

Terms of References (ToR)

External Evaluation

Name of the tool	Terms of Reference for an external evaluation of PUI's project: Protection, preservation and promotion of Gaza Strip Historical archaeological sites.
When to implement it	December, 2021
To be completed with	Gaza Strip Field Coordinator (GSFC) and Mr. René Elter – archeologist in charge of Saint Hilarion Monastery from EBAF.
Who to transmit it to	HQ
When to send it	ASAP
Value to the association	Protection, preservation and promotion of Palestinian Cultural Heritage in the Gaza Strip
Country / Region	Occupied Palestinian Territory / Middle East
Start date	Starts on December 13, 2021
Source of funding	Aliph fondation
Author(s)	PUI mission

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. CONTEXT

Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) is a non-profit, non-political, non-religious international NGO.

PUI helps civilians who are marginalised or excluded as a result of natural disasters, war and economic collapse.

Our mission is to defend basic human rights, such as those set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Established in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt) since 2002, PUI implements its activities towards populations' protection given the worrisome security context. The teams of Première Urgence Internationale intervened in emergency in response to the conflict of summer 2014 during and after the crisis thanks to distribution of non-food items, water supply for an isolated village, cash for the most vulnerable families and rehabilitation of arable land.

PUI aims to maintain or to improve the food security and the means of living of the most vulnerable populations who are directly affected by the protracted protection crisis.

The French Biblical School of Jerusalem (EBAF) is a worldwide famous research institute specialized in archaeology and is in charge of the two selected sites in close collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA).

This project aims at combining the strength of both institutions to achieve remarkable protection and promotion of Palestinian cultural heritage while providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable population (i.e. some of the manual activities will be implemented by PUI's beneficiaries). PUI has an extended experience in relation to shelter sector through the rehabilitation of minor damaged houses and upgrading substandard housing units.

The work carried under this program will feed into PUI's advocacy strategy, adding cultural heritage to other topics already addressed such as ensuring Palestinians can exercise their rights, IHL violations, impartial access to humanitarian assistance, etc.

PUI, EBAF and partner universities – the University of Palestine and the Islamic university of Gaza join great efforts in order to develop the protection and preservation skills of students and new graduates from architecture and history and archaeology departments. PUI offer the opportunity for university students and new graduates to have a practical trainings averaging to 1 year in different fields such as; excavation, ancient masonry, stone cutting and shaping, mosaic restoration, etc. PUI works closely with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Gaza Strip (MoTA).

PUI will ensure proper coordination between all project key stakeholders and take in charge the overall management aspect in order to implement the planned activities in effective and efficient way.

1.2. PUI OPT HISTORY

PUI is a French humanitarian organization working in the Occupied Palestinian territories since 2002 in West Bank and in Gaza since 2009. PUI implements its activities in the communities located in the south east of the Gaza Strip, where it implements programs supporting farmers to restart their farming activities, after being affected by wars/conflicts and or natural disasters. PUI also supports women groups to start small businesses, support ARA's residents through cash-based interventions (Multipurpose cash assistance, cash for work, cash for livelihood). Moreover, PUI assists Internal Displaced Persons through

shelter projects funded by the oPt Humanitarian Fund (HF). After the 2014 war, PUI supported thousands of IDPs through the distribution of Non-food items (NFIs), food parcels and potable water.

1.3. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To measure the impact of the protection and preservation project implemented by PUI in Saint Hilarion monastery in the Gaza Strip.

1.4. MAP OF THE ZONE

In close consultation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the EBAF Responsible of Archaeology and Gazan archaeologists, PUI decided to target one of the two main archaeological sites in Gaza Strip accessible to public, which can offer to local community a place to learn, visit, and know the importance of Gaza history through time. The main targeted site is Saint Hilarion Monastery, which is already known by local people in the middle area of Gaza Strip. The second targeted site is the Byzantine church of Jabaliya, which is located in the eastern side of Gaza Strip. The Byzantine church was targeted by PUI's intervention after the May 2021 escalation of hostilities for repairing the damages incurred due to bombing and shelling near the site. The two sites are of great importance in the chronology of history between paganism, Christianity and Islam. The two-targeted archeological treasures in Gaza needed to be protected and preserved for future generations, otherwise, their loss will be certain.

