



Ministry of Culture
Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums

STATE PARTY REPORT

On The State of Conservation
of the
Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites
(Syrian Arab Republic)

For Submission By
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INTRODUCTION

This Progress Report on the State of Conservation of the Syrian World Heritage properties is:

- Responds to the World Heritage Center on the 44 Session of the UNESCO Committee organized online from 16 to 31 July 2021, Provides update to the December 2020 State of Conservation report.
- Prepared in to be present on the previous World Heritage Committee meeting 45e session 2022.

Information Sources

This report represents a collation of available information as of 31 December 2021 and is based on available information from the DGAM braches around Syria, taking inconsideration that with ground access in some cities in Syria extremely limited for antiquities experts, extent of the damage cannot be assessment right now such as (Ancient Villages in North of Syria).

1. WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF ALEPPO**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1986

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS

Located at the crossroads of several trade routes since the 2nd millennium B.C., Aleppo was ruled successively by the Hittites, Assyrians, Akkadians, Greeks, Romans, Umayyads, Ayyubids, Mameluks and Ottomans who left their stamp on the city. The Citadel, the 12th-century Great Mosque and various 16th and 17th-centuries madrasas, residences, khans and public baths, all form part of the city's cohesive, unique urban fabric.

The monumental Citadel of Aleppo, rising above the suqs, mosques and madrasas of the old walled city, is testament to Arab military might from the 12th to the 14th centuries. With evidence of past occupation by civilizations dating back to the 10th century B.C., the citadel contains the remains of mosques, palace and bath buildings. The walled city that grew up around the citadel bears evidence of the early Graeco-Roman street layout and contains remnants of 6th century Christian buildings, medieval walls and gates, mosques and madrasas relating to the Ayyubid and Mameluke development of the city, and later mosques and palaces of the Ottoman period. Outside the walls, the Bab al-Faraj quarter to the North-West, the Jdeide area to the north and other areas to the south and west, contemporary with these periods of occupation of the walled city contain important religious buildings and residences. Fundamental changes to parts of the city took place in the 30 years before inscription, including the destruction of buildings, and the development of tall new buildings and widened roads. Nonetheless the surviving ensemble of major buildings as well as the coherence of the urban character of the suqs and residential streets and lanes all contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value.

CHALLENGES:

Since liberation on the 7th of November, 2016, the recovering stage in the city commenced in a relatively slow steps for the following reasons:

- 1- Lack of financial resources and capabilities.
- 2- Dependence on the personal donations of the city's residents, which are relatively limited and unable to rebuild large projects.
- 3- The unfair economic blockade on Syria, which caused difficulty in accessing some of the raw materials for the restoration process, in addition to the high price of them.

MEASURES TAKEN:

The Aleppo City Council is completing the programs set within the government action plan to rehabilitate and restore the old souks of Aleppo, and put them back into investment within the specified time periods to advance the economy in Aleppo. The council's teams are working in more than one axis to accelerate the maintenance and rehabilitation of the old city's infrastructure, and to provide possible support to complete the rest of the construction works, as several projects were finished this year:

- Carrying out works that threaten public safety such as dismantling cracked and collapsing walls in narrow alleys that pose a threat to public safety located within the old city limits, within the contract that made between Aleppo governorate and the Military Housing Corporation.
- The rehabilitation of the Khan al-Harir souk, which includes / 60 / shops, was implemented by the Aga Khan Foundation under an agreement signed between the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums in Aleppo Governorate, the Aleppo City Council, the Syrian Trust for Development, and the Aga Khan Foundation for Cultural Services. The rehabilitation was carried out in two phases in the northern section that includes Khan al-Harir and Khan Jaki, structural restoration work for shops were carried out according to the system of traditional Aleppo architecture and building. As for the southern section, which includes Khan al-Venita, the work limited to cleaning the facades, removing all irregularities, and rehabilitating the axis with the aim of returning it to its splendor. This work included rehabilitating the stone facades, replacing the metal facades of shops with wooden doors, in addition to rehabilitating the entrances to the three khans in the souk. The Directorate of the Old City of Aleppo had finished the rehabilitation and restoration works of Fustuq Square, which is located within the vaulted old souks of Aleppo and includes about 18 shops, and links Souk al-Saqatiyah with the Al Harir souk.

Several projects continued this year such as:

- The rehabilitation works at Sahat Al Hatab that included the rehabilitation of the square in its entirety and the main axes by stone tiles, sidewalks, and infrastructure in addition to other services such as water, sewage, electricity, and telephone.
- The rehabilitation works in several axis such as: the street extending from Qadi Askar Square towards the corn stove, the street extending from Qadi Askar Square towards the cemetery of Karaz Dada, the Milh square, the southern and northern sections of Al-Shaibani madrassa.

The recovery phase of the ancient city is led by the Ancient City Protection Committee headed by the Governor, which held several meetings during 2021, and the Technical Committee of the Ancient City, which meets weekly and studies all licenses granted by the Ancient City Directorate for the restoration of residential homes and the shops which amounted to about / 76 / restoration and rebuild work licenses in 2021, and / 69/ licenses for minor restoration works.

The traditional souks witnessed a noticeable intervention by the people to restore their shops, under the supervision of the Directorate of the Old City.

The Umayyad Mosque project:



1-2-

3



The restoration work at the Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo is underway:

In the northwest side: The east and west walls of the main gate (eastern gate) were rebuilt using the old stones as possible. The Northwestern corner with the links rooms were around the minaret were rebuilt (1+2). The North facade from the east side and the north gallery were completed. (3)

The Minaret:

Almost half of the minaret was rebuilding, using the undamaged old stones and replacing the damaged one, the inscriptions with the motifs were numbered and replaced in their origin places. (4-5).



4





5

The southern side (Qiblia):

The holes in the Mihrabs were blocked by colored lime mortar compatible with the stones color (6). The south enternace with its staircase were rebuild (7). The stone floors were restored, and the damaged stones were replaced by new one. The wooden frames in the doors overlooking to the mosque courtyard were installed (8-9). The mosque's wall that overlooking at Al-Habal souk was restored also (10).



6



7



8



9

9

The Northeast corner:

Installing a metal scaffold to reinforce the damaged columns and rebuild them in the Hijazieh (11).

The ceilings in the Hijazieh and the surrounding rooms were rebuilt (12).

Rebuilding the outer northeastern wall of the Hijazieh (13).



10



11



12



13

Aleppo citadel:

Restoration and reconstruction work of the damaged walls between the two northern towers (12 and 15) had finished, in addition to the eastern part of the walls between the two towers (22 and 27).







Dar Ghazaleh: (first phase)

An emergency restoration project that included the following main works:

Documentation of the damaged parts.

Documenting the rubble, sorting out what is suitable for rebuilding.

Temporary reinforcement works for some structurally dangerous cases.

Treatment, consolidation and restoration of dangerous cases in the building.

Lime mortar injection works for some damaged domes.

Removing and rebuilding damaged walls.

Restoration works for damaged stone vaults and arches.

Building damaged walls from the original site stones.

Implementation of internal fillings within the walls and above the vaults and domes.









Ajqbash House Restoration Project (Phase One):

The following works included:

Documenting the rubble and sorting out what is valid for rebuilding.

Dismantling and rebuilding the damaged parts of the walls and repairing other walls.

Reconstruct the distroyed walls.

Repairing damaged staircases.

Rubble remover works



Restoration works inside the rooms.





Restoration works at the inner facades overlooking at the couryards:





Use the original pieces found in the rubble





Renovation work on the outer walls of the room above the alley



Restoration the Iwan:





جدران الإيوان قبل البدء بالعمل



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جدران الإيوان بعد الترميم



Restoration the stircases:



According to ministry of endowments report mentioned that several severe damaged mosques and madrassa were restored during the 2021: Naqousa, Al-Safahia, Tawashi, Ismailia. Around 8 mosques had get the restoration liscences within the ancient city.

Naqousa Mosque – Bab Al Hadid

Before



After



Al-Safahia minaret



Tawashi minaret



Al Ismailia dome





The endowment estates within the ancient city are about 600 estates, most are distributed at the souks area and Jdaydeh. During this year, about 60 estates got the restoration licenses (15 residential house+ 45 shop), thus, 450 restoration licenses were given since the ancient city liberation, making a ratio of 75% from the total number of the waqf estates.

The M. of endowment gave many of legal facilities to the endowment real estate investors to enable them to maintain their investment status even after the demolition of the property.

The social and educational role was continuous by the M. of endowment that support the residents returning to their homes and the war damaged groups through several of facilities such as: Arabic language courses and reading, calligraphy exhibitions, literacy courses, human development for teachers in the endowments institutions and psychological support for war-affected children.

