

“AICS Beirut experience in promoting projects on Cultural Heritage preservation as a challenge for mitigating social and economic development”

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AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO

The Lebanese exceptional and diversified cultural and living heritage creates incredible opportunities for Sustainable Development and Tourism. **The country economic and social situation is passing through a very critical and complicated crisis affecting a big part of the country and also its heritage.** Tourism is one of the main sources of income for Lebanon. Being a people-oriented industry, tourism provides many jobs, which helps revitalize local economies.

The Italian support to the Lebanese Cultural Heritage is aimed at saving sites at risk, among them 3 sites inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List (5 sites at the moment). Some sites were damaged during the war and the explosion of Beirut port in 2020, and some other sites were neglected due to the country's modest financial resources.

The Italian commitment to preserve and valorise Lebanese Cultural and Natural Heritage is dealing with the structural problems of the monuments, conservation of architectural and decoration elements and consolidation of the structures. The interventions are focused on making the sites accessible and understandable for local population and visitors in the perspective of enhancing tourism and development.

The aim is to put effort also for creating a **connection of community and territory in increasing a sense of belonging.**

SAME SECTOR - DIFFERENT MODALITIES OF FUNDING

BILATERAL (governmental execution)

BILATERAL (direct management)

MULTILATERAL (UNESCO)

and very soon

BILATERAL (academic cooperation)

CHUD – Cultural Heritage and Urban Development programme, is financed with a Soft loan of 10.228.000 Euros and a Grant of 2.200.000 Euros, that includes some selected projects in the cities of Baalbek, Tyre (both UNESCO World heritage Centers), Saida and Chamaa, which are under implementation.

Cultural Religious Tourism Project with a Grant of 400.000 Euros

To make a selection and inventory of the Lebanese richness of different, important sites of cultural, historic, religious, and archaeological value to promote them as a prime global cultural religious tourist and pilgrimage destination

Rehabilitation and valorisation of Qadicha Valley with a Grant of 500.000 Euros

Wadi Qadisha is the most important early Christian monastic settlements and is inscribed in the UNESCO list

Rehabilitation, restoration and exhibition design of the Basement of the National Museum with a Grant of 1.000.000 Euros

The works performed allow reopening to the public this damaged part of the museum closed since the beginning of the Lebanese civil war in 1975. The project achieved the complete renovation of the basement in addition to the modern presentation of the funeral art collections, in addition to the publication of the National Museum Guide in four languages (Arabic, English, French and Italian)

Rehabilitation of the Sursock Museum in Beirut with Grant of 1.000.000 Euros

Works include the rehabilitation of the Museum structure, electro-mechanical infrastructures, doors and lighting in order to reopen the Museum seriously damaged after the explosion of Beirut port in 2020.

AICS Beirut Projects and SDGs

All Cultural Heritage projects supported by the Italian Cooperation in Lebanon are in line with the UN Global Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and Sustainable

SDG 8 - Promote sustainable, inclusive and sustainable growth, full and productive employment

SDG 10 - Reduce inequalities

All projects are tailored:

- To provide Technical Assistance and Institutional building to central and local actors to preserve and valorize cultural heritage and providing a solid guidance during the implementation
- To improve infrastructures and services provision to the historic cities where poverty and unemployment were prevalent as well as to reduce poverty impacts, gender aspects
- To consult and involve local communities to achieve a shared vision for development to benefit the local communities and tourist
- To encourage communication, learning and training
- To introduce participatory process of heritage conservation and management, including disadvantaged areas and groups
- To improve the social cohesion leveraging cultural heritage as a cornerstone of identity

Lebanese Government

Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)

Ministry of Culture and General Direction of Antiquities

Ministry of Public Works and General Direction of Urbanism

Ministry of Tourism

Municipalities

Universities and research centres

Citizens of the towns participating in the projects

Domestic (diaspora) and International tourists

Organisations of civil society

UNESCO – Beirut Office - ICOMOS

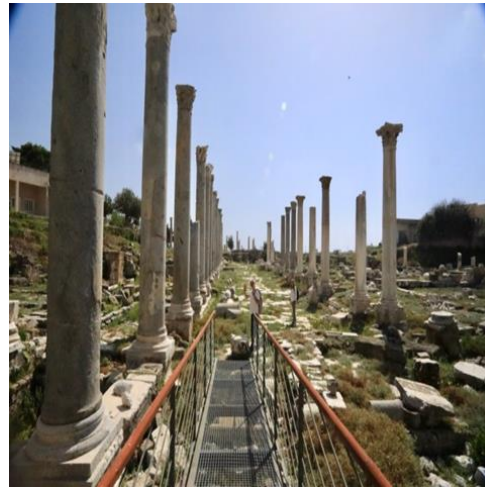
WB

UNIFIL

Which are the objectives of the Italian projects?

