



**Brussels, 25 October 2024
(OR. en)**

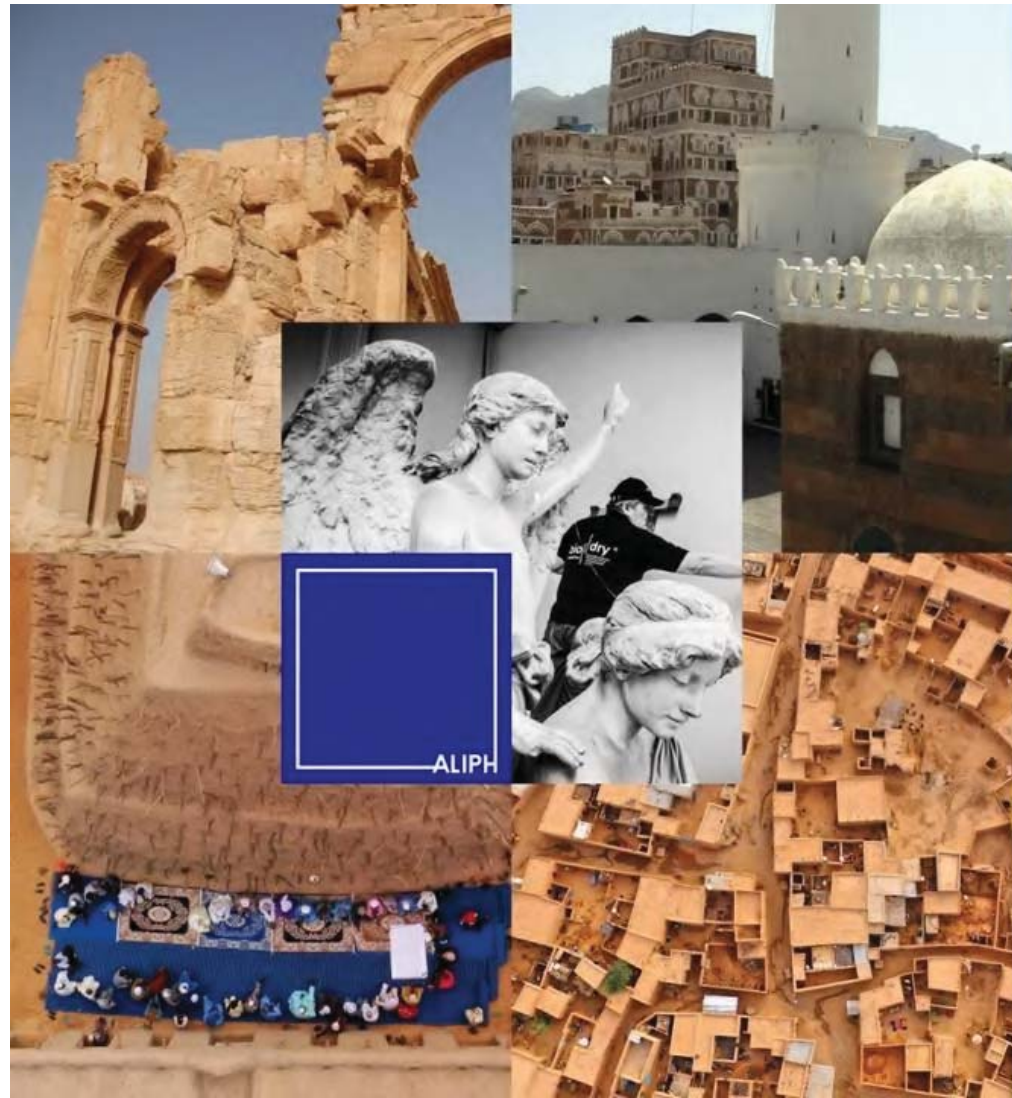
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**CULT HERIT 2
RELEX 1334
CULT 100
DEVGEN 159
COASI 162
COEST 582
COAFR 377
MAMA 217
COLAC 124
CIVCOM 260
CFSP/PESC 1490
JAI 1554
ENV 1046
GLOBAL GATEWAY 28**

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	The International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (ALIPH) - Presentation given by a representative of Aliph Foundation at the RELEX Horizontal Questions (International Cultural Relations) meeting of 23 October 2024