Name of World Heritage property: **CRAC DES CHEVALIERS & QAL'AT SALAH EL-DIN**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 2006

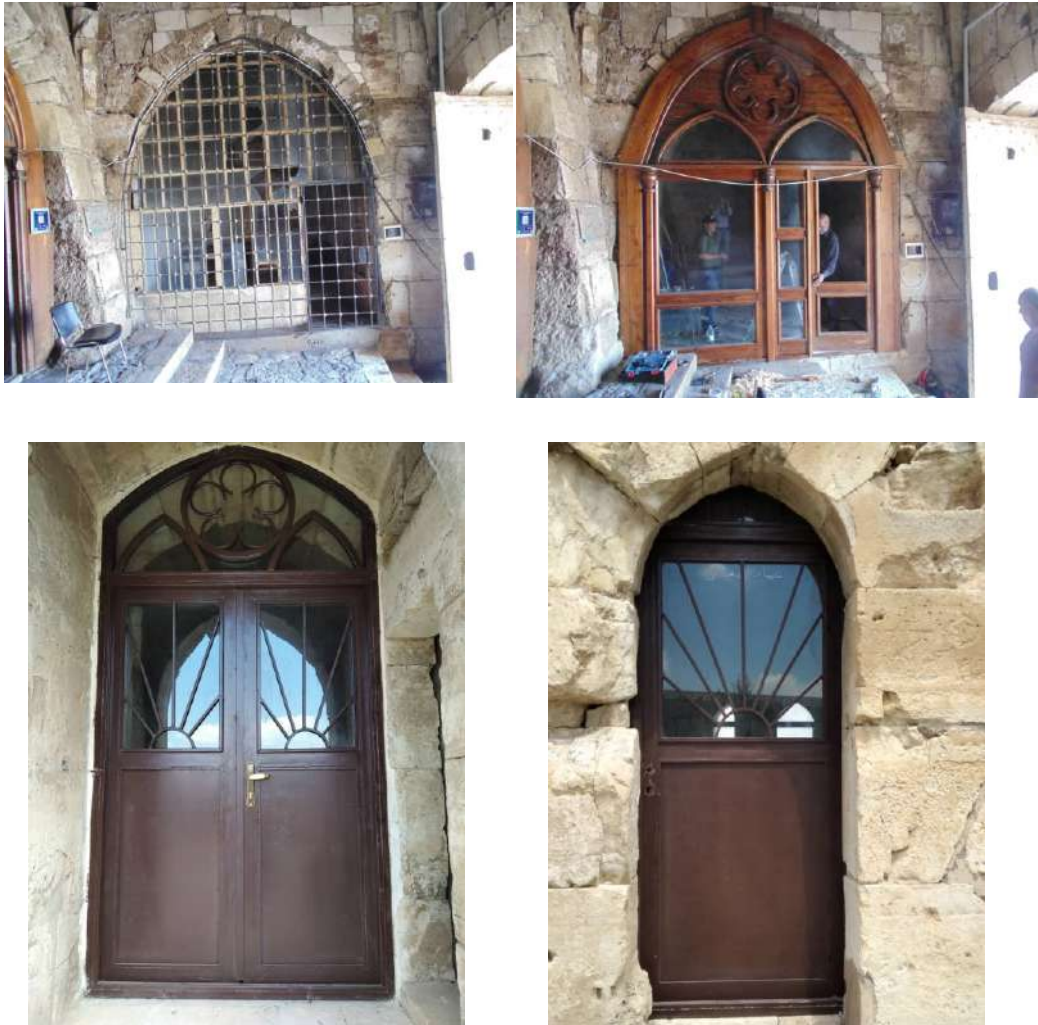
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:

The two castles represent the most significant examples illustrating the exchange of influences and documenting the evolution of fortified architecture in the Near East during the Byzantine, Crusader and Islamic periods. The Crac des Chevaliers was built by the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem from 1142 to 1271. With further construction by the Mamluks in the late 13th century, it ranks among the best-preserved examples of the Crusader castles. The Qal'at Salah El-Din, even though partly in ruins, retains features from its Byzantine beginnings in the 10th century, the Frankish transformations in the late 12th century and fortifications added by the Ayyubid dynasty (late 12th to mid-13th century). Both castles are located on high ridges that were key defensive positions. Dominating their surrounding landscapes, the two castles of Crac des Chevaliers and Qal'at Salah El-Din are outstanding examples of fortified architecture relating to the Crusader period. Their quality of construction and the survival of historical stratigraphy demonstrate the interchange of defensive technology through features of each phase of military occupation.

MEASURES TAKEN

CRAC DES CHEVALIERS

1. In the framework of the International Assistance request No 3042 entitled "First Phase of the Master Plan of Crac des Chevaliers", the DGAM had completed all the contract items, the topographic network of survey points on the entire site and its surroundings; Identify critical stability cases and other restoration needs at the site, set priorities of interventions and elaborate detailed restoration proposals aligned with the recommendations of the UNESCO technical assistance workshop (Beirut, 2016); the stone deterioration diagnosis; and the management plan. The Hungarian experts this year were able to come and finish the work. The draft file will be sent to UNESCO at the end of January 2021.
2. The implementation of the project to rehabilitate the tourist and cultural routes (funded by the Ministry of Tourism) has begun. Among the most important works it includes:
 - Removing the damaged iron frames and replaced by wooden one such as the Tower of the King's daughter and the entrance and installing wooden doors.
 - Cleaning the routes and removing vegetations.
 - Submission and implementation of plexi sign boards.
 - Providing and installing projectors for lighting in the stable.



After Signing a memorandum of understanding to implement a project to restore the Al-Zahir Baybars towers and the church and their surroundings between the Ministry of Culture - the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums and the Saint Ephrem Syriac Patriarchal Authority for Development, funded by the Hungarian side (Hungary Helps) which aims to contribute to the rehabilitation and revival of this important site. The implementation of this project started in July 2021 and is expected to continue until December 2022

- The first phirst of the project, which is under construction, is related to the restoration of the facade of the Al-Zahir Baybars Tower and the restoration of the basement of the tower and its surroundings (the door leading to the western portico in the outer wall - the staircase leading to the Sultan Qalawun Tower - the staircase adjacent to the facade of the Al-Zahir Baybars Tower - the two arches in the western outer wall Near Al-Zahir Baybars Tower), then isolated the roof of the Al-Zaher Baybars Tower

- The second phase includes the installation of wooden doors and windows for the church tower and the restoration of the northern curtain near the tower of the King's daughter.
- The third section includes strengthening the northern wall of the second stable overlooking the moat.
- The photos below show the progress of the restoration works at Zahir Bybars Tower by using the old stone as possible, replaced the damaged one, using lime mortar.



Within the IAR from the WHC, the DGAM team in Damascus and Homs were able to conduct the damage assessment in the Crac buffer zone, the result survey was done by using damage assessment sheets for 372 estates. The results will be inserted in the GIS to produce the estimated maps. The primary survey showed that 40% of the houses effected by minor damage, 18% severe damage, 2%

completely destroyed and 16% in a good condition. The final report expected to finish in April 2022. The survey shows 10 illegal buildings in the green area of the buffer zone that prohibits construction there.

The photos below show the type of damage at the buffer zone.



Qal'at Salah Ed-Din

Works in the Qal'at has been limited this year to finish the document within the framework of the International Assistance request to extend the buffer zone according to the new archaeological evidence.

The photos below show the new archaeological evidence in the mosque.



A comprehensive visitor plan is continued in the site, within the framework of the agreement signed with the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism including the development of sustainable tourism for the ever-growing number of visitors to the site. This will include visitors' paths, an information center, explanation sign boards and visitor leaflets, proper facilities, and fencing.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF BOSRA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1980

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:

The name of Bosra occurs in the precious Tell el-Amarna tablets in Egypt, which date from the 14th century B.C. and represent royal correspondence between the Pharaohs and the Phoenician and Amorite kings. It became the northern capital of the Nabataean kingdom. In the year of 106 A.D, a new era began for Bosra when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire. Alexander Severus gave it the title Colonia Bosra and Philip the Arab minted currency especially for it. During Byzantine times, Bosra was a major frontier market where Arab caravans came to stock up and its bishops took part in the Council of Antioch. Bosra was the first Byzantine city, which the Arabs entered in 634 in the phase of Islamic expansion. Today, Bosra is a major archaeological site, containing ruins from Roman, Byzantine, and Muslim times. Further, Nabataean and Roman monuments, Christian churches, mosques and Madrasas are present within the city. Its main feature is the second century Roman Theatre, constructed probably under Trajan, which has been integrally preserved. It was fortified between 481 and 1251 AD. Al-Omari Mosque is one of the oldest surviving mosques in Islamic history, and the Madrasah Mabarak al-Naqua is one of the oldest and most celebrated of Islam. The Cathedral of Bosra is also a building of considerable importance in the annals of early Christian architecture. Bosra survived about 2500 years inhabited and almost intact. The Nabataeans, Romans, Byzantines and Umayyad, all left traces in the city, which is an open museum associated with significant episodes in the history of ideas and beliefs.

MEASURES TAKEN

- Restoration work was limited to minor emergency interventions, DGAM had launched a restoration work in the damaged area in western gallery of the citadel, one of the entrances and floor of the theatre. The restoration used the same old stones.





The building code is in officially progress for adoption from the governorate of Dara'a.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF PALMYRA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 1980

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:

An oasis in the Syrian Desert, northeast of Damascus, Palmyra contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centers of the ancient world. From the 1st to the 2nd century, the art and architecture of Palmyra, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, married Graeco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences. First mentioned in the archives of Mari in the 2nd millennium BC, Palmyra was an established caravan oasis when it came under Roman control in the mid-first century AD as part of the Roman province of Syria. It grew steadily in importance as a city on the trade route linking Persia, India and China with the Roman Empire, marking the crossroads of several civilizations in the ancient world. A grand, colonnaded street of 1100 meters' length forms the monumental axis of the city, which together with secondary colonnaded cross streets links the major public monuments including the Temple of Ba'al, Diocletian's Camp, the Agora, Theatre, other temples and urban quarters. Architectural ornament including unique examples of funerary sculpture unites the forms of Greco-Roman art with indigenous elements and Persian influences in a strongly original style. Outside the city's walls are remains of a Roman aqueduct and immense necropolises. Discovery of the ruined city by travelers in the 17th and 18th centuries resulted in its subsequent influence on architectural styles.

THREATS:

- Lack of international support to adopt the road map to rehabilitate the site.
- Lack of exist of the administartion and management unit and the site had to be managed remotely from Damascus and Homs Antiquities.
- Lack of financial support for launching the needed restoration projects to the destroyed monuments.
- The increasing dangers affecting the destroyed monuments because of weather (Temple of Bell gate).
- The population has not fully returned to the city.

MEASURES TAKEN:

- A Syrian-Russian team has begun to rehabilitate the historic Afqa spring, which was vandalized because of the attacks of the terrorist organization "ISIS", under the supervision of the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums.
- The project is co-financed by the Russian Association for Preserving the Historical and Cultural Heritage "Voluntary Expeditionary Corps" in

addition to several archaeologists from the Heritage Institute in Moscow, the Kabardino-Balkaria Scientific Center of the Academy of Sciences and the Russian company OKN Project.



- The goal of the project is to clean the stream of Afqa from stones and rubble, and to restore its archaeological cave and return it to what it was before, especially since this spring is of exceptional importance as it is the reason for life in the city and involve local community in this project.



