United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE
2018/15
Ramallah, 18 October 2018

Sida and UNESCO continue to support local development in Palestine through cultural heritage preservation



Ramallah - 18 October 2018 - Today the General Consulate of Sweden and UNESCO Office signed a phasing out extension of the Funds in Trust Agreement of the project entitled *Local development through the rehabilitation and revitalization of historic environment in Palestine*.

The project is funded by the Government of Sweden through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and implemented by UNESCO. Since its start in 2012, it has built an implementation partnership with four major local actors in the field of cultural heritage conservation in Palestine, namely the Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation, the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP), the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee (HRC) and Taawon – Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Programme (OCJRP). The project will continue this partnership for the phasing-out extension period ending in 2020.

During its six years of implementation, 67 cultural heritage sites have been rehabilitated in Palestinian cities and rural localities. These sites have been adapted to serve as facilities for civil society organizations, municipalities and village councils providing public social services.

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE
2018/15
Ramallah, 18 October 2018

They contributed to the local development through generating more than 96,700 working days, providing employment in each area where the project intervened. Through hundreds of advocacy and training activities across Palestine, it enhanced the capacities of 166 architects, engineers and semi-skilled workers in the restoration of historic sites and raised awareness among the decision makers and public on the importance of the role of culture and culture heritage. In addition, the project supported the preparation of the first *Law on Palestinian Tangible Cultural Heritage*, which came into force on 3 June 2018.

During the coming phasing-out extension period, with an additional donation by the Government of Sweden of USD 2.9 million, the project will continue to build on the accumulated achievements in the field of cultural heritage preservation to complement the ongoing efforts of the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities leading to institutional development and state building. In addition, it will help the project partners to identify sustainability measures that shall ensure their persistence in achieving their goals into safeguarding the Palestinian cultural heritage and foster local development.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and like us on Facebook: UNESCO National Office for Palestine

For more information on this project, please contact: A. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, Head of the Culture Unit at the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at j.sorosh@unesco.org