

Occupied Palestinian Territory: An external evaluation of PUI's project

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31 January 2021

CONTEXT

INTIQAL 2030 is a Youth-led initiative supported by Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI), an innovative socio-economic development program that leverages on the protection of Cultural Heritage involving communities and local civil society stakeholders, encouraging their interaction on archaeological sites. This initiative creates and runs a safe space in which girls, boys, young people and families engage in concrete actions and express their fears and hopes in a protective environment while developing their resilience following violent or traumatic experiences.

Since 2017, the project funded by the British Council has aimed at protecting, preserving and promoting the two main important archaeological sites in the Gaza Strip and Palestine. The project served the local community in Al Nuseirat (Middle area) and people in Jabaliya in the north of Gaza Strip. The main targeted beneficiaries were skilled workers, students, Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), pupils and the general public from the two localities and Gaza Strip. It has also benefited the whole population in Gaza Strip indirectly.

This project has been implemented by PUI in partnership with the French Biblical School of Jerusalem (EBAF), the University of Palestine, the Islamic University and in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA).

This project has allowed to combine the strength of both PUI and EBAF to achieve remarkable protection and promotion of Palestinian cultural heritage while providing humanitarian assistance to a vulnerable population (i.e. some of the activities are implemented by PUI's beneficiaries). PUI has an extended experience in relation to the shelter sector through the rehabilitation of shelters and upgrading substandard housing units. The work carried under this program feeds into PUI's advocacy strategy, adding cultural heritage to other topics already addressed such as the protection of Palestinians' rights – including Cultural rights, advocacy against IHL violations and impartial access to humanitarian assistance.

Beyond its cultural and historical positive impact, the INTIQAL 2030 program champions other socio-economic development objectives. These include innovative activities aiming at achieving economic and energy independence, and bringing new sustainable solutions which will benefit and empower Gazans and their community in the long term.

Through strengthening and reframing youth's relationships with cultural heritage, future societal outcomes are reimagined, more vibrant than ever, reflecting the resilience youth in the occupied Palestinian territory are well known for.

INTIQAL 2030 provides opportunities for Youth to be a positive force for development, engaging them in supporting and achieving comprehensive socio-economic development for their community, and to help accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by the United Nations.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVE

The 2030 Agenda presents a bold vision of a transformed world with a much greater commitment to social and political justice, a recognition of the need to adapt development strategies to the constraints of the planet, new forms of social and political accountability, and a focus that seeks to include marginal and vulnerable groups.

Many of the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals have long been embraced by the culture sector. However, cultural heritage organizations and professionals do not always associate their work with the language of development and the ambitions of agendas such as the SDGs. This disassociation can result in a lack of understanding of the value and impact of cultural heritage work to social, economic and environmental development, and a divide between policy and practice that can limit the achievement of the SDGs. Furthermore, in order to increase understanding of the role cultural heritage across the SDGs, there is a need to build and strengthen the evidence base around its contribution to the SDGs.

In the recent report titled "The missing Pillar" (British Council, 2020), the cultural organisation declared: ***"We need to strengthen the narratives that connect culture and the SDGs - Culture shapes the way we understand our lives and the meaning we make of them, and it lies therefore at the basis of any notion of people-centered development. Furthermore, participation in cultural life, the safeguarding and renewal of heritage, creative expression, and the celebration and discovery of diversity, among others, are integral to lives worth living. They may also contribute to the achievement of policy goals in areas such as economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability"***.

In the very specific context of the Gaza Strip, PUI is looking for an external assessor to evaluate the activities implemented under the British Council funded project (preservation, protection of the two sites) as per the proposal submitted, to analyze how the INTIQAL2030 initiative can better contribute to the SDGs.

The evaluation report should stimulate PUI and its partners to get a better understanding of the complexity of sustainable development and the different aspects of the SDGs.

The report would support PUI and the BC partners in Palestine and become a tool to increase understanding of the link between cultural heritage and sustainable development.

The report should provide PUI with recommendations for the SDGs to be embedded in the delivery of INTIQAL2030 initiative based on local needs, and for their impact to be measured accordingly. The report should provide concrete actions for taking an inclusive approach, involving communities and local actors to understand cross-cutting needs and ecosystems to ensure sustainability. It would also incorporate a focus on digital technologies to raise awareness and a clearer response to the climate emergency.

TASKS AND TIMELINE

The evaluation will focus on activities developed under British Council funding on the Byzantine church site in Jabalyah – North of Gaza, “Mukheitim” and Saint Hilarion monastery at Tell Umm El'-Amr in Western side of Gaza.

The evaluation should take place in **February, 2021** (Desk review, data collection phase, interviews). It is substantial that the different actors of the program can be interviewed while the action is still ongoing before the scheduled end of the project on February 28, 2021.

- The assessment report including evaluation against the CPF outcomes from the PUI funding application should be submitted in English to PUI by **March, 1st**
- The mapping of these outcomes on the SDGS along with actionable recommendations must be submitted **by March, 11th** (see below “*deliverables*”)

The content of the evaluation mission must allow the scanning of all aspects of the activities funded by the British Council Cultural Protection Fund at a fair value taking into consideration the socio-economic and political framework in which the activities were carried out, i.e., taking 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.

DELIVERABLES

- **By March 1st 2021: Assessment report of INTIQAL2030:** Evaluation against the CPF outcomes from the PUI funding application, that includes reflection on the efficiency and effectiveness of the implemented British Council funded project for the protection, preservation and promotion of two archaeological sites in Gaza strip
- **By March 11th: Mapping of assessment report’s outcomes on the SDGs**
 - Assessment vis-a-vis SDGS with actionable recommendations
 - Good case stories (3 stories for some chosen key SDGs – maximum 250 words each)
 - PowerPoint presentation of key findings.
 - List of key baseline and outcomes indicators with methodology and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

TEAM SELECTION & REQUIRED PROFILE

Applications are solicited from highly-experienced individual consultants that have substantive knowledge of the 2030 Agenda implementation, understanding of the core principles of the 2030 Agenda including national ownership, universality, leave no one behind, human rights, and integration and indivisibility of the Sustainable Development Goals and development.

The specific experience, skills, competencies needed in the evaluator include:

- Extensive experience and knowledge in the area of 2030 Agenda implementation;
- Extensive experience in applying evaluation techniques, and demonstrable experience in conducting evaluations of projects that focus on sustainable development, human development, the 2030 Agenda;
- Qualitative data collection and analysis skills;
- Prior experience in working with INGOs;
- Additional qualifications can be considered an asset: working experience in Palestine, understanding of the UN system and international donors.

In order to guaranty objectivity and neutrality of stakeholders, it is important that the evaluator be from outside Palestine and should submit his/her application through the advertisement made by PUI's headquarter. The evaluator may also be a firm or expertise agency specialized in the field of engineering (cultural, heritage, or even in tourism). Certain parts of the evaluation will be in the form of interviews.

The international expert who apply must provide a resume (CV) of his/her work expertise. The international expert should be multidisciplinary and able to carry out an evaluation of the project at heritage, archaeology, cultural engineering, educational, tourism and social levels.

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

HOW TO APPLY:

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 7 000 EUR