The restoration work of the spring, which was damaged in its structural structure, includes isolating its stream from rubble and rubble and ensuring the return of water flow as it was before towards the oasis of Palmyra's historic orchards, which is part of the ancient city, in addition to working on the structural side of this

cave and rebuilding and rehabilitating the aqueducts. Archaeological sites, votive altars, and the stairs leading to the entrance to this archaeological and tourist cave.

The implementation period is about three months, contributes to restoring life to this spring, which in turn helps restore farmers to their farms in Palmyra oasis and their stability in the region.



In cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the Governorate of Homs, the historic Visitors Center building (the former folk traditional museum) in the ancient city of Palmyra was put into service, after it was restored and rehabilitated, with an estimated cost of

300 million Syrian pounds. It was restored and rehabilitated by using the local traditional materials; gypsum and stone from the nature of the heritage building of the area.



In addition, the restoration had begun at the Hostel building (in the temple of Bell) to host the experts and the team during their missions to the site.

In the inhabited city: The governorate of Homs launched several projects to rehabilitate the modern city (including debris management, health facilities, two schools, governmental and social institutions, the repair of water, sanitation, drainage and energy utilities, the restoration of roads and public spaces) .

Within An agreement between the Red Crescent and (ADRA- NGO) 250 resident houses were restored and two schools in Palmyra to provide assistance to the people of the city and encourage them to return to their homes, noting that the restoration includes electrical and sanitary works, installing a wooden frames, aluminum, building a block and installing water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 liters, in addition to distributing and

installing 115 emergency water tanks for the homes of the people that will be restored in the future under the slogan “from In order to return to Palmyra is better.”

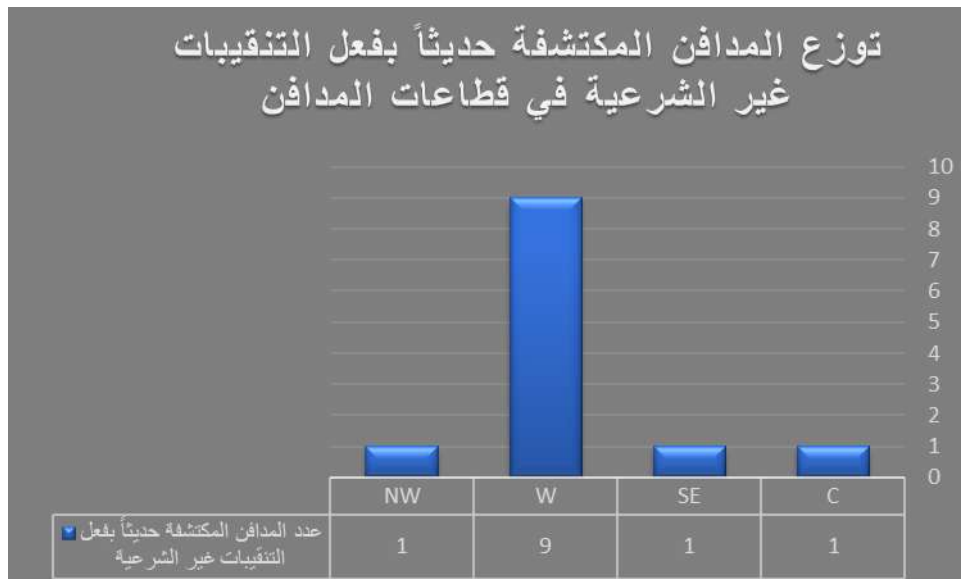
Patriarch Ephrem Barsoum restored 50 residential house.

- The DGAM had established an international scientific committee for the restoration project for Palmyra under the umbrella of UNESCO, but the committee is not activated yet.
- The DGAM was able to launch a mission to the site to undertake the damage assessment due to the illegal excavations. Photographing, documenting, and locating excavation sites on plans were done, in addition to measuring the dimensions of the excavation and taking various notes for each pit. Where the total number of documented and illegal digging reached (461) pits that varied between regular digging and scraping pits by heavy machinery. These diggings have led to damages to the architectural structures and ancient burials. Some of these illegal diggings have led to the discovery of several new burials that have been looted and vandalized. The team documented the damage of some cemeteries and facilities that were bombed by the terrorist organization ISIS, or that were damaged by missiles. It was also noted that some of the cemeteries were used by terrorist groups as headquarters and ammunition depots, as is the case with the cemetery of the three brothers, where the organization deliberately. The terrorist led to tampering with the contents of the tomb and erecting earth mounds within the entrance to the tomb, as well as constructing some cement walls inside it.

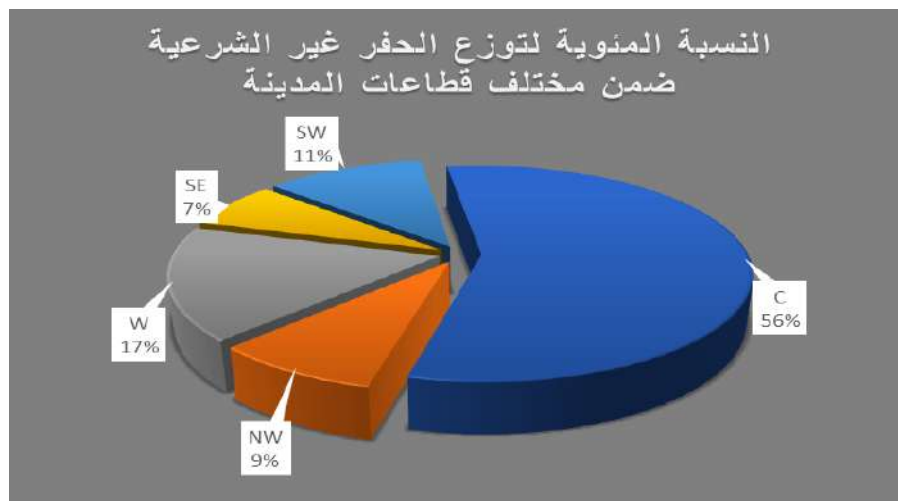


The diagram shows the number of illegal diggings within the cemeteries area

The red color= N of diggings outside the cemeteries - The blue color= N of diggings inside the cemeteries, NW= northwest cemtries, C=cemtries within the archaeological site, W= Valley of tombs, SW= southwest cemtries, SE= southeast cemtries.



The distribution of the new tombs discovered by illegal diggings within the cemeteries area
The blue color indicates to the n of the new discovered tombs, NW= northwest cemtries, C=cemtries within the archaeological site, W= Valley of tombs, SE= southeast cemtries.



The distribution percent of illegal diggings in Plamyra
NW= northwest cemtries, W= valley of tombs, SE=southeast of cemtries, SW=southwest of cemtries, C=cemtries within the archaeological site



A pit in the Valley of the tombs, which was used as wipons ammo



A crown column discovered in one of the pits at (Diocelsian camp)



Vandalism at one of the tombs in the Valley of Tombs



A pit that led to the discovery of the entrance to a new underground burial site that was looted and vandalized (Southwest Cemeteries)

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT VILLAGES IN NORTHERN SYRIA**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 2011

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS:

Located in a vast Limestone Massif, in the northwest of Syria, some forty ancient villages provide a coherent and exceptionally broad insight into rural and village lifestyles in late Antiquity and the Byzantine Period. Abandoned in the 8th-10th centuries, they still retain a large part of their original monuments and buildings, in a remarkable state of preservation: dwellings, pagan temples, churches and Christian sanctuaries, funerary monuments, bathhouses, public buildings, buildings with economic or artisanal purposes, etc. It is also an exceptional illustration of the development of Christianity in the East, in village communities. Grouped in eight archaeological parks, the ensemble forms a series of unique and exceptional relict cultural landscapes.

MEASURES TAKEN:

The area is still under the control of the armed groups, damage assessment is difficult and access to the area is still forbidden.

Name of World Heritage property: **ANCIENT CITY OF DAMASCUS**

Date of inscription on World Heritage List: 26/10/1979

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANTS

Founded in the 3rd millennium B.C., Damascus was an important cultural and commercial center, by virtue of its geographical position at the crossroads of the orient and the occident, between Africa and Asia. The old city of Damascus is considered to be among the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Excavations at Tell Ramad on the outskirts of the city have demonstrated that Damascus was inhabited as early as 8,000 to 10,000 BC. However, it is not documented as an important city until the arrival of the Aramaeans. In the Medieval period, it was the center of a flourishing craft industry, with different areas of the city specializing in particular trades or crafts. The city exhibits outstanding evidence of the civilizations which created it - Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and Islamic. In particular, the Umayyad caliphate created Damascus as its capital, setting the scene for the city's ongoing development as a living Muslim, Arab city, upon which each succeeding dynasty has left and continues to leave its mark. In spite of Islam's prevailing influence, traces of earlier cultures particularly the Roman and Byzantine continue to be seen in the city. Thus the city today is based on a Roman plan and maintains the aspect and the orientation of the Greek city, in that all its streets are oriented north-south or east-west and is a key example of urban planning. The earliest visible physical evidence dates to the Roman period – the extensive remains of the Temple of Jupiter, the remains of various gates and an impressive section of the Roman city walls. The city was the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate. However, apart from the incomparable Great Mosque, built on the site of a Roman temple and over-laying a Christian basilica, there is little visible dating from this important era of the city's history. The present city walls, the Citadel, some mosques and tombs survive from the Middle Ages, but the greatest part of the built heritage of the city dates from after the Ottoman conquest of the early 16th century.

MEASURES TAKEN:

- The restoration work at the area which located in the northern side of the city along the Barada River between two gates, Ban Touma and Bab Al Salam had finished.
- Work is currently underway to implement a new sewage network in the neighborhood of Al-Joura, where the drainage is transferred from the properties adjacent to the wall in the Al-Frayyin area towards the new line, thus preventing the leakage of sewage water and protecting the ancient Damascus wall from landslides and cracks

resulting from weak soil at the level of the wall foundation due to leakage Wastewater.