Delegations will find in the annex a presentation given by an external stakeholder, on behalf of Aliph Foundation at a meeting of the RELEX Counsellors – Horizontal Questions (International Cultural Relations) on 23 October 2024. This presentation and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



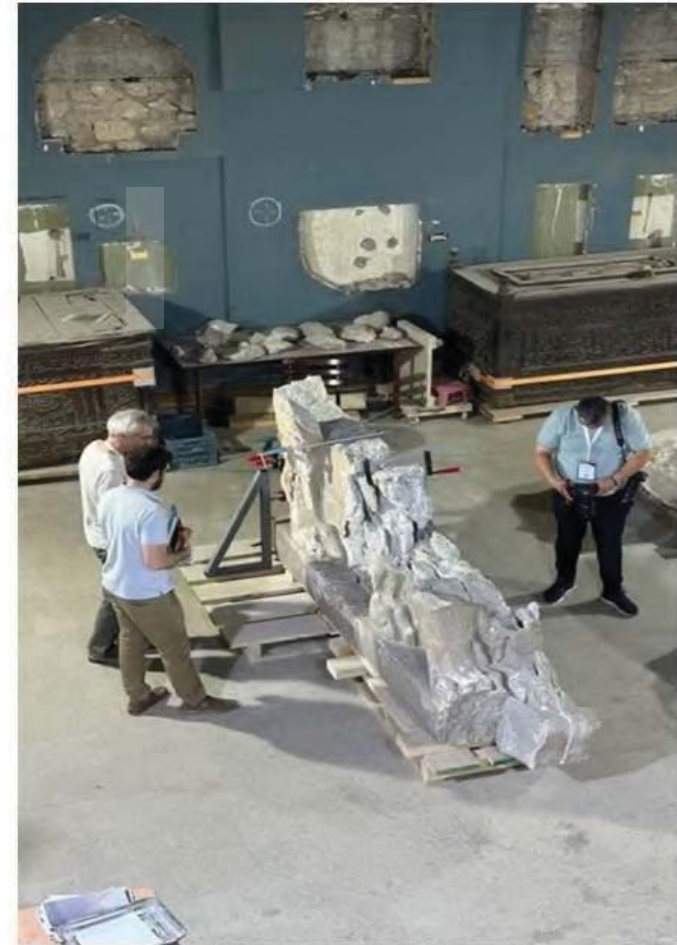
The International alliance for the protection of heritage (ALIPH)

Brussels,
23 October 2024

I - About ALIPH

1. Cultural Heritage Protection: A Growing Challenge

- Today, cultural heritage is threatened by:
 - **Conflicts:** Multiplication of regional wars, identity crises & social media
 - Collateral damage
 - A target of war
 - A weapon of war
 - **Disasters: Natural or man-made**
 - Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, industrial explosions...
 - **Impact of climate change:** According to the UN, climate change is the main cause of the doubling of natural disasters in 20 years.
 - Storms, floods, droughts and desertification, rising sea levels
- Impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- At the same time, **cultural heritage can be a means of economic and social development** (capacity building, job creation), **sustainable development & the fight against climate change** (traditional materials and know-how), **reconciliation** (places of memories and dialogue), **and peacebuilding**.



Iraq, Mosul Museum, 2023 © ALIPH – Elsa Uritzverea

2. ALIPH: A New Multilateral Instrument

- Created in March 2017, **ALIPH is the main global fund exclusively dedicated to the protection of heritage** against the impact of conflict and climate change, in conflict, post-conflict and crisis areas
- **A private foundation** under Swiss law, based in Geneva, with the privileges and immunities of an international organization (similar status to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria)
- **A public-private partnership: 25 donors**, including 8 Member States (China, **Cyprus**, **France**, Kuwait, **Luxembourg**, Morocco, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia), 3 private members, the European Union, Switzerland, the US State Department, Oman, Monaco, Romania and other private foundations
- **A neutral instrument**: ALIPH is able to work everywhere there is a need
- **A bridge between different regions of the world** (Europe, Gulf and Arab world, Asia, North America...)