Saint Hilarion monastery:

Hilarion is originally from a small town located in southern part of Gaza city. Its action is linked intimately to the Christian story of Gaza and historical Palestine also. Indeed, it is in Saint Hilarion monastery (known in Arabic as "Tal Umm 'Amr" that monasticism was born in the Holy Land. Following different historic periods of Gaza, the site is placed between paganism, Christianity and Islam. It summarizes the religious history of Gaza in part.

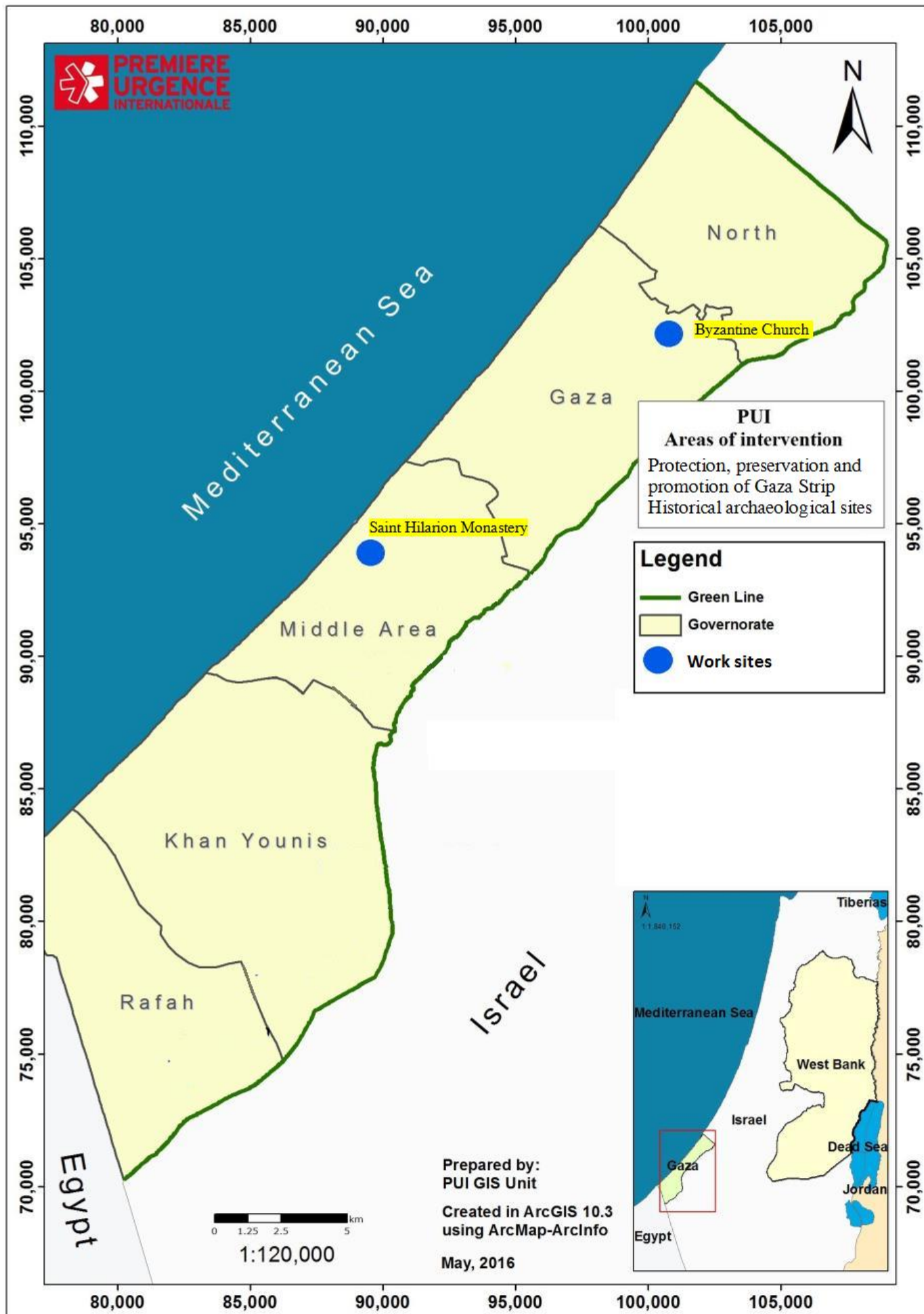
The site is one of the largest Christian monasteries in the Middle East. The successive constructions of various churches and the bath complex are good examples of architectural development. This provides information and knowledge specifically on the evolution of construction techniques between the fourth and eighth centuries.

