

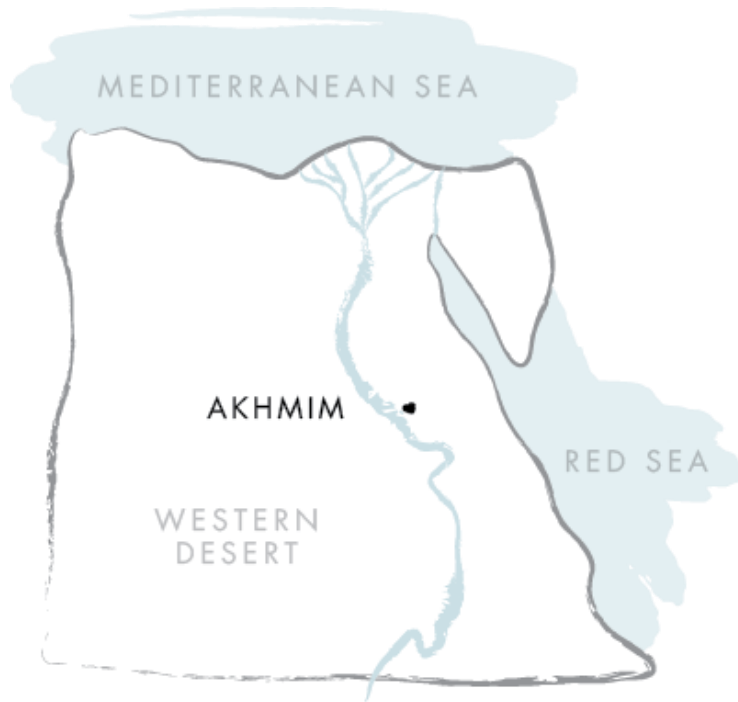
The rich cultural heritage of Akhmim: traditional hand-woven Textiles

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The history of Egypt's traditional textiles goes back to ancient Egypt. Let's explore the long tradition of textile manufacturing represented by the weavers of Upper Egypt

The City of Akhmim, a city in the Sohag Governorate of Upper Egypt Location



The ancient craft of handmade weaving tradition in Upper Egypt

Akhmim in ancient Egypt

Historically, Akhmim was the capital of the ninth Upper Egyptian region. It was one of the most important religious centres. Akhmim was the main site for the cult of the fertility god Min. Akhmim has a long history dating back to the Pre-dynastic Period. It continued in the ancient Egyptian, Graeco-Roman, Coptic and Arabic Periods. The Greek historian Herodotus who visited Egypt in the fifth century BCE (around 484-425 BCE) mentioned Akhmim as a place where “the women take care of the household and the men work in the textile industry.” The Greek geographer Strabo mentioned that there was a linen weaving industry in Akhmim.



Image id:

01613330070

Object type:

textile, garment, tunic

Technique:

plain weave, tapestry, brocaded, sewn, dyed

Findspot:

Akhmim

Materials:

linen, wool

Period / culture:

[Coptic](#)

Production date:

5thC

Department:

Ancient Egypt & Sudan

Akhmim Textile Industry Today

The techniques used by the people of Akhmim in weaving textiles

The techniques used by the people of Akhmim in weaving textiles were inherited from the ancient Egyptians, along with the designs of the looms they use. Despite the passage of time, they still continue their traditional crafts



The design of the traditional handloom used by the people of Akhmim in weaving textiles

The design of the traditional handloom lends itself more easily to vertical and horizontal geometric shapes. This characteristic puts some limitations on the motif form and patterns used, as well as the variety of innovations available within a traditional craft.



Akhmim Textile Industry Today What is needed ?

Nowadays this knowledge is under extinction, a loss of an important element of culture and identity, due to the complexity of the weaving process which requires time, effort, patience and practice. Many steps and techniques from the loom preparation, threading and weaving to get the final product need time and effort; . The craft is neglected and not transmitted as before within the families as a profession and a source of income to the new generations.

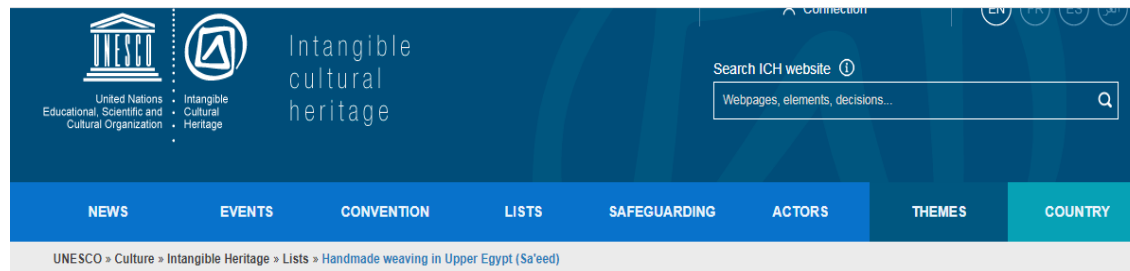
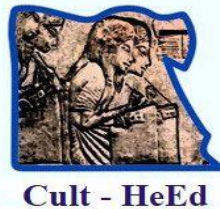
it is recommended to protect the area's traditional hand-weaving methods, while guaranteeing the community a steady income-generating source. The weavers of Akhmim

Textile are still producing many different traditional Egyptian products by hand using big wooden looms, they need to be supported to compete in the textile market



The UNESCO listed Traditional Loom in Upper Egypt (Sa'eed) to be one of elements that need the Urgent Safeguarding Inscribed in 2020 ([15.COM](https://ich.unesco.org/en/USL/handmade-weaving-in-upper-egypt-sa-eed-01605)) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/USL/handmade-weaving-in-upper-egypt-sa-eed-01605>



Nomination file No. 01605

- Nomination form ICH-01-bis: [English/French](#)
- Consent of communities - filmed consent: [Arabic \(subtitles in French\)](#)
- Consent of communities - filmed consent: [Arabic \(subtitles in English\)](#)
- Consent of communities:

Decision

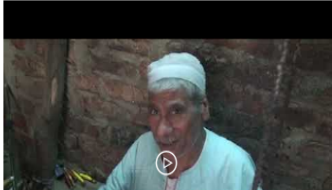
Inscription: [15.COM 8.a.3](#)

Handmade weaving in Upper Egypt (Sa'eed)

Egypt

Inscribed in 2020 ([15.COM](#)) on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding

The craft tradition 'Handmade weaving in Upper Egypt (Sa'eed)' is a complex process that requires time, effort, patience and practice. Many steps and techniques are involved in the loom preparation, threading and weaving to achieve the final product; it is a work of precision and intricate workmanship. For centuries, men and women have used their inherited knowledge and artistic talent to create embroidered textiles both as a family legacy and as a profession. The basic principles have remained the same as those used in the past, whether for linen, cotton, wool or silk. However, factories that used to weave with expensive silk yarn have gradually shifted to cotton as it is more financially rewarding, and the small arrow looms have been replaced with





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Urgent Safeguarding 0160500022

with

International Assistance

ICH-01bis- Form

Reçu CLT / CIH / ITH

Le: 23 SEP, 2019

N° 0476

**LIST OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN NEED OF URGENT SAFEGUARDING**

WITH

**INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND**

**Deadline 31 March 2019
for a possible inscription and approval in 2020**

The ICH-01bis form allows States Parties to nominate elements to the Urgent Safeguarding List and simultaneously request International Assistance to support implementation of the proposed safeguarding plan.

*Instructions for completing the nomination and request form are available at:
<https://ich.unesco.org/en/forms>*

Experience the textile industry in Akhmim
in the following video