The drainage is moved out the real estate adjacent to the ancient city all of Damascus towards the new sewage line. several survey drill were carried out to measure soil moisture at the foundation level of the wall and in several areas along it. An ultrasound study was also carried out to study the presence of cavitations or depressions in the foundation soil under the wall. This is in parallel with the periodic and emergency work to replace the damaged parts of the sewage lines that are in service, such as the discussion area and Bab Touma, with the necessary reinforcement work.



Periodic monitoring of the structural structure of the wall is currently being carried out, and cracks can be monitored by placing sticks of gypsum.



- **The issue of excuting telephone and electricity cables underground** was again presented at the meeting of the Protection Committee on 12/15/2021, and the importance of all cables being grounded and in special cases was emphasized over the antenna.

The infrastructure is fully rehabilitated in the re-study axes that are currently being implemented, such as Souk Al-Sroujia and Souk Bab Sarija.

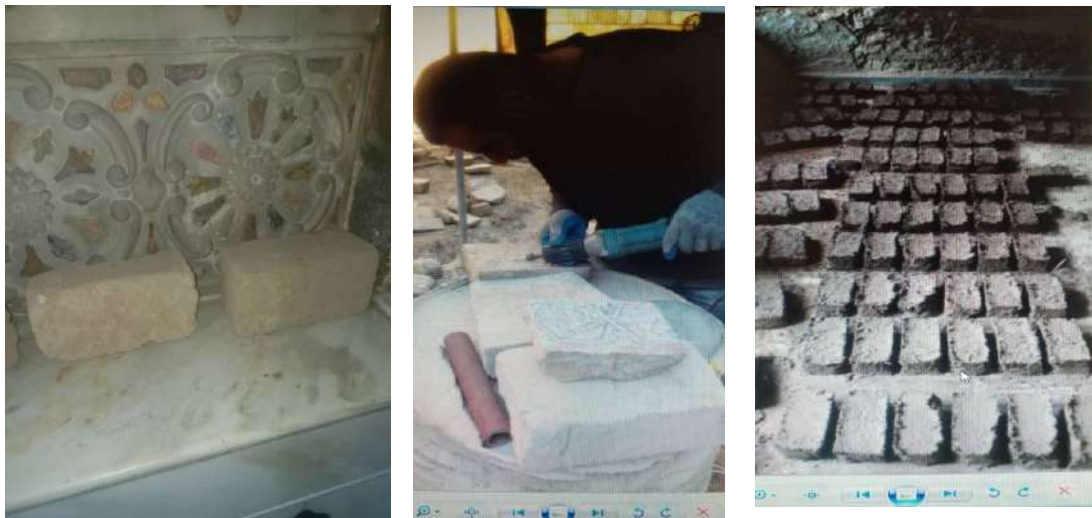
- **The topic of traditional building materials** and initiatives to encourage the preservation of building crafts is one of the work plans

for the years 2020/2021, and preparations are being made to launch an expanded workshop in March 2022 with the Syndicate of Engineers, the Heritage Committee, on the current status of traditional building materials, their costs, labor and alternative materials.

Not to mention that all the restoration work carried out by the Old Damascus Directorate is done with traditional building materials such as the restoration of Souk Al Sarija.



- The educational center for crafts related to traditional materials in the field of construction and traditional crafts was opened this year, by the Ngo's Al- Sakhra Association on property 295 (Yahud neighborhood).



→ As for cooperation with international and local partners:

- Cooperation is taking place with the Aga Khan Network in the restoration and rehabilitation of ancient buildings. Khan Suleiman Pasha is currently being restored in Medhat Pasha Market. The Aga Khan Network has also established the Microfinance Foundation to provide loans for the restoration of residential homes in the ancient city of Damascus.
- The Creative Space initiative for the best urban design of Bab Touma Square was launched in cooperation with the British Syrian Society, and work is currently underway to develop the winning projects in the initiative to represent them in the optimal solution.
- Signing agreements with Damascus University (Faculty of Architecture - Institute of Regional Planning) to cooperate in some studies within the old city of Damascus.

Updating the fire file:

- A workshop was launched at the Syndicate of Engineers, Damascus Branch, in partnership with the Damascus Fire Brigade, entitled (Preserving the Cultural Heritage), and the workshop ended with several proposals that are currently being implemented, including:
 - 1- Putting emergency water tanks and ensuring easy access and investment in them.
 - 2- Implementation of a dry line network for all narrow lanes and alleys.
 - 3- Equipping neighborhood committees centers with emergency and first-aid equipment for firefighting and ambulances.

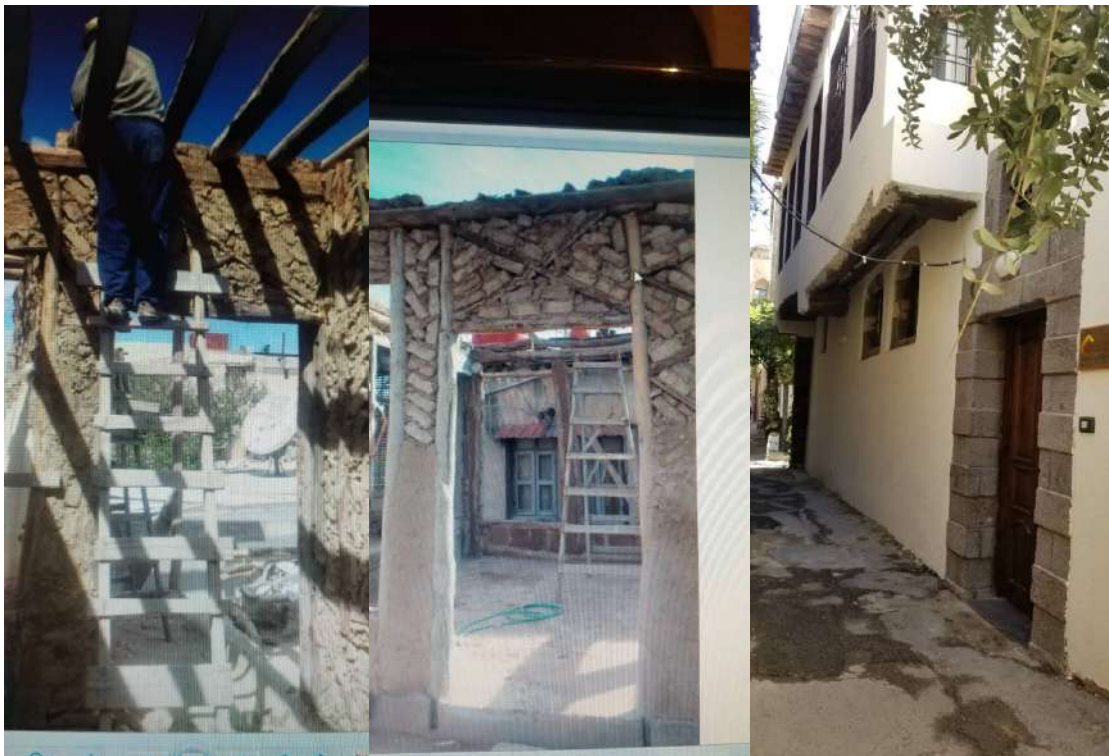
4- Developing mechanisms and equipment for storming and firefighting due to the nature of the archaeological fabric.

5- Emphasis on installing fire alarm and firefighting networks in buildings and not granting licenses without ensuring their effectiveness.

- A committee composed of the Directorate of Civil Defense, the Damascus Fire Center Command, and the Old City of Damascus Directorate was formed to support the Damascus Governorate Police Department, with the task of immediately detecting all shops, commercial events, souk and khans located in the ancient city of Damascus, which are difficult or impossible for firefighters to reach, and to verify the availability of special equipment. To treat the fire, direct the necessary warnings, follow up their implementation, and develop the necessary proposals and recommendations to reduce the recurrence of fires, as a first stage, pending the implementation of dry extinguishing lines.

Procedures for maintaining abandoned places:

- The Directorate of the Old City of Damascus has granted several emergency repairs permits and restoration, whereby 13 emergency repair permits were granted within the Jewish real estate area for this year.



2- TENTATIVE LIST:

The Government of Syria would like to be updating Syria's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites, according to the recent situation after the war. Process will be started in cooperation of the whc.

1. Ebla (Tell Mardikh)

There is no new work in the site during 2021

2. Mari (Tell Hariri) & Europos Dura

There are no new works in the two sites during 2021

3. A desert Castle: Qasr al-Hayr ach-Charqi

→ No new information.

4. Raqqa-Ràfiqa: the Abassid City

→ No new information.

5. Norias of Hama

→ The Antiquities of Hama is working in updating the bufferzone in some of the nories to ensure more protection.

6. Maaloula

Restoration works are ongoing by the residents in the old city.

7. Ugarit (Tell Shamra)

→ The Antiquities of Latakia is undertaken an on-going maintenance plan for the site.

8. Tartus: The Crusaders Citadel-City

→ The Antiquities of Tartus is undertaken an on-going maintenance plan for the old city.

9. Arwad Island:

→ No new information for the Tourism project in the island.

الأمانة
السورية
للتنمية

Syria Trust for
Development

تقرير تدخل الامانة السورية للتنمية في المدينة القديمة

محافظة حلب

2021

تشتهر حلب كمحافظة اقتصادية بمدينتها القديمة كإرث تاريخي من خلال ما تتميز به من طراز معماري قديم يتجسّد في الساحات والأسواق التي يصل عددها ضمن الشارع المستقيم ومداخله إلى 23 سوق بالإضافة إلى مسجدها وقلعتها وخاناتها وموقعها الاستراتيجي على طريق الحرير سابقاً مما جعلها وجهة لمختلف الأديان للإقامة فيها ومساهم في تشكيل طابع عمراني واقتصادي وثقافي واجتماعي متجانس مع نسيج المدينة الحضري.