Saint Hilarion monastery is the only archaeological site open to public and international visitors; it has everything to become the center of interest for cultural tourism. An average of 50 pupils and students visit the site on a daily basis. Its chronology continues between Romans and Umayyad historical periods making the monastery as a tool of scientific and pedagogic meditation in relation the archaeology of Gaza and Palestine. The site is a great place for exchange and reflection among project stakeholders: exchange of knowledge in the fields of architecture, archaeology, restoration, protection of heritage and advocacy.

The Byzantine church:

Remains of a massive Byzantine Church in a basilica layout associated with a large cemetery were excavated between 1996 and 2000 on both sides of Salah ad-Din road in the eastern side of Gaza Strip. These remains occupy, most likely, the center of the village of Asalea. All its parts are paved with high quality colored mosaic pavements depicting series of images such as hunt scenes, human figures, animals, birds, floral and geometrical elements, mounds and rivers (Jean-Baptiste Humbert, 2000).

The church is one of the most important churches in the Levant. It was established as resting place for Christian pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land.



1.5. EXTERNAL EVALUATION JUSTIFICATION

The main obstacle to the preservation of the archaeological sites is essentially due to their geopolitical situation. After Israel occupied the Palestinian Territory in 1967, the responsibility for archaeology was placed in the hands of the Israeli military, exacerbating the deterioration of Palestinian heritage. Thus, international law has been breached and Palestinian heritage abused by countless illegal Israeli archaeological investigations, destruction of heritage sites, and illicit trafficking of artefacts.

Today, after 14 years of blockade on the Gaza Strip, it has been very complicated for students and researchers to enter Gaza to conduct archaeological work. This results in scarcity of information available about the current reality of the archaeological heritage, in a lack of protection of the known sites and in a lack of specialized people in cultural heritage protection in Gaza.

In addition to the blockade, the frequent wars in Gaza contribute to the deterioration of the site as in the case of Jabalyia in 2012 when tanks crossed the church's compound damaging mostly the southern side of the mosaic. In addition, Israeli air strikes also damaged the garden of the church.

In 2012, the World Monuments Fund, dedicated to preserving the world's architectural heritage, which lists sites around the globe at risk from the forces of nature as well as social, political, and economic change, put Saint Hilarion on its Watch List.

The Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has limited financial and technical human resources capacity to protect Gaza cultural heritage as it is not seen as a priority for the de-facto government and no investment is in place for protecting this cultural heritage.

The project "Protection, preservation, and promotion of Palestinian Cultural Heritage in the Gaza Strip", funded by the Aliph Fondation, has three pillars: restoration and preservation of the archaeological sites, capacity building program to form a local Palestinian technical team as restorer and awareness raising on the importance of Palestinian Cultural Heritage.

In order to measure the impact of the project implemented by PUI and based on Donor's requirements, PUI will call for an external evaluation team of local and international experts.

2. ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVE

To assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the project implemented for the protection, preservation and promotion of Palestinian Cultural heritage in the archaeological site of the Monastery of Saint Hilarion in Gaza (Tell Umm el Amr)

3. TASKS

The evaluation will focus on programs developed under Aliph funding on the Saint Hilarion monastery at Tell Umm El'-Amr in Western side of Gaza. The evaluation should take place between December 13 and 17, 2021. It is substantial that the different actors of the program meet in situ while the action is still ongoing before the scheduled end of the program on December 31, 2021. The final report should be submitted in English to PUI by January 17, 2022 at the latest.

The content of the evaluation mission must allow the scanning of all aspects of the program funded by the ALIPH Foundation, at a fair value, taking into consideration the socio-economic and political framework in which the program was carried out. It should take into account the resources (material and human) available, the nature of their implementation and the difficulties and risks encountered and related to the context of Gaza. The risks and obstacles encountered should be given by the different stakeholders involved in the program.

