



# ALIPH - Safeguarding written heritage in conflict zones and post-conflict situations

Strengthening libraries emergency preparedness and response

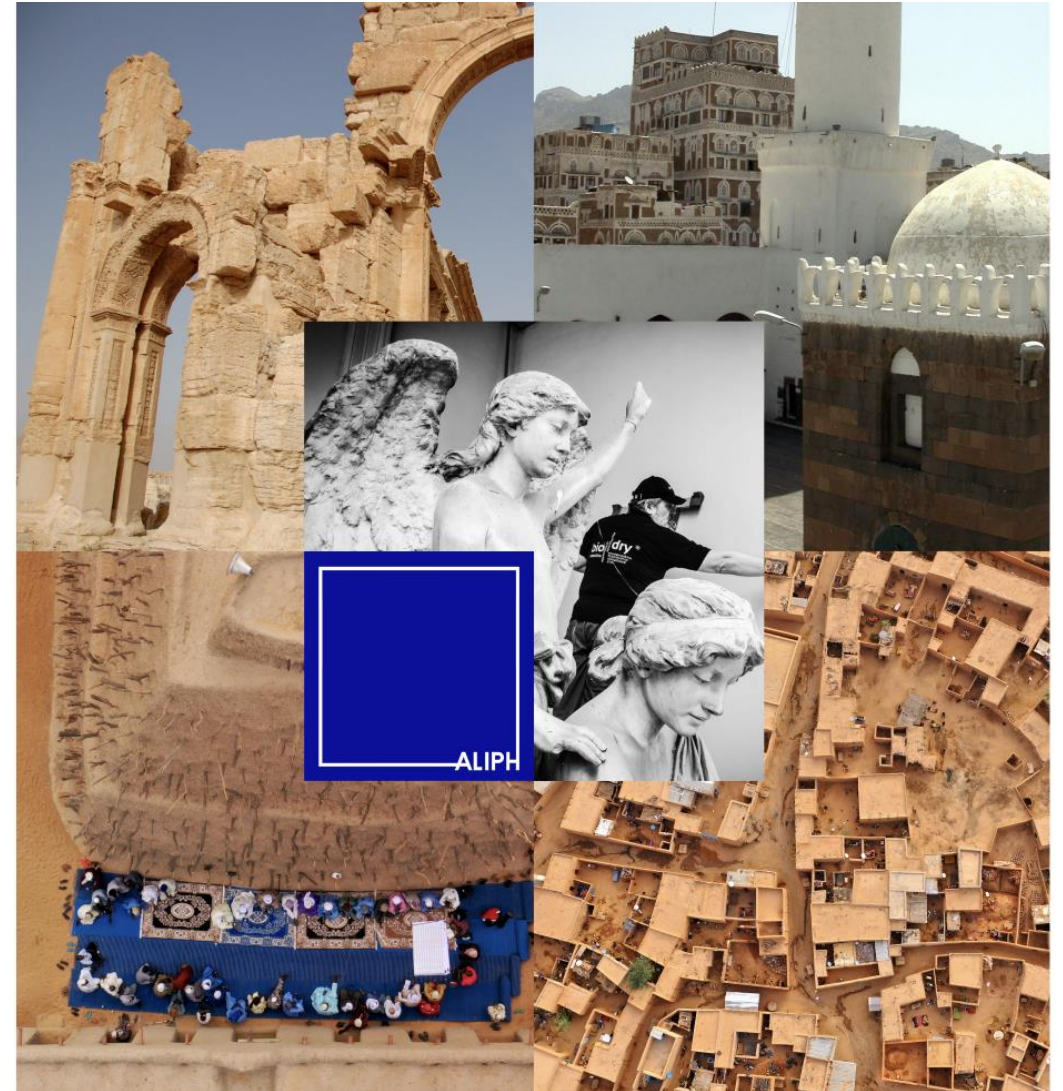
Amsterdam, 18 August 2023



# About ALIPH

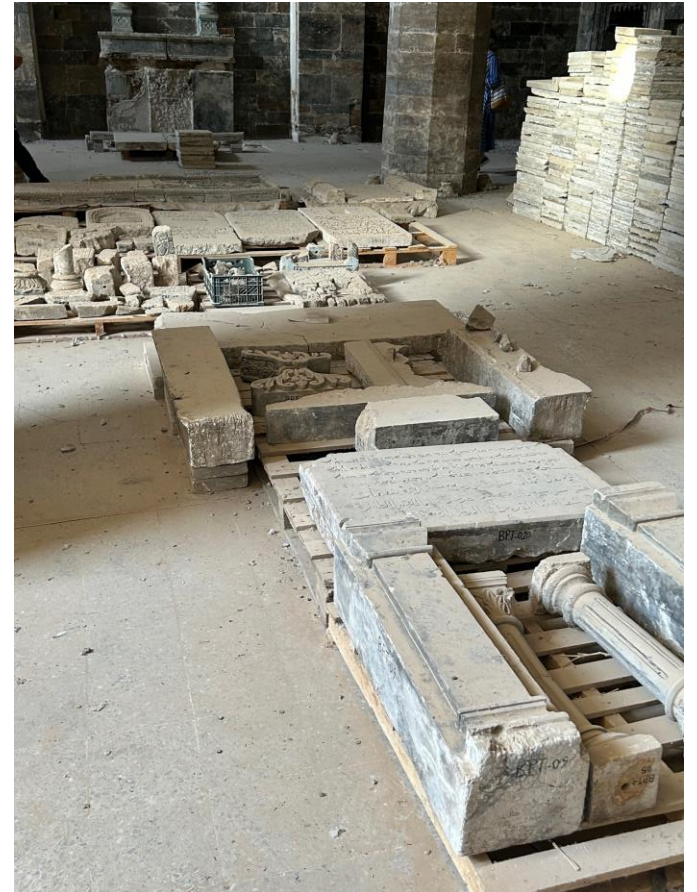
# What is ALIPH ?

- **Created in March 2017, ALIPH is the main global fund exclusively dedicated to the protection of heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas**
- **Private foundation under Swiss law, based in Geneva,** with the privileges and immunities of an international organization (similar status to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria)
- **A public-private partnership: 20 donors,** including 8 Member States (China, Cyprus, France, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Morocco, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia), 7 Foundations, the European Union, Monaco, Oman, Romania, and Switzerland as host country
- **A scientific and financial instrument,** supporting and accompanying heritage protection projects
- **A Startup mindset:** dynamism, innovation, and responsiveness without compromising quality or rigor



# What do we do?

- **ALIPH finances and accompanies cultural heritage protection**
  - **Where?**
    - **In conflict or post-conflict areas:** interstate conflicts, terrorism, civil war, etc.
    - **A new objective: the fight against climate change** in vulnerable countries
  - **When?**
    - Before: preventive protection, in cases of imminent and high risk
    - During: emergency protection during conflicts, when possible
    - After: post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction, and restoration
  - **In which fields?**
    - Libraries and archives
    - Museums and their collections
    - The fight against looting and illicit trafficking
    - Intangible heritage
    - Monuments and sites
  - **ALIPH selects projects via 2 procedures:**
    - Annual calls for projects
    - Throughout the year for emergency measures or action plans
    - Our criteria: relevance, quality, feasibility, and sustainability