نتيجةً للدمار الذي تعرضت له المدينة القديمة خلال الحرب والتي أثرت على مختلف جوانب الحياة، وفي ظل غياب خطوط توجيهية و استراتيجية واضحة وشاملة لإعادة إحياء المدينة القديمة، كان هناك ضرورة لتضافر الجهود للنهوض بها واستعادة ألقها ومكانتها، تم تشكيل فريق عمل خاص بإحياء الشارع المستقيم ومداخله وفق قرار السيد محافظ حلب رقم 3947/ في عام ٢٠٢٠/ بهدف :

١. الإشراف على وضع الدراسة اللازمة لإعادة تأهيل العقارين رقم ٣/٣٥٤٨ و ٤/٣٥٤٨ متضمنه أسس توظيف واستخدام العقارين كمقر للجنة المشكلة في المادة ١/
٢. الإشراف على وضع دراسة أولية على شكل تقرير بحثي تتناول مشكلات وصعوبات تطبيق قانون الآثار رقم ٢٢٢ لعام ١٩٦٣، وأسس تطوير نظام ضابطة البناء لمنطقة حلب القديمة بما يتوافق مع قانون الآثار و اقتراح الحلول التي تشكل في أبعادها افكاراً ورؤى قابلة لإخراجها بصورة نصوص قانونية تعد لاحقاً من قبل الجهات المعنية بتطبيق القانون ونظام ضابطة البناء والتنسيق مع من يلزم من الجهات المعنية بهذا الخصوص.
3. تكليف من يلزم لإعداد هيكلة قواعد البيانات المتعلقة بالمدينة القديمة بدءاً من محور الطريق المستقيم ومداخله.
٤. الإشراف على وضع دراسة تحدد المرتكزات الأساسية وأولويات التدخل والمعالجة التي يتطلبها إعادة تأهيل محور الطريق المستقيم ومداخله بدءاً من منطقة الأسواق القديمة متضمنة مقترحات تصحيح الأوصاف العقارية اللازمة لذلك.
٥. تقديم الدعم اللازم للجنة الحماية بخصوص إبداء الرأي حول الطلبات الواردة إلى اللجنة المرتبطة بمحور الطريق المستقيم ومداخله.

ونظراً لأن عملية الإحياء في المدينة القديمة تستهدف البشر والحجر ، فقد تم دعم عمل هذا الفريق من خلال توقيع اتفاقية مع الأمانة السورية للتنمية نظراً لخبرتها في مجال العمل التنموي والمجتمعي بما يساعد في عملية إحياء الشارع المستقيم ومداخله بحيث تكون مهام والتزامات الأمانة وفق ما يلي :

- تعزيز دور المجتمع المحلي للمساهمة في بناء أولويات التدخل في الشارع المستقيم ومداخله من خلال تشكيل لجان لأسواق الشارع المستقيم أسوة بالتجربة التي تم تنفيذها في سوق السقراطية وخان الحرير ضمان تحقيق مستوى فعال من التواصل مع كافة أصحاب المحلات للتعرف على احتياجاتهم والقدرة على تقديم حلول للتحديات التي من الممكن مواجهتها والاستفادة من أفكارهم ومقترحاتهم بالشكل الذي يضمن انخراطهم في منظومة المشروع وتفعيل العجلة الاقتصادية من خلال فتح المحلات التجارية.
- دعم المالكين وشاغلي العقارات في استخراج الثبوتيات القانونية اللازمة، بالإضافة إلى تقديم الإرشاد والمشورة القانونية اللازمة لهم وفق ما تم تقديمه لأصحاب المحلات في سوق السقراطية من استشارات في الأمور العقارية وتأمين ثبوتيات العقار من خلال فريق الاستجابة القانونية الأولية في الأمانة السورية للتنمية.
- المساهمة في توفير قروض صغيرة ومتناهية الصغر وربطهم بفرص وأسواق جديدة، وتمكينهم من مواءمة منتجاتهم لمتطلبات السوق مع حركة السوق ومتطلباته من خلال توفير منظومة الأمانة لدعم المجتمع المحلي ومالكي المحال التجارية في محور الطريق المستقيم ومداخله وتمكينهم من استعادة مصادر رزقهم وضمان استدامتها ليكونوا مؤثرين وفاعلين في محيطهم.
- التشبيك والتعاقد مع جهات محلية ودولية من خبراء أو مختصين أو إداريين أو موظفين عند الحاجة بما يخدم متطلبات العمل.
- السعي إلى تأمين التمويل المطلوب لوضع استراتيجية محور الشارع المستقيم ومداخله وأعمال التأهيل المطلوب تنفيذها.

وتساهم الأمانة السورية للتنمية في :

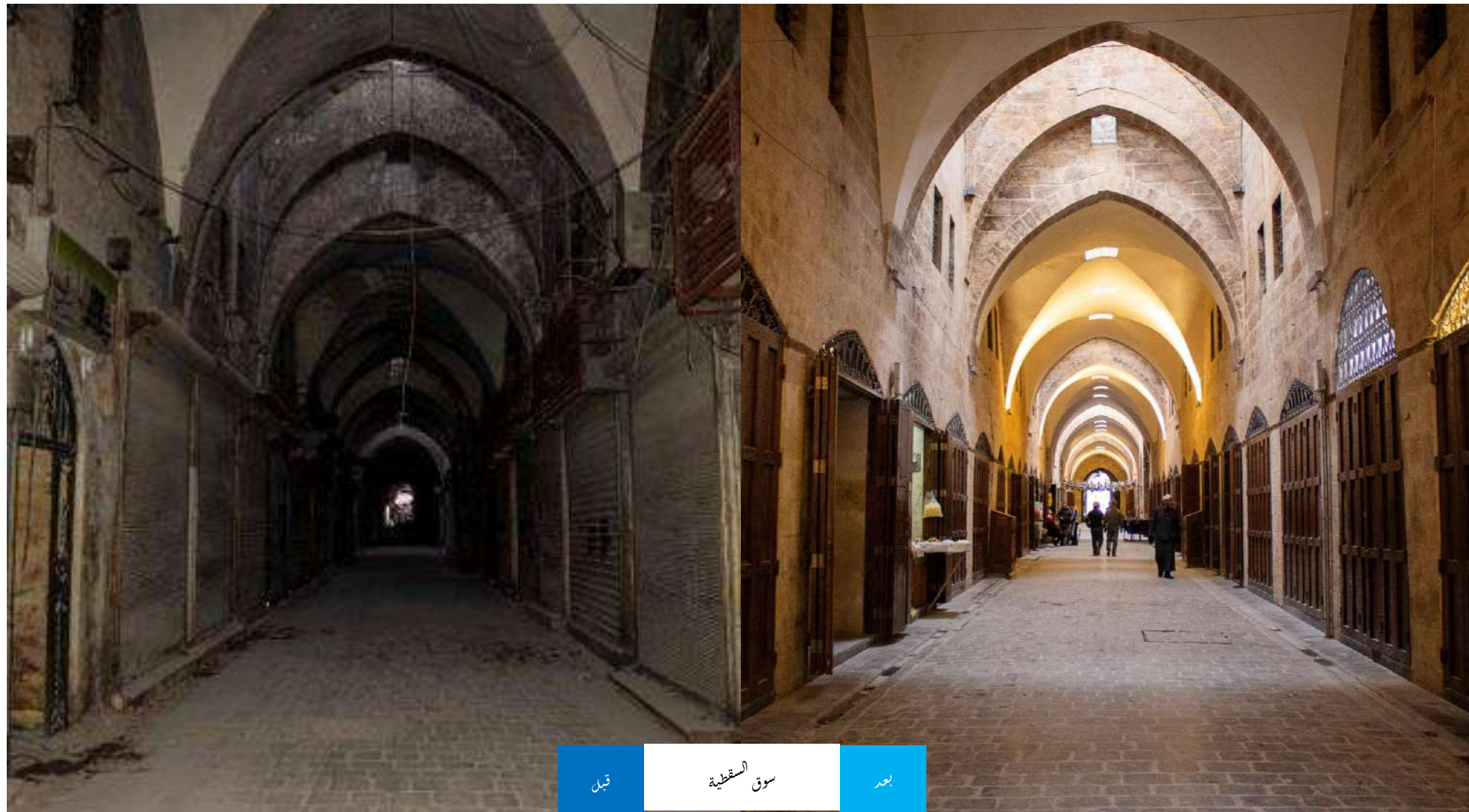
١. تحديد أولويات التدخل في محور الشارع المستقيم ومداخله وصولاً إلى الاستراتيجية الشاملة لحلب القديمة.
٢. اعتماد خطة العمل والبرنامج الزمني الخاص بأعمال تأهيل محور الطريق المُستقيم ومداخله
٣. مشاركة الدراسات التي تتناول مشكلات وصعوبات تطبيق قانون الآثار رقم: ٢٢٢/ لعام ١٩٦٣، وأسس تطوير ضابطة البناء لمنطقة حلب القديمة ومُتابعتها من قبل المحافظة مع الجهات الحكومية ذات الصلة وتقديم الدعم اللازم من الأمانة عند الطلب.
٤. توفير قواعد البيانات والدراسات السابقة والمخططات المُتعلقة بالمدينة القديمة بدءاً من محور الطريق المُستقيم ومداخله
٥. إعداد الدراسات والمسح والتوثيق للواقع العمراني والتاريخي والاجتماعي والاقتصادي وتوصيف الخدمات والبنية التحتية وصولاً إلى إعداد وهيكله قواعد البيانات المُتعلقة بالمدينة القديمة بدءاً من محور الطريق المُستقيم ومداخله بالتعاون مع فريق العمل والخبراء والمُتخصصين.
٦. تحضير ووضع الدراسات ودفاتر الشروط والمواصفات الفنية اللازمة لإعادة تأهيل العقارين رقم ٣/٣٥٤٨ و ٤/٣٥٤٨ ، والمُساهمة بدراسات إعادة تأهيل وترميم العقارين وتوفير كافة التجهيزات والمعدات اللازمة لتمكين فريق العمل المُشار إليه من إتمام مهامه.
٧. وضع أسس توظيف العقارين رقم ٣/٣٥٤٨ و ٤/٣٥٤٨ بالنتشاركية بين محافظة حلب والأمانة السورية للتنمية.