The evaluation should focus on the following:

- The sustainable interventions and restorations carried out on the monuments and its archaeological remains.
- The concept of sustainability choices for the remains consolidations, the adaptation of consolidation patterns, and the methodology used to carry out sustainable intervention of the remains in the local context.
- The capacity building program (stone cutting and sizing, restoration of traditional masonry, treatment of pavements (mosaics and others), the atrium and the archeological monitoring methodology of work),
- The efficiency of the whole program of the entire team constituted by the PUI, experts (EBAF), workers, students and local authorities.
- The logic and relevance of a mixed team (men and women).
- The development of operative channels such as the production of stone blocks for restorations (Quarry to Masonry works); locally manufactured tools for the production.
- The impact on local knowledge
- The impact on the local population and the local partner Community based organizations.
- The economic impact of such a project on population and the local economy.
- Ownership and the project's social impact on the local population.
- Ownership of archaeological remains by all project stakeholders (workers, students, MoTA, local authorities).
- Investment by local authorities in the project.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. PREPARATORY BRIEFING

- Meeting with Gaza Strip Senior Field coordinator and project team
- Meeting with Mr. Rene Elter, expert in charge of the protection and restoration program
- Meeting (virtually) with ALIPH representatives
- Discussion with Head of Mission and Deputy head of mission
- Discussion with logistic department

4.2. KEY DOCUMENTS

- Project's proposal and annexes
- Project progress reports
- Plan of the archaeological site
- Facebook page information

4.3. CONTACTS

- PUI GSFC
- Archaeologists in charge of the restoration of Saint Hilarion Monastery
- PUI Archaeologist and Intern architect

5. ORGANISATION OF THE STAFF

5.1 COMPOSITION OF THE CURRENT TEAM

- Two experts : The team could either be composed of two international experts or either of an international expert and a local expert (West Bank/Gaza Strip)
- Community engagement and advocacy officer

5.2 LOGISTICS, SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

PUI will take in charge the demand for entry permits to Gaza. For operational reasons, the team of experts (one international and one national or two internationals) will be selected by no later November 15, 2021. PUI will provide transportation for experts in Gaza while the latter will be in charge of their accommodation and meals. PUI will assist in the hotel/apartment reservation. PUI will facilitate meetings with key stakeholders involved in the project.

The team will have to strictly follow PUI Security and safety procedures and comply with PUI policies: PSEA, etc.

5.3 FOLLOW-UP MANAGEMENT

Gaza Strip Senior Field manager and expert René Elter will follow up and facilitate the evaluation process.

5.4 TIMETABLE AND DELIVERABLES

Evaluation process	Deadline	Responsibility
Selecting and contracting of consultancy	15 November 2021	Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI)
Preparatory phase - proposal and related documents review	1 December 2021	PUI
Preparatory phase - meeting with GSFC and expert in charge of protection and restoration program.	6 December 2021	Consultant team and PUI
Evaluation in the field	13-17 December 2021	Consultant team
Draft report for comments	3 January 2022	Consultant team/PUI
Final report	17 January 2022	PUI
Dissemination of the final report	31 January 2022	PUI

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:

A report in English should be provided in hard copy and electronic format (Word and PDF). The report should integrate the various points highlighted in the narrative and listed above. It should also include the perspectives and if necessary advice and recommendations for future interventions. It can also include suggestions for future development of the site. The final external report with PUI and involved experts should serve as a reference material for future donors and foundation for the establishment of future programs.

6. TEAM SELECTION & REQUIRED PROFILE

In order to provide a high-quality report at the heritage and scientific levels, in accordance with international standards, and to maintain the objectivity and neutrality of the stakeholders, it is important that one or both of the evaluators come from outside of Palestine. The international evaluator (s) must submit their application through the advertisement made by PUI headquarters. The local evaluator will have to submit his application via the local advertisement in the OPT mission. The selected team can be made up of a maximum of 50% local assessors (West Bank). The candidate can also be a firm or an expert office specializing in the field of engineering (cultural, heritage or tourism). Some parts of the assessment will take the form of interviews.

The teams who apply must provide a resume (CV) of their work expertise. The team should be multidisciplinary and able to carry out an evaluation of the project at heritage, technical, educational and social levels.

The involved evaluators may be architect in heritage (minimum Masters level 2), archaeologist (same criteria as architect), sociologist, specialist in restoration and heritage development, specialists in the field of cultural engineering, heritage and tourism and humanitarian filed. In general, the team must have a minimum of 10 years' experience in the field of heritage and historical monuments.

The team should include, if necessary, the services of an English and Arabic translator.

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

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 USD, with 7,000 USD for the international and 3,000 USD for the local consultant.