

# WHV – Empowering Palestinian youth through cultural heritage

## Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir, Palestine

### PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2014)  
and on the List of World Heritage in Danger (2014)

06 August - 16 August 2023

**THE SITE** - This site is located a few kilometres south-west of Jerusalem, in the Central Highlands between Nablus and Hebron. The Battir hill landscape comprises a series of farmed valleys, known as *widian*, with characteristic stone terraces, some of which are irrigated for market garden production, while others are dry and planted with grapevines and olive trees. The development of terrace farming in such a mountainous region is supported by a network of irrigation channels fed by underground sources. A traditional system of distribution is then used to share the water collected through this network between families from the nearby village of Battir.

**OBJECTIVES** - The 2023 project follows-up the successful experiences of the International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL) in Battir in 2013, 2015 and 2019, which were recognised as Best Practices for the Arab States region at the occasion of the publication of “Empowering Youth for Heritage - 10 Years of the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative”. For its fourth edition, the action will focus on media documentation of the site and its living history.

**ACTIVITIES** - International and Palestinian young volunteers will undergo an intensive training on digital production and will develop short videos and photographs with the support of professional experts, documenting both the landscape and its history and intangible heritage from oral storytelling told by the local community. The productions will be in multiple languages and will be uploaded on a specific website site developed with the objective of showcasing the heritage of Palestine. As a pilot program, the 2023 camp will constitute the basis for extending the project to other Palestinian sites, on the example of - and in cooperation with - similar successful activities of the World Heritage Volunteers implemented in other regions.

**PARTNERS** - Ministry of tourism and antiquities, Site management authorities

**International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL)**

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