

**Monitoring according to Paragraph 169
of the Operational Guidelines**

**State of Conservation Report
Old City of Jerusalem and its walls
Update: January 2015**

Executive Summary of activities during the year 2014

(The Report and the Summary relate only to areas inside the Walls

– Intra Muro sites – as per the UNESCO declaration)



Presented to

The World Heritage Committee

Planning

Scheme 13538 Discussion of the plan is currently being suspended.

166249 and 166256 (Residential Blocks Plans for blocks 8&9) have been completed.

Scheme 195990 (The Jewish Quarter) has been submitted to the Regional Planning committee.

Scheme 11053 (The Liba (core) House) was discussed at the Regional Planning Committee on 9.1.2014 and returned to the planners asking for further details to the suggested alternative.

Scheme 62950 (Tifferet Israel) A petition has been filed against the Regional Planning Committee's decision by an adjacent shop, regarding the entrance to the building.

Scheme 5306a (Rehabilitation plan for an Armenian Church in the Christian Quarter) has been approved on 27.9.2014.

Scheme 13771a (additional spaces to the Western Wall elevator) has been approved.

Scheme 193482 (addition to an existing residential building) has been objected to by the Local Planning Committee and passed on to the Regional Committee.

Scheme 105536 (expansion of an existing housing unit) has been submitted.

Scheme 188995 (approving a building deviation in an existing housing unit) has been submitted.

Scheme 201657 (enlargement of an existing residential unit) has been submitted.

Development

The first phase of **the Bab Huta neighborhood** was completed, including: the replacement of underground infrastructure; street lighting and furniture; pavement and provision of accessibility. Work along **Hagai (El Wad) Street** has progressed, including the completion of the accessibility of the street along its complete length, as well as the approaches to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall and Haram al-Sharif. A streetscape improvement plan for **the Christian Quarter** including the Muristan plaza and the routes to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher is in the final stages of design. Streetscape improvement plans have been designed for the area within **the New Gate** and within and outside of **Damascus Gate**, including regulation of traffic, improved accessibility, and the upgrading of storefronts. A new plan for the complex of **Galicja roofs**, serving as an important open space in this dense area as well as providing access for inhabitants, is designed to provide a safe access to the complex as a whole. A new plan for **the Armenian Patriarch street (Armenian Quarter)** is devised for the overall improvement of the street's infrastructure as well as the regulation of traffic and easing on handicapped access. Works conducted in the inner piazza of the **Dung Gate** include improvement of accessibility and shading.

A manual for the orderly upgrading of storefronts, **Storefront Upgrading** has been prepared and published in 2014 in both Hebrew and Arabic. Implementation of the Old City **Lighting** master-plan is continually conducted. In 2015, completion is planned for the Mount of Olives and the Horva Synagogue. The pilot for **Interpretation and Orientation Signage** has been completed and the project has been extended to rest of the Old City. Further plans include the installation of QR codes on the signs for quick and easy internet access to the various levels of information. The process of street numbering of over 4000 shops and residential homes throughout the Old City has been completed.

The four-year contract for the enhanced **cleaning and maintenance** services in the Old City has been renewed recently. A special project is being carried out for deploying **central garbage collection spots**. In 2014 engineers identified and declared seven **dangerous buildings** which carry a potential risk to public safety. The daily operation of a new **public minibus service** has begun in 2014, including a shuttle circulating the Old City and operating daily, departing from "park and ride" facilities. **Accessibility for the Disable** improvement works and installation of directional signage for accessible routes have continued through 2014, emphasizing the flat part of Via Dolorosa. More emphasis was put on compounds rather than streets, where accessibility improvements were integrated within the infrastructure improvement schemes in the Latin Quarter (around the New Gate), Lions' Gate (both inside and out) and Damascus Gate. **The Signage system** was also enhanced.

Archaeology and Conservation

Archaeology and Conservation on Temple Mount - Ongoing conservation works on Dome of the Rock include preservation of dome mosaics and marble tiles cladding in the inner walls. Ongoing conservation takes place in Solomon's Stables. Conservation works were completed on the Eastern Wall. A stone fence surrounding an electric generator complex was completed. Four of the wooden doors of the al-Aqsa Mosque were replaced by the Waqf.

At the Western Wall Compound, an archeological site beneath the Ohel Yitzhak Synagogue demanded a unique complex and expensive conservation project, solutions designed by a group of Israeli and non-Israeli engineers. Salvage excavations continued at the Strauss building and along the Herodian Wall. Limited conservational work took place at the Little Western Wall.

At the **Church of the Holy Sepulcher** various works of construction, restoration and maintenance were carried out in the St. Abraham convent. The front of the Chapel of the Franks underwent cleaning.

Along the Old City Walls graffiti cleaning and maintenance of the Bet Shalom Promenade (on the southern wall) were undertaken.

Works in the Muslim Quarter include conservation in **Haldiah-el Kirmi** dangerous structure; the Mamluk burial site **Turbat Seadia**; **the Mahkamah building** and **Sabil Hamam el Ain** as part of the Hagai (el Wad) street infrastructure upgrading project. Salvage excavations were also carried out along Kirmi road; on no. 60, Saraya road; and at the Catholic Armenian Church on Via Dolorosa.

In the Jewish Quarter, salvage excavations and conservation were carried out in **Birkat Torah Yeshiva**, the **Tifferet Israel Synagogue** site and the **Birkat Torah Yeshiva** and also along **Ararat** and **Chabad** roads.

At the Christian quarter, salvage excavations were carried out at the **Church of the Redeemer**.