تتوجت الاتفاقية بعدة تجارب ناجحة ضمن محور الشارع المستقيم

الذي يمتد على مسافة 750 م ومداخله الـ 7 التي تقدر بمسافة 918 م تقريباً من الجهة الجنوبية والشمالية

وقد تمثلت هذه التجارب الناجحة في إعادة إحياء كل من :

تاريخ الافتتاح : 17 تشرين الأول 2021
عدد المحلات : 52
حائز على شهادة إيكروم الشارقة الثقافية المكرسة للحفاظ على التراث الحضاري العالمي من خلال التدريب، والمعلومات، والأبحاث، والتعاون وبرامج الدعم، وتعنى بتطوير قطاع الحفظ - الترميم، ونشر التوعية حول أهمية وحساسية التراث الثقافي.



عدد المحلات : 60

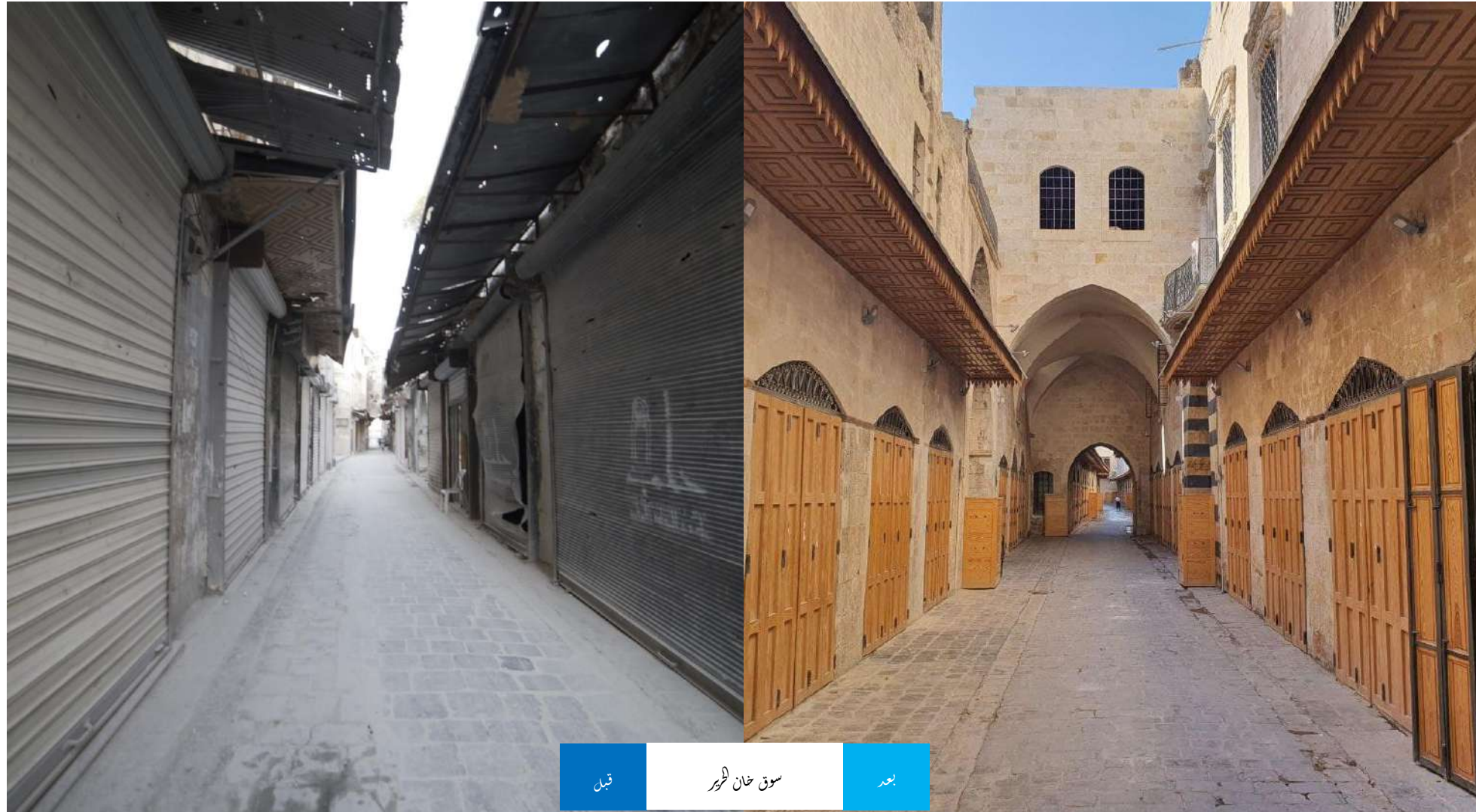
تاريخ الافتتاح : 28 اب 2021

سمي على اسم اكبر الخانات ضمنه ويعود الى أواخر القرن السادس عشر، سابقاً كان يدعى سوق الخباطين، اعتاد أصحاب المحال آنذاك افتتاح محالهم منذ السابعة صباحاً، لاحقاً تحول الى بيع الأقمشة، يتميز ببيع الحلويات الأفراح، مستلزمات الخياطة و الأقمشة.



عدد المحلات : 60

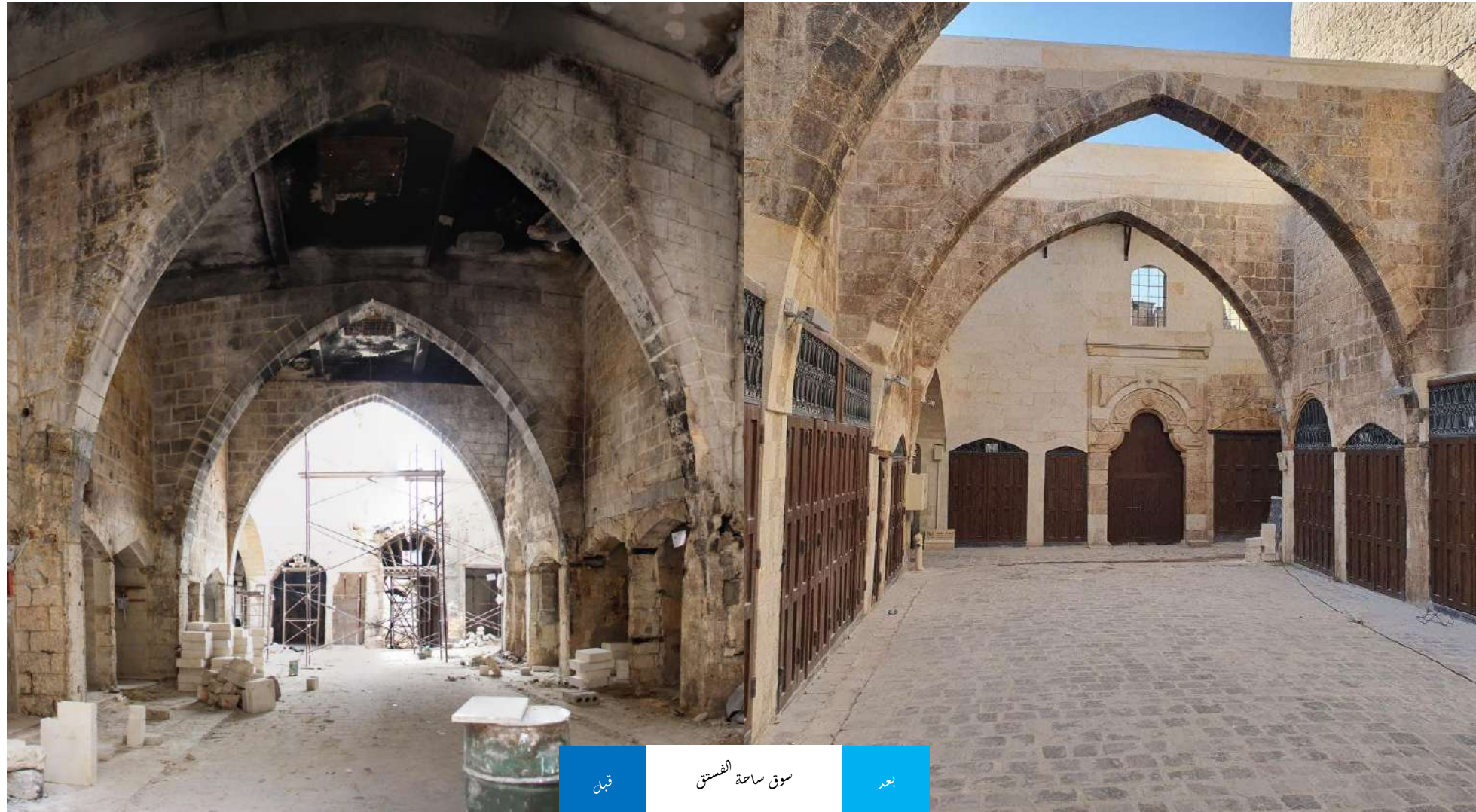
تاريخ الافتتاح : 28 اب 2021



عدد المحلات : 18

تاريخ الافتتاح : 28 اب 2021

يتميز بموقعه المتوسط بين عدة أسواق (سوق الخيش والمجيدية والسقطية وباب انطاكية)، امتاز ببيع المكسرات من فستق حليبي وجوز، عرف بأنه مصدر الفستق الأخضر الحليبي والذي من خلال هذا السوق كان يتم توزيعه لكل حلب ومنها لكل سوريا، ويعرف أيضاً بأنه مصدر رئيس من مصادر البن



قبل

سوق ساحة الفستق

بعد

واستمراراً لهذا التعاون المثمر والإيجابي ، يتم العمل على **تأهيل سوق الأحمدية** وهو أحد الأسواق المتموضعة ضمن محور الشارع المستقيم والواقع على امتداد سوق السقراطية والذي يضم 19 محل، بالإضافة إلى توقيع اتفاقية **سوق الحبال** الواقع خلف الجامع الأموي الكبير والذي يضم 57 محل.

