

WHV – Diversified heritage of Meknes

Historic City of Meknes, Morocco

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1996)

PROJECT DATES

18 July - 28 July 2023

THE SITE - Founded in the 11th century by the Almoravids as a military settlement, Meknes became a capital under Sultan Moulay Ismail (1672–1727), the founder of the Alawite dynasty. Meknès is distinctive by the monumental and voluminous aspect of its ramparts reaching 15 metres in height. It is considered as an exemplary testimony of the fortified towns of the Maghreb. It is a property representing a remarkably complete urban and architectural structure of a North African capital of the 17th century, harmoniously combining Islamic and European conceptual and planning elements. Endowed with a princely urbanism, the Historic City of Meknes also illustrates the specificities of earthen architecture (cobwork) of sub-Saharan towns of the Maghreb.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims to raise awareness of visitors to El Hedim Square in Meknes and to highlight this site, its importance, its history and the need to protect it, to volunteers, the local population and visitors.

ACTIVITIES - Active in the historic city of Meknes since 2018 as part of the campaign, the volunteers of the Chamss Association will focus in 2023 on cleaning and renovate the paths leading to El Hedim Square, as well as organising awareness-raising workshops for the many tourists as well as shopkeepers and managers of cafes and restaurants in the square in order to promote its value and to engage local actors in the preservation of one of the places where the tangible and intangible heritage of the city come together.

PARTNERS - Ministère de la Culture Direction Régionale de Meknès, Municipal Council

Association Chamss pour le Développement de la Famille et l'Enfant

Ms. Fatima Zouhir

fzouhair028@gmail.com