Local economic development and increasing of the quality of life in the project areas

Conservation and management of Lebanon's cultural and natural heritage in the selected areas



Training and Conservation

The **Italian expertise** has been shared among stakeholders. All scientific and technical decisions to restore and consolidate monuments were innovative and non-invasive

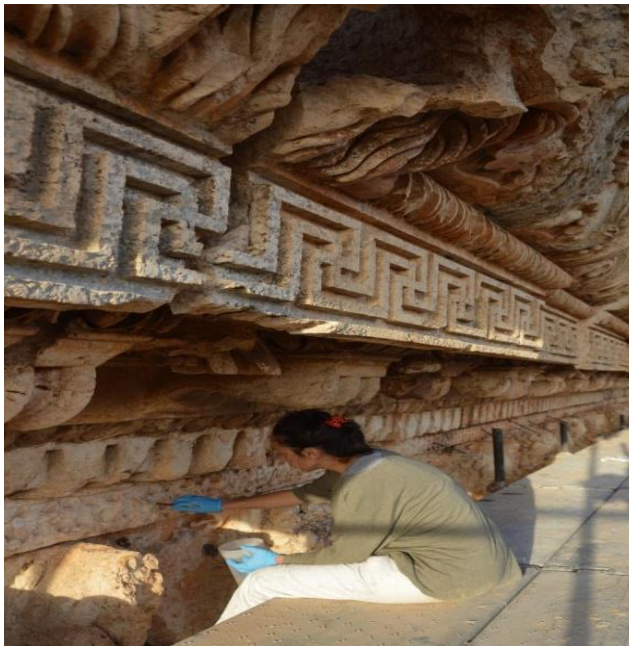
Technical Assistance and training to central and local authorities to improve cultural heritage management and promote institutional strengthening

Cross gender expertise were involved on the **job training** among them architects, archaeologists, engineers, and conservators who worked in the site, dealing with the structural problems of the ancient monuments, cleaning, consolidating and conserving architectural and decorative elements and monuments

Unskilled local people benefited informal apprenticeships during the site works as carpenters, bricklayers, concrete finishers, ironworkers, tile setters, etc..

Beirut, Baalbek, Saida, Tyr, Chama, Qadisha Valley Sites

- Archaeological works and documentation: Completing surveys, data upgrades, historic interpretation.
- Conservation of surfaces and structures: Protection of surfaces, consolidation and restoration. Strengthening of Temples and other structures.
- Site presentation to visitors: Enhancement in safety, comfort, signage, lighting, landscaping. Creation of museums, visitors' centers and new circuits.
- Site management: Protection of sites, organizing entrance, Improvement of site management, new offerings/services, Setting O&M, budgeting, etc.



marzo

Actions carried out and in progress for preserving Heritage







Make Heritage accessible and inclusive for all

- ❑ **Discovering the site** and understand it through the visit.
- ❑ **Improving the visitor experience** in presenting the monumentality of the place and relation to its history. Focus is placed on the cultural complex variety of sites, on the various historical layers, on the continuity of history, thus on different interpretation angles.
- ❑ **Improving participatory process** among stakeholders and local community.
- ❑ **Improving events and public debates**



Local Economic Development impact

Awareness Raising & Participatory Processes



Business activities

Improved living around the sites



Italian Cooperation in Baalbek

Best practise



The ancient city of Baalbek has outstanding universal value for the cultural history of mankind. The sustainable restoration actions carried out in Baalbek constitute a pilot project that can be a model for future intervention in different cultural heritage sites throughout Lebanon and the MENA region, as well as a tool to enhance sustainable local development. The restoration and consolidation of the Roman Jupiter Temple has been considered one of the best practices in the Mediterranean Area.

ابراز معالم بعلبك؛ إنهاء أشغال معبد جوبيتر دعوة عامة

PRESENTATION OF THE BAALBEK SITE; COMPLETION OF JUPITER TEMPLE WORKS
PUBLIC PRESENTATION



دعوة عامة للقاء يتناول مشروع ابراز معالم بعلبك الأثرية وإنهاء أشغال معبد جوبيتر
- مشروع الإرث الثقافي -

المكان: بيت ناصيف - مكتب المديرية العامة للآثار، الزمان: الأربعاء ٢٢ أيار ٢٠١٩ الساعة ٤ مساءً

Open public invitation for the Presentation Project of the Baalbek archaeological site
and the completion of Jupiter temple works

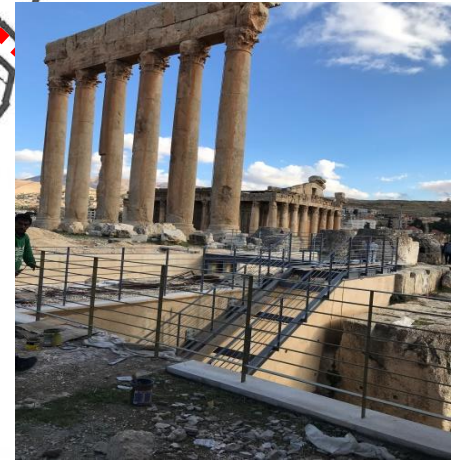
Place: Beit Nassif DGA offices; Time: Wednesday May 22, 2019, 4.00 pm



مجلس الإنماء والإعمار
COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND RECONSTRUCTION
CULTURAL HERITAGE & URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Baalbek new circuits for visitors



- Medium circuit 1/2 day: The Roman sanctuaries, the Qalaa and the museums



Resonance and effects of events: Bacchus concert

Improved living at around the sites



Baalbeck archeological site

Blue Shield (Cultural Heritage)



The ongoing conflict in Lebanon is endangering numerous archaeological sites and UNESCO World Heritage locations. In response, the Lebanese Ministry of Culture, with UNESCO's support, has requested special protection from the Hague for 34 of the 95 Blue Shield-designated sites, which are now in conflict zones. The Blue Shield, often compared to the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, plays a vital role in safeguarding cultural heritage during wars and natural disasters.



Baalbeck VERDI smontaggio impalcature.mov

THANK YOU!!!

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