Iraq, Hatra, 2022 © Vincent Boisot

3. ALIPH: Much more than a Fund

- **Expertise:** Scientific Committee and a network of more than 200 international experts
- **Action:** Concrete projects on the ground and tangible results. Our motto: “Action, action, action”
- **Flexibility:** From a grant making foundation to an active operator on the ground
- **Agility:** First responder on the ground – « Cultural Heritage Ambulances ».
 - **3 procedures:**
 - Annual calls for projects
 - Emergency measures throughout the year
 - Dedicated action plans
- **An broadening scope:** The protection of cultural heritage against the impact of conflict and climate change, in conflict, post-conflict and crisis areas
- **A Startup mindset:** dynamism, innovation, and responsiveness without compromising quality or rigor



Iraq, Mam Rashan Yazidi Shrine, 2023 © World Monuments Fund



Iraq, Opening Ceremony of Yazidi Shrine, 2020 © Nadia's Initiative

4. Peacebuilding and Sustainable Development

- **ALIPH finances and accompanies cultural heritage protection projects in order to build peace and sustainable development: “Behind cultural heritage, there are women and men”**
- **Where?**
 - **In conflict or post-conflict areas:** interstate conflicts, terrorism, civil war, etc.
 - **A new objective: the fight against climate change** in crisis areas
- **When?**
 - Before: preventive protection, in cases of imminent and high risk
 - During: emergency protection during conflicts, when possible
 - After: post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction, and restoration
- **In which fields?**
 - Intangible heritage
 - Monuments and sites
 - Manuscripts and documentation
 - Museums and their collections
 - Fight against looting and illicit trafficking
- **Our criteria: relevance, quality, feasibility, and sustainability:** projects need to demonstrate significance and value for local populations and communities and must have a sustainable, social, and economic impact



5. ALIPH: 6 Years of Action

- Nearly 500 projects
- Presence in 35 countries on 5 continents
- 8 Action Plans (Emergency Measures):
 - Covid-19 (2020)
 - Beirut port explosion (2020)
 - Ukraine war (2022)
 - Syria/Türkiye earthquake (2023)
 - Libya floods (2023)
 - Morocco earthquake (2023)
 - South Caucasus (2023)
 - Gaza (2024)
- Almost 100 MUSD committed
- Working in partnership with more than 150 local or international operators



Afghanistan, Stupa of Shewaki, 2022 © Aga Khan Trust for Culture



Mosul Museum, 2019 © Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH)