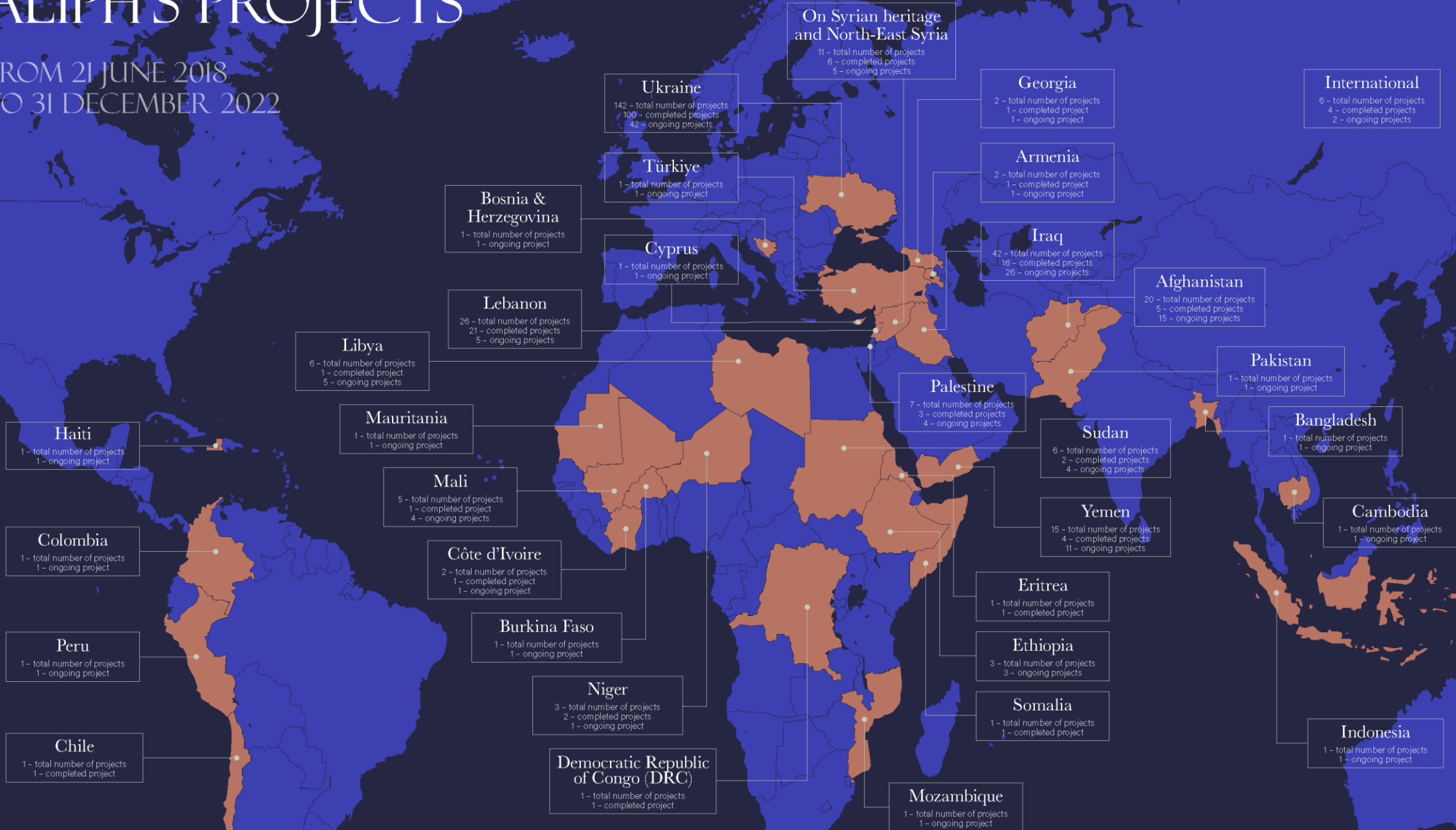
Rehabilitation of the Chaldean Al Tahira Church  
Mosul, Iraq

## What is the ALIPH way?

- **“Protecting heritage to build peace”:**
  - **Thomas S. Kaplan, Chair of the ALIPH Foundation Board:** *“While dark threats continue to loom over this common inheritance of mankind, as in the case of terrorism and international conflicts, we and our partners shall remain – proudly and unwaveringly – by the side of these brave women and men, as humble yet critical enablers or reconciliation, and peace through the preservation, sharing, and transmission of the epic phenomenon of human civilization.”*
- **“Action, action, action!”:**
  - Our funds are dedicated to **concrete projects** in the field and tangible results
  - ALIPH has demonstrated its **agility** in less than six years: Beirut Action Plan, Covid-19 Action Plans, Afghanistan, Ukraine Action Plan, Syria-Turkey Action Plan
- **“Behind cultural heritage, there are women and men”:**
  - Projects need to demonstrate significance and value for **local populations and communities** and must have a **sustainable, social, and economic impact**
  - **A new form of multilateralism: concrete, agile, responsive**