١. سوق الأحمدية

٢. سوق الحبال

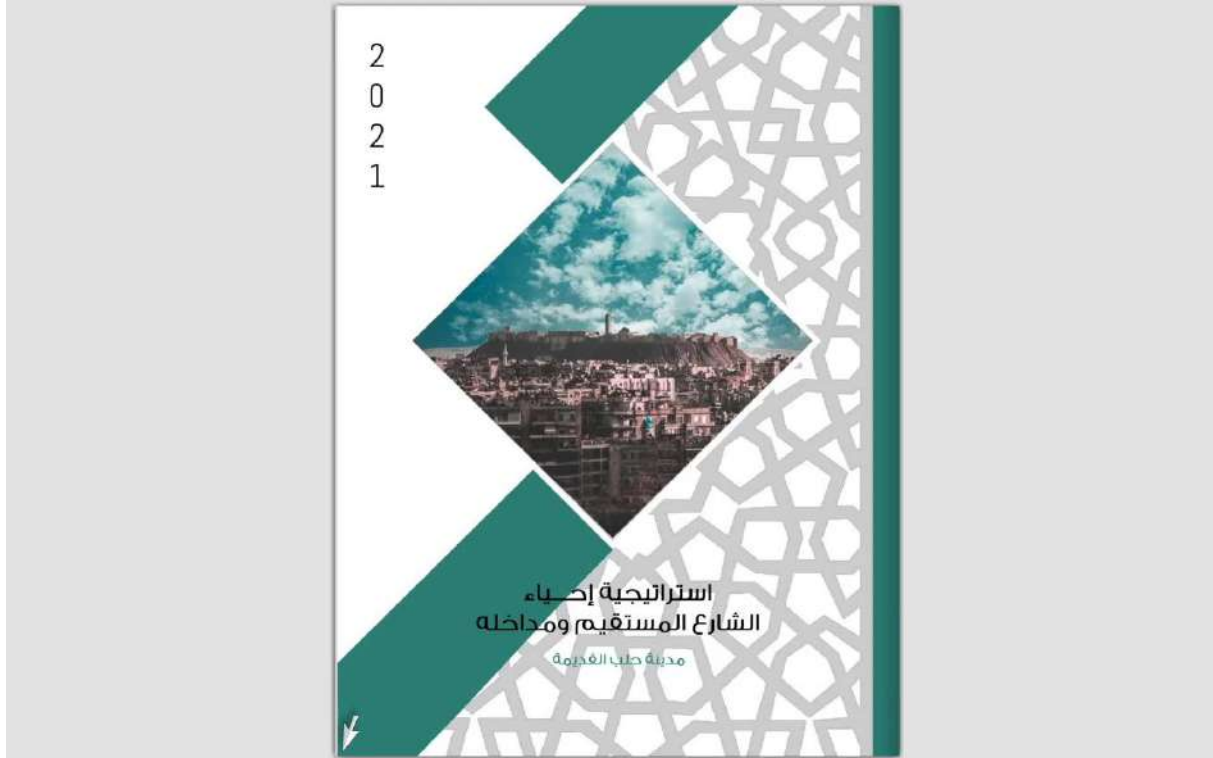


لتكون بذلك أيضاً قد قدمت عدد من الخدمات في مراكز أسواق حلب القديمة ضمن برنامج الاستجابة القانونية الأولية في:
(سوق خان الحرير-سوق ساحة الفستق-سوق الأحمدية) ب :

39 جلسة توعية قانونية | **620** استشارة قانونية | **387** تدخل عقاري (وثائق عقارية-سندات ملكية)

حيث تم تقديم الدعم والمساعدة لأصحاب المحلات لمعالجة المشكلات القانونية التي تواجههم، واستصدار الأوراق الثبوتية اللازمة لمعاملات ترميم المحلات أو الحصول على القروض حتى نهاية شهر تشرين الثاني من 2021.

تم وضع دراسة تحدد المراكز الأساسية وأولويات التدخل والمعالجة التي يتطلبها إعادة تأهيل محور الطريق المستقيم ومداخله بدءاً من منطقة الأسواق القديمة حيث درست الاستراتيجية تجربة إعادة الإعمار التي جرت وما زالت تجري حول الشارع المستقيم وفيه، واستمدت منها الدروس، وتفاعلت مع مستثمري السوق وسكان الأحياء المجاورة وتفهمت متطلباتهم، وبناء على ذلك التفاعل مع المجتمع المحلي إضافة إلى رصدها الواقع وضعت أولويات التدخل وبرنامج الزماني، تضم الوثيقة توصيفاً دقيقاً وشاملاً لـ 32 سوقاً وما يقارب 1,100 محل تجاري وطبيعة أضرارها ووضعها البنيوي إضافة لما تتطلبه هذه الأسواق من بنية تحتية وتطوير اقتصادي.



قامت الأمانة السورية للتنمية بالتعاون مع محافظة حلب في جمع أبناء حلب لمناقشة أول وثيقة لإحياء وترميم أسواقهم القديمة، حيث اجتمع ممثلون عن أبناء حلب من ممثلين عن الوكالات والمنظمات الدولية ومؤرخين وخبراء ومختصين وبرلمانيين من أبناء حلب، تجار وصناعيين وحرفيين، خبراء قانونيين وجمعيات مدنية، ممثلون عن المؤسسات الرسمية المعنية، ومؤسسات التمويل الصغير، على مدى أربعة أيام بحث المجتمعون وثيقة تفصيلية تتضمن الإطار التنظيمي لإعادة إحياء الشارع المستقيم وجميع مداخله والجوانب المتعلقة بالإسكان والتطوير الاجتماعي في تلك الأسواق وكيفية الحفاظ على الأبنية ومسألة المرور والنقل فيها والجوانب المتعلقة بالتطوير الاقتصادي وتأهيل البنى التحتية وفق معايير للترميم وإعادة البناء تشكل مع بعضها استراتيجية مضبوطة تضمن الوصول إلى إحياء كامل لأسواق حلب.

كما ناقشت الورشة أسس تطوير نظام ضابطة البناء لمدينة حلب القديمة الحالية المتوافقة مع قانون الآثار السوري، وبما يعزز المعايير التي سُجّلت مدينة حلب القديمة على إثرها في سجل مواقع التراث العالمي لدى منظمة اليونسكو.

من خلال هذه الورشة تم عرض وحوار ما تم إنجازه من قبل فريق عمل إحياء الشارع المستقيم ومداخله والأمانة السورية للتنمية وفق المهام التي تم استعراضها سابقاً، وفي نهايتها تم الحصول على تبني وإجماع من قبل الخبراء والاختصاصيين والمهتمين بالمدينة القديمة والمجتمع الحلي نحو وثيقة استراتيجية إحياء الشارع المستقيم ومداخله بعد الخروج بعدة توصيات ومقترحات تم عكسها في إغناء وتطوير الوثيقة للمضي قدماً في اعتمادها على المستوى الوطني.

الأمانة
السورية
للتنمية

Syria Trust for
Development

شكراً

Plan of Reconstruction and Recovery of the Ancient City of Aleppo

Aga Khan Cultural Services – Syria (AKCS-S)

Central Souk Rehabilitation, Old City of Aleppo

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) has been active in Syria since 1999, for assistance in the restoration of the three citadels of Aleppo, Masyaf, and Salah al-Din. In late 2016 the Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums and the Syria Trust for Development, reached out to AKTC to assist in the rehabilitation of some of the most damaged cultural heritage sites in the country.

In 2017-2018, AKTC undertook a detailed documentation project to assess the damage to the entire Old City of Aleppo, then the Trust developed a comprehensive conservation action plan for the Central Souk.

In 2019 work on the rehabilitation of the Souk al-Saqatiyya was completed in partnership with the Governorate and the Directorate of the Old City of Aleppo, Ministry of Culture and the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums, and the Syria Trust for Development. The rehabilitation included the restoration of a crucial portion of the main spine and 53 shops. This became a pilot project and model for the rehabilitation of further sections of the Central Souk (the souk rehabilitation was also cited by UNESCO in its last extended 44th World Heritage Committee session in Fuzhou, China, 16th July 2021). The Souk al-Saqatiyya Rehabilitation Pilot Project, was granted in 2020, by ICOMOS SHARJAH of the “Grand Award for the Heritage Sites and Building Category” for “Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management in the Arab Region”. The souk was also granted in 2021 by the Best in Heritage, as Projects of Influence, with ICOM, Europa Nostra and with support of Creative Europe.

To date, AKTC has completed: Souk al-Saqatiyya 53 shops, Khan al-Harir 60 shops, Sahet al-Festok 18 shops. AKTC is working currently on the Souk al-Ahmadiyya 19 shops, on the Souk al-Hibal for 57 shops, as well as the replacement of the roof of the Sahet al-Festok. Until 2025, the intention would be to rehabilitate the Souk al-Mihmas composed of 48 shops, and the western section of the Souk al-Attarin with 32 shops. Those both souks are extremely destroyed, and will be the opportunity to develop strategies for the reconstruction of the destroyed souks.

After those rehabilitations projects a strategy for the rehabilitation of the Central Souk emerged. The goal is to reactivate the traditional access to the heart of the Central Souk, from the north and the main access points, which existed prior to the start of the conflict. The rehabilitation, more than just improving the built environment, is bringing life back to the centre of the Old City.

The selection of souks in a 5-year plan is surgical. Together, they create a critical mass within the heart of the Central Souk and provide an impetus for public and private initiatives in other areas of the Souk, thereby reviving the entire area and stimulating the economy. This project is much more than restoring cultural heritage, its objective is to improve lives by creating an economic engine in the Old City. The project, when complete at the end of 2025, will see the rehabilitation of 311 shops, and a coffee-house, portals of 6 khans or qaysariyyas, as well as the façade of a sabil, over 515m of passageways and cover an area of 5,965 m².

At an important national workshop in July 2021 the matter to consider how the area between Souk al-Zarb and Souk al-Attarin could be added to this ensemble of rehabilitation projects emerged. A new section would primarily serve visitors to the Citadel of Aleppo and provide a highly visible access to the Central Souk. The rehabilitation of this space is a priority for the Directorate and for the citizens of Aleppo.