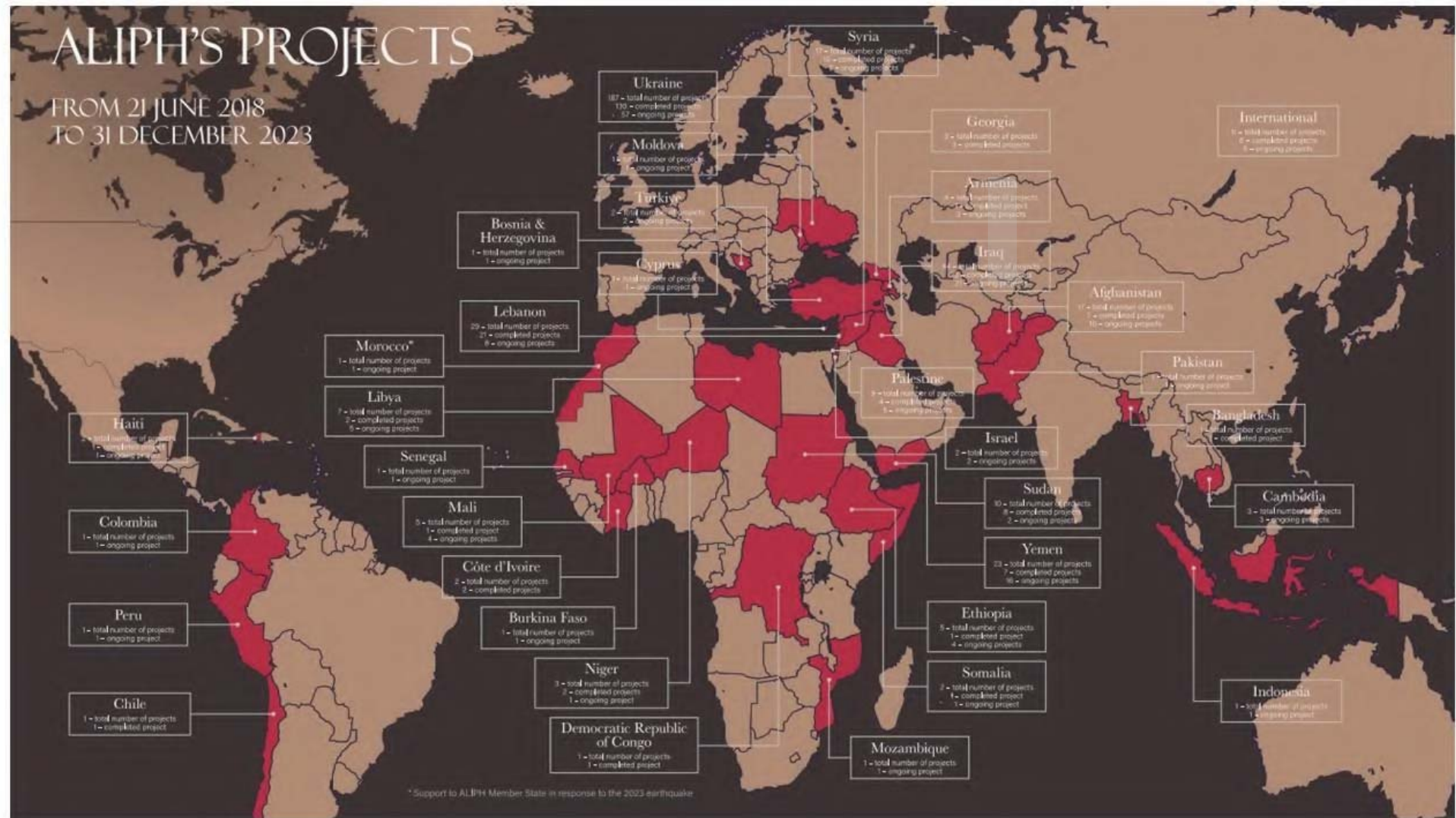
6. Close links with Europe and the EU

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **EU Members:**
 - France, Luxembourg & Cyprus
- **EU Support:** FPI: 4 MEUROS for Ukraine (2022-2025)
- **European countries supporting ALIPH:**
 - 1 EU donor (Romania)
 - 2 European donors (Monaco and Switzerland)
- **Projects in Europe:**
 - EU countries: Croatia after the 2020 earthquake, Cyprus (religious buildings)
 - Bosnia-Herzegovina (Museum of Sarajevo...)
 - Ukraine (Action Plan)
- **EU partners (IO, NGO, cultural institutions...):**
 - **MOU:** 14 MOUs signed with partners based in Europe
 - **Partners** from France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Greece, Cyprus...



Ukraine, Odesa, Unloading storage cases, 2022 © Odesa Fine Arts Museum

II - ALIPH in the World



1. Ukraine

- Since day one of the war, **ALIPH** contacted and coordinated with Ukrainian and European professionals, national authorities, and international organizations and institutions.
- In **March 2022**, the ALIPH Foundation Board adopted an **Action Plan** for the Protection of Heritage in Ukraine focusing on:
 - **Museums, libraries, and archives**
 - **Sites and monuments**
 - **Support to heritage professionals**
- **7,75 MUSD** committed so far
- **Co-funders:** European Union, Getty Foundation, Principality of Monaco, US State Department
- **Results to date:**
 - Storage and protective **equipment provided to more than 350 museums**, archives, libraries and cultural heritage institutions.
 - **Upgrading of 14 major storage facilities** in central and western Ukraine to ensure proper storage conditions for temporarily evacuated collections.
 - **Scanning and documentation of 100 monuments at risk** across the country for their potential future conservation
 - About 500 cultural heritage professionals supported



Ukraine, Lviv, National Gallery, 2022 © BioDry



European Union support through the FPI (Foreign Policy Instruments)

- **Thanks to EUR 4 million granted by the FPI** for the ALIPH Action Plan for the Protection of Heritage in Ukraine

We have been able to support so far:

- 120 institutions (museums, archives, libraries)
- 8 storage facilities for artifacts and collections
- 4 « heritage ambulances » operating as mobile laboratories
- 26 historical sites supported through documentation or emergency protection
- 349 professionals in the field of cultural heritage supported financially



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Cultural Heritage Ambulances

Creation of four mobile laboratories (vehicles and conservation equipment) for emergency conservation activities by the National Research Restoration Center (NRRC).



