

Occupied Palestinian Territory: An external evaluation of PUI's project

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 06 February 2025

CONTEXT

INTIQAL 2030 is a Youth-led initiative supported by Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), an innovative socio-economic development program that leverages on the protection of Cultural Heritage involving communities and local civil society stakeholders, encouraging their interaction on archaeological sites. This initiative creates and runs a safe space in which girls, boys, young people and families engage in concrete actions and express their fears and hopes in a protective environment while developing their resilience following violent or traumatic experiences.

Since 2017, the Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) has supported efforts to preserve and promote Gaza's cultural heritage through various activities, including capacity-building initiatives, public engagement, and the physical preservation of archaeological sites. The CPF-funded project aims to:

- Safeguard cultural heritage at risk for future generations.
- Build local capacity for heritage protection.
- Enhance public understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage.

The project operates within significant socio-economic and political constraints, particularly within the Gaza Strip. These challenges have been further exacerbated by the ongoing conflict and instability in the region.

The current phase of the project began in **September 2022** and is scheduled to conclude by the **end of February 2025**. However, the situation deteriorated following the eruption of war on **October 7, 2023**, which has persisted without a ceasefire. This has severely disrupted project activities, particularly in Gaza, where operations were suspended for security reasons.

Despite these constraints, some limited activities after October 7, 2023, were possible as follows:

- **Technicians and participants** in Gaza managed to share photos documenting damages to the **Byzantine Church** and **Roman Cemetery** in northern Gaza.
- **Oral history activities** continued in the **West Bank**, with minor participation from five young women and men in Gaza.
- **Advocacy efforts** for protecting Palestinian cultural heritage were conducted at national and international events during the whole project duration.

- **Publication of a book** to perpetuate the memory of the Intiqal program and valorize the activities carried out on the heritage of Gaza since 2018.
- **Mayassem training** and **mock excavation for children** were carried out in the south of Gaza.

The evaluation should focus on assessing the impact, and challenges of this current phase while considering the unprecedented disruptions caused by the conflict. It should also evaluate the project's ability to adapt to these constraints and ensure the preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage amid such challenging circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this evaluation are to:

Objective 1: Assess the Project's Alignment with CPF Outcomes

Focus on the following CPF outcomes before and after 7 October 2023:

- 1. Cultural heritage at risk is safeguarded for future generations.**
 - Evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of safeguarding measures and archaeological safeguarding, including physical and digital documentation efforts.
 - Assess emergency interventions and stabilization efforts for targeted archaeological sites.
 - Assess the process and extent by which intangible cultural heritage practices were recorded and turned into outputs
 - Review the role of published outputs, including the book on the Intiqal program, in raising awareness and preserving cultural heritage.
- 2. Cultural heritage at risk is better managed and prepared for potential threats.**
 - Analyze the impact of advocacy efforts on national and international levels in building awareness and support for heritage protection.
 - Evaluate capacity-building initiatives, including training programs for technicians, students, and local associations, and their contribution to long-term resilience.
- 3. Local people have developed skills, potentially leading to increased professional or other opportunities**

Developed skills are across all project activities:

- Assess the effectiveness of skill development programs in equipping individuals with practical and transferable abilities for professional growth.
- Measure the long-term impact of training initiatives on employment rates or entrepreneurial activities within local communities.
- Examine how skill-building efforts have influenced economic opportunities or created pathways for future education or professional advancement.

4. **Local communities have a better understanding of their cultural heritage and value it more**
 - Evaluate the success of awareness campaigns or educational activities in enhancing local knowledge and appreciation of cultural heritage.
 - Conduct surveys or interviews to understand shifts in community perceptions of their cultural heritage and its significance.
 - Assess the role of community engagement activities in fostering a deeper connection between individuals and their cultural heritage.
5. **Local communities have played a more active role in protecting their cultural heritage or sharing it with others, potentially leading to increased social cohesion and a greater sense of well-being**
 - Analyze participation levels in community-led heritage protection or restoration projects and their sustainability over time.
 - Assess the social impact of heritage-related activities, such as increased collaboration among community members and the promotion of shared identity.
 - Evaluate how initiatives aimed at sharing cultural heritage with others have contributed to social cohesion, mutual respect, and collective well-being.

Objective 2: Evaluate the Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Sustainability of Project Activities

- Examine the implementation and impact of key activities, including oral history initiatives and video interviews, Mayassem training, and mock excavation activities.
- Assess how these activities contributed to capacity building, public engagement, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- Evaluate the sustainability of project outcomes, particularly amid the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict.

Objective 3: Provide Actionable Recommendations

- Identify best practices and lessons learned for future cultural heritage projects in conflict-affected areas and post-conflict.
- Develop recommendations for improving management, safeguarding, and engagement activities to enhance resilience and sustainability post-conflict.

TASKS AND TIMELINE

The evaluation will cover:

- All project activities implemented since September 2022, with particular attention to activities completed under the constraints of the conflict.
- The project's contribution to CPF outcomes, specifically:
 - **Heritage Outcomes:** Safeguarding and better management of at-risk cultural heritage.

- **Society Outcomes:** increased skills, community engagement and social cohesion and well-being
- The alignment of the project's outputs and outcomes with CPF objectives and its adaptability to unforeseen challenges.

TIMELINE:

- **February 10-20, 2025:** Desk review, stakeholder interviews, and data collection.
- **February 25, 2025:** Draft evaluation report submission.
- **March 1-7, 2025:** Final evaluation report and deliverables submitted.

PP presentation to be confirmed

DELIVERABLES

The consultant will be required to deliver:

1. Evaluation Report (20-30 pages):

- A comprehensive document detailing:
 - Assessment against CPF outcomes.
 - Reflection on the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the project.
 - Challenges encountered and how they were addressed.

2. Presentation of Findings:

- A PowerPoint summary of the key findings and recommendations.
- Presentation to project stakeholders (virtual or in-person).

TEAM SELECTION & REQUIRED PROFILE

Applications are solicited from highly experienced individual consultant that have substantive knowledge in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas.

The consultant (individual or firm) should possess:

- Extensive experience in evaluating cultural heritage and development projects. (10 years minimum)
- Demonstrable expertise in aligning project outcomes with CPF objectives.
- Strong qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis skills.
- Familiarity with the socio-political context of Gaza.
- Excellent communication skills in English and a good command of French.

HOW TO APPLY:

Closing date for applications: 06 February 2025

Qualified candidates are requested to submit a financial proposal, cover letter, CV and a couple of samples or previous evaluation reports via email to hr@premiere-urgence.ps

The consultancy shall not exceed 10,000 EUR