decision makers on the national, regional, and local levels on upgrading informal areas. The programme focus lies on providing participatory methods and instruments for integrated urban development, which are disseminated and anchored within local administrations.

In addition to this the programme builds capacities of local administration, youth representatives, local leaders, NGOs and the private sector to support them in improving the services

and environmental conditions in their areas. To support urgent and concrete measures, PDP awards grants for small-scale local initiative projects to improve the living conditions and upgrade physical, social and socio-economic infrastructure in selected informal urban areas in Greater Cairo. Youth, women and civil society organisations are being actively included 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. In the current programme phase, 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 marginalisation. In close cooperation between local government, 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. Through awareness raising measures local government and the local population are increasingly sensitised to environmental topics and in particular the issue of climate change, its effect on poor urban areas in Greater Cairo and possible adaptation measures.

Partner

Egyptian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Contact

Dr. Günther Wehenpohl
Programme Coordinator
c/o GIZ-Cairo Office
4D, El-Gezira Street
11211 Zamalek, Cairo
Internet: www.giz.de/egypt, www.egypt-urban.net

Tel: +20 2 22 63 08 78/79
Fax: +20 2 22 63 08 78/79 ext.: 110
Email: pdp@gizegypt.com