Ukraine, Heritage ambulances, 2023 © National Research Restoration Center (NRRC)

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2. Iraq - Mosul

- Since its launch in 2018, **ALIPH** has committed 30 MUSD to support over 40 projects to protect or rehabilitate Iraqi cultural heritage. One of the biggest projects in the country is the rehabilitation of the Mosul Museum.
 - ALIPH has also launched an initiative called the "**Mosul Mosaic**" to contribute to "Reviving the Spirit of Mosul," a program initiated by UNESCO and the Iraqi authorities.
 - Two churches and two mosques, emblematic of the old city, as well as the remarkable Tutunji House, are rehabilitated under this initiative.
- Mosul Museum, 2018 © Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH)
- **Rehabilitation of the Mosul Museum**
 - 2015 – Destruction of the collection and the building in a publicized assault.
 - 2018 - in cooperation with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) and the Mosul Museum, ALIPH, the Musée du Louvre, and the Smithsonian Institution launched a project to rehabilitate the museum.
 - 2021 - World Monuments Fund (WMF) joins the partnership for the rehabilitation of the museum building.
 - The museum is planned to reopen in 2026.



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Iraq, Mosul – Tutunji House

Before



Tutunji House, 2019 © University of Pennsylvania

After



Tutunji House, 2024 © Azhar Al-Rubaie

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Iraq, Mosul – Al Masfi Mosque

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Before



Al Masfi Mosque, 2021 © La Guilde Européenne du Raid

After



Al Masfi Mosque, 2024 © Azhar Al-Rubaie

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Sursock Museum after the blast © ALIPH; Paintings restoration, Greek Orthodox Cathedral © IFPO; Université Saint Joseph Oriental Library © L'Oeuvre d'Orient

3. Beirut, Lebanon

- **ALIPH in Lebanon: 5,2 MUSD for 34 projects**
- Since the **4 August 2020 explosion in the port of Beirut**, ALIPH has supported **more than 20 projects for a total of 3,6 million:**
 - **Stabilization of 40 historical houses**
 - **Rehabilitation of 10 monuments**
 - **Protection of 3 art collections**
- **2024: 2 first emergency measures** to protect heritage in the current context for a **total of 100,000 USD:**
 - Rehabilitation of heritage buildings located in archeological sites to host internally displaced heritage professionals
 - Safeguarding Beirut's museum collections

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Lebanon, Beirut – Zahrat El Ihsan Greek Orthodox School

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Before



Zahrat El Ihsan School, 2023 © Oeuvre d'Orient

After



Zahrat El Ihsan School, 2024 © Oeuvre d'Orient

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4. Afghanistan

- In Afghanistan, ALIPH has supported and steered over **20 projects** to date, committing more than **USD 11 million**
- Some of the **sites** include the historical Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam, Ghor (UNESCO); Bala Hissar Citadel, Kabul (AKTC); the Stupa of Shewaki (ACHCO); Mes Aynak archeological site (AKTC), and others
- The rehabilitation of the **Bala Hissar Citadel in Kabul** is ALIPH's largest project to date in the country, and it exemplifies the Foundation's approach to heritage protection: a concrete project that is generating economic opportunities for local residents, not just during the rehabilitation process but also after completion, when the citadel is intended to open as a public park



Bala Hissar Citadel © Thomas Raguet



Minaret of Jam © UNESCO

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Afghanistan, Herat – Yu Aw Synagogue

Before



After



Yu Aw Synagogue © Aga Khan Trust for Culture

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Afghanistan, Mes Aynak

Mes Aynak, 2023 © Aga Khan Trust for Culture

5. Sudan

- ALIPH supports the safeguarding of Sudan's tangible and intangible heritage amid the civil war, and as the country is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.
- More than **4 MUSD committed, and 15 projects** supported by ALIPH in the country.
- **Meroe Island World Heritage site:** Construction of a dyke using local materials to protect the ancient royal city from recurrent flooding by the Nile.
- **Old Dongola archaeological site:** Conservation and protection of historical Mosque and Church at risk of collapsing due to extreme weather.
- **Emergency projects to protect museums and sites in the current context**