Draft description of the souks

Souk al-Saqqatiyya

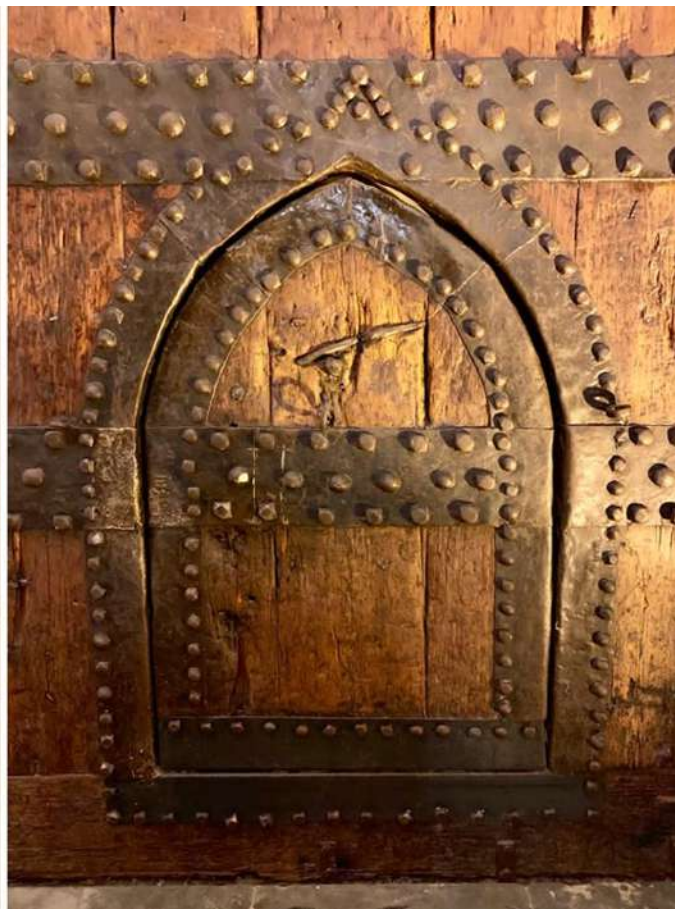
As a part of the waqf foundation of the Khan al-Gumrok, the souk was built in 1574 by the Hanzade Mehmed Ibrahim Pasha, a larger commercial complex including the khan, a qaysariyya and two souks. The Souk al-Saqqatiyya is an alley dating back from the early Ottoman period including a total 53 shops for a length of 101 meters. The alley is covered with crossed vaults and a number of 4 domes in key locations. The Souk al-Saqqatiyya is located on the central axis of the souks (the main spine of the souks located in the location of the former via recta), frequented by a lively population. Small shops, for simple but daily uses, with colors of particular foods with specific smells.

To the north, the souk serves the Mosque al-Kumaini and the souk al-Hor.

Remarkable points: A monumental linear complex, covered by 4 similar domes and a serial of crossed vaults, presenting a remarkable masonry.

Main interventions: Preservation of the masonry, and complete refection of the infrastructure. The modern interventions reflect their modernity through a gentle respect to the Mediaeval remains.






 In partnership with the
 International Council of Museums (ICOM)
 & EUROPA NOOSTRA with support of Creative Europe

THE BEST IN HERITAGE®

Projects of Influence

2021 Edition 2021
ORGANIZED BY THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (AKDN) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ICOM AND EUROPA NOOSTRA
A global, virtual conference celebrating the excellence of the most innovative, inspirational, award-winning projects in the previous year in the field of museums, heritage and conservation

awards this
CERTIFICATE
 to

**AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK SYRIA:
 THE REHABILITATION OF SOUK AL-SAQATIYA
 (ALEPPO, SYRIA)**

in appreciation of the invaluable contribution to the 2021 edition


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Sneška Quaedvlieg Mhalović
VICE-CHAIR, THE BEST IN HERITAGE BOARD

DGAM to continue its efforts in implementing actions outlined in the "Vision and Planning Framework" for the property, in particular the development of a Reconstruction and Recovery Master Plan and an updated Management Plan for the property, and recommends that these should be developed in line with the Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (UNESCO, 2011) and be carried out in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;

5. Reiterates its request that the State Party undertake a detailed risk assessment for structures most at risk, and undertake necessary emergency measures in order to enhance the safety of inhabitants;
6. Noting the good quality of the restoration works undertaken at Suq al-Saqatiyya, invites the State Party and its partners to consider these works as a successful model for other restoration works;
7. Reminds the State Party of its obligation to submit information on major projects to the World Heritage Centre, in compliance with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines, as occurred for the restoration of the minaret of the Great Mosque and the building code submitted for the evaluation of the Advisory Bodies;
8. Calls again on all States Parties to support the emergency safeguarding and recovery measures outlined in the "Vision and Planning Framework" for the property, including through the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund;
9. Reiterates the need for the invited joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to be carried out as soon as the situation allows, in order to proceed with a comprehensive assessment of the state of conservation of the property;
10. Also invites the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to facilitate the elaboration of a set of corrective measures and a Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) at the earliest opportunity;
11. Welcomes the regulation issued for the creation of a buffer zone, and also encourages the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2022, a proposal for a minor boundary modification, in accordance with Paragraphs 163-165 of the Operational Guidelines, for review by ICOMOS;
12. Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by 1 February 2022, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session in 2022;
13. Decides to retain the Ancient City of Aleppo (Syrian Arab Republic) on the List of World Heritage in Danger;

24. General Decision on the World Heritage properties of the Syrian Arab Republic

Current conservation issues

The armed conflict in Syria started in March 2011 and escalated leading to significant violence and degradation of humanitarian conditions. It has inflicted damage on the inscribed properties as well as on the 12 sites inscribed on the Tentative List. Sites have been damaged by shelling, fires, extensive illegal excavations, military use, construction violations, in addition to intentional targeted destruction of

Suwayqat Abrak, also known as Sahat Festok

The suwayqat Abrak was built, together with the khan Abrak (al-Qassabiyya), in 1510 according to the two existing foundation inscriptions, by the Mamluk Emir Abrak al-Sayfi al-Ashrafi, the governor of the Aleppo citadel from 1509 to 1515. The suwayqat extends along the north-west axis perpendicular to Khan Abrak's entrance, with a dimension of 23 x 7,50 meters. It is short, including only six shops in each row, and a total of 18 shops; however, its width is exceptional for its time. Instead of traditional vaulting, it was covered with timber roof resting on four monumental transverse arches. It had housed a market for local silk textiles by 1647. Accordingly, many famous merchant families established their works in it such as Picciotto, Kabbay and Douba. Apart from the commercial use, Capuchins had their church in the khan for more than 200 years. The khan has witnessed intensive changes. Within the waqf complex of the Madrasa al-Ahmadiyya endowed in 1753, a former qaysariyya has been acquired and reconstructed, and become the Qaysariyya al-Chelebi.

Remarkable points: Inscription above the portal of the khan, the inscription and the stars on the two leaves of the door, the two motives as lintel of the two shops east and west of the portal with the two framed windows above; The 4 monumental arches; The portal of the Qaysariyya al-Chelebi.

Main interventions: Removal of a decayed ceiling. Preservation of the remains as well as reconstruction of the southern façade, including the portal of the Qaysariyya al-Chelebi.





Souk Khan al-Harir

In its northern section, the souk was endowed by the grand vizier Arnavut Mehmed Pasha in 1634. However, the souk can be dated to the second half of the 16th century. The souk extends along the north-south direction, abutting the eastern side of Khan al-Harir. The Khan is one of the properties endowed by the grand vizier Arnavut Mehmed Pasha in 1634. However, the trust deed of the foundation clearly indicates that the Khan was built prior to its acquisition. It can be dated to the second half of the 16th century because of its similarity to the Khans of this period. The Khan's name came from its function as a center for the silk trade. It was also associated with the accommodation of European merchant families by the 18th century. The members of Picciotto family, who resided in the Khan, served as consuls of the Persian Empire until 1919. The family conducted extensive changes in the Khan, which are still visible today. To the east of the souk, the Khan al-Jaki. South of the Khan al-Harir, the

Mosque al-Shaikh Shurayyif, dated from 1923/24. The Khan al-Banadaqa was a Mamluk residence known as “Dar Baybars”. In the mid-16th century, the residence was purchased by one of Aleppo’s notables, who renewed the building for the accommodation of some “Frankish” merchants. The khan also accommodated the Jesuits and their church upon their arrival to Aleppo in 1626 until 1773. The khan must have witnessed several interventions to meet the multiple functions. In addition, it seems that it was repaired in the 19th century after the earthquake. There is an inscription above its entrance dated to 1247/1831. The souk ends with the Khan Abrak (al-Qassabiyya) to the west, and at the south, there was the police station al-Majediyya.

The souk is 126 meters long and contains 60 shops.

Remarkable points: Remarkable façade of the Khan al-Harir including a very-well decorated portal. The façade of the mosque at a upper floor is interesting and in phase with the architecture of this period.

Main interventions: large reconstructions of several sections of the souk, especially in its northern section. Major intervention for the preservation of the portal of the Khan al-Harir. Replacement of modern non-adequate concrete-based lintels by arches similar to existing ones.





The complex Souk al-Zarb, Souk al-Ebi and the Souk al-Attarin

The Souk al-Zarb is viewed by many Aleppians as the focus of the main axis of the entire souk and as a key generator for economic development in the entire Central Souk. It could be considered as the eastern “gate of the souks”, near the perimeter of the Citadel in an area that is under development with increasing visitors and potential clients. Souk al-Zarb is a traditional souk for the sale of textiles and fur.

Souk al-Zarb is 100m in length and contains 74 shops in an area of 1,065m². Because it is of economic and social importance and as a main entrance to the entire Central Souk from the Aleppo Citadel perimeter and as part of the current rehabilitation plan for the Old City of Aleppo by the DOC.

The rehabilitation of Souk al-Zarb is important in the wider re-building of the Old City of Aleppo. It is located on the perimeter of the Citadel, in between two major projects of reconstruction: (i) Al-Rushdi al-Askari School; and, (ii) the former National Hospital:

Therefore, it would make sense to take into account the Souk al-Zarb as it will complete AKTC’s planned development. This would mean looking at the transformation of Souk al-Attarin and Souk al-Ebi. Both Souks (eastern section) represent a length of 140m, contain 106 shops, and cover an area of 1775m². Both of these Souks are 90% destroyed.