Archaeological site of Meroe, 2023 © ALIPH – Adonis El Hussein

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6. Palestine - Gaza

- ALIPH has been active in Palestine since 2020, where it has supported **17 projects for a total amount of allocated funds nearing 3 MUSD.**
- In February 2024, the ALIPH Foundation Board adopted an **Action Plan for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Gaza** with an initial envelope of **1 MUSD.**
- **In this context, 6 initiatives** have been supported for a total amount of **USD 413,233** including:
 - Support for the evacuation of the collections of the Al Qarara Museum (Khan Younis) and the Rafah Museum (Rafah)
 - Emergency documentation, stabilization and debris protection for 3 damaged heritage sites in Gaza City, including the Great Omari Mosque
 - Online and in-situ training on emergency and first aid measures for affected heritage for professionals from the West Bank and Gaza



Gaza, 2024 © Mayasem Association for Culture and Arts



Gaza, 2024 © Mayasem Association for Culture and Arts

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7. The Fight Against the Impact of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage in Crisis Areas

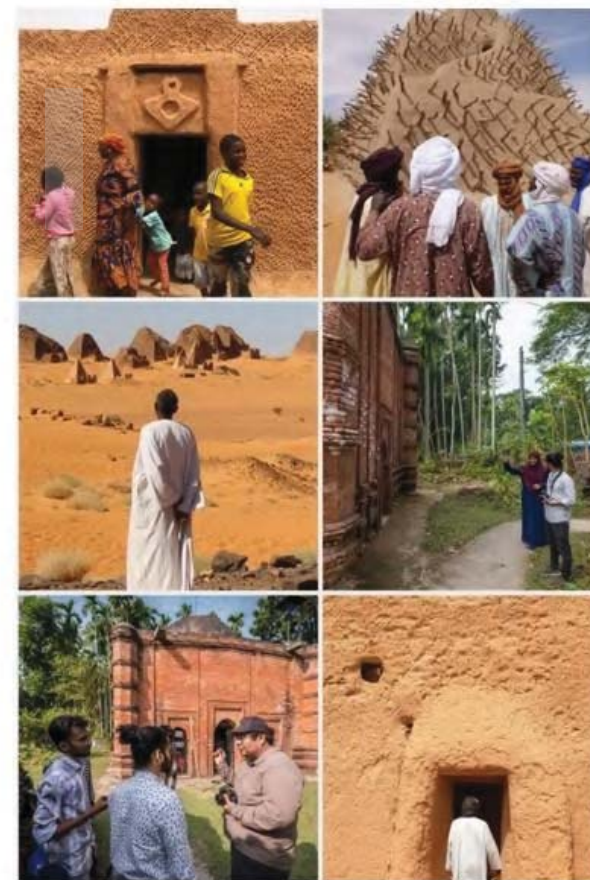
Two goals for ALIPH:

- Put cultural heritage at the forefront of the global discussion on climate change
- Launch a comprehensive program to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage impacted by climate change in crisis areas

Four priorities:

1. ALIPH as a global, transformative voice
2. New solutions to protect cultural heritage from climate change
3. Action, action, action: support field implementation
4. Integrate climate actions across ALIPH's entire programming

Call for projects 2024-25: Dedicated to climate change impact, with Africa as a priority: **USD 10 million**



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8. Next Steps

- **Growing recognition for ALIPH:**
 - Laureate of the **first International Prize for Cultural Excellence** awarded by H.H. Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud, the Minister of Culture of Saudi Arabia, 2023.
 - **European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards Grand Prix 2024** (supported by the EU Creative Europe program) for the ALIPH-funded project *Rehabilitation of the Tsiskarauli Tower* (Georgia), led by the National Trust of Georgia, in partnership with REMPART and the International National Trusts Organisation.
 - **FIAT/IFTA Archive Achievement Award 2024** for the ALIPH-funded project *Preserving Afghan Memory through the Conservation of Audio-visual Heritage*, led by Institut national de l'Audiovisuel.
 - Nomination to the **ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management in the Arab Region (2023-2024)** for the ALIPH-funded project *Managing Libya's Cultural Heritage (MaLiCH)* led by King's College London.
- **Growing needs and commitments:**
 - 1st Donor's Conference (2017)
 - 2nd Donor's Conference (2022)
- **3rd Donor's Conference in 2026-2027: Join us!**



Georgia, Tsiskarauli Tower, 2021 © INTO

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