# ALIPH'S PROJECTS

FROM 21 JUNE 2018  
TO 31 DECEMBER 2022



# Libraries and archives

# Restoration, digitization and dissemination of documentary heritage in Iraq in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)



**House of Iraqi Manuscripts, Baghdad, Iraq**

**Operator: Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)**

- Upgrading the current digitisation programme through procurement of equipment; advice on manuscript handling as well as data production and storage;
- Identification and implementation of an Integrated Library System (ILS), including a digital conservation component; training and procurement of software and hardware;
- Improvement of conservation conditions; procurement of supplies and equipment, expertise and training;
- Elaboration of a new operating protocol and digitisation strategy through workshops and mentoring;



# Restoration, digitization and dissemination of documentary heritage in Iraq in partnership with the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)



Digitisation sample : Kurdish issue of *Roj-e Kurdistan*, 1922 (2021, Zheen Centre for Documentation and Research, Sulaymaniyah)

## Zheen Centre for documentation and research, Sulaymaniyah) - Digitisation and dissemination of historical Kurdish periodicals

### Operator: Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF)

- Digitisation and dissemination of 900 issues of historical Kurdish periodicals
- Procurement of a scanner and restoration supplies;
- Consolidations and restorations of periodicals;
- Training on metadata standards for online dissemination, and on BnF digitisation standards;
- Documents disseminated on Gallica

# Preserving Manuscripts in the Al-aqib Library, Sankoré Mosque of Timbuktu



## Al-aqib Library Sankoré Mosque, Timbuktu, Mali

### Operator: AMALIA

- Concrete urgent in situ measures (dry cleaning, boxing, small repairs) to stop the ongoing deterioration of 3,500 manuscripts
- Intervention on the storage rooms in order to mitigate further risks;
- Capacity-building



<https://youtu.be/POt2xn3KYOs>

# Archives of Knowledge: Documentary Heritage in Djenné in partnership with AMALIA



## Bibliothèque des Manuscrits de Djenné, Mali

### Operator: AMALIA

- Training sessions on preventive conservation measures for collections: dry cleaning of individual items, boxmaking and rehousing, storage management;
- Preservation activities on manuscripts and archival documents;
- Improvement of the BMD building's security and equipment;
- Awareness raising, promotion of local handcrafts and traditional know-how;

# Sudan Memory: Conserving and Promoting Sudanese Cultural and Documentary Heritage



## Operator: Kings College London

- Setting-up a digitization hub in Khartoum for onsite scanning of cultural materials; Scanning and metadata creation for 5000 images from small private archives in Khartoum
- Enhancing the metadata of materials already scanned (proofreading, translation, correcting) and add ICOM red-list object identifiers
- Providing data storage
- Capacity building
- Documents disseminated on the Sudan Memory website

# Safeguarding of the Photography Collection of the Saint Joseph University, Beirut



## Saint Joseph University Library, Beirut, Lebanon

### Operator: Institut national du Patrimoine

- Assessment of the several fonds of the collection, condition reports, dusting/cleaning, and reconditioning to prepare it for digitization
- Classification, inventorying and indexing of the collections
- Capacity building for both the INP-students (*chantier-école*) and the library staff

# Assessment of the Manuscript Collection of the Syriac Orthodox Church Archdiocese of Mosul



**Syriac Orthodox Church Archdiocese of Mosul in Erbil, Iraq**

**Consultant: Nikolas Sarris, independent book conservator**

- Assessment of the collection of 105 early Syriac manuscripts
- Emergency stabilization (removing moulds, dust, tied ropes causing damage to the binding, and wrapping the endangered manuscripts with Tyvek fabric and acid free tissue)
- Relocation of the collection

# Assessment of the Bash Ayan Collection in Basra, Iraq

## Bash Ayan Collection, Basra, Iraq

**Consultant: Marco di Bella, independent book conservator**

- Assessment of the collection
- Emergency stabilization to prevent further dampening of the collection and address the mould infection
- Relocation of the collection



Figure 2. Flooded books, stuck together, still damp and mouldy



Figure 3. Wet early printed book, located on a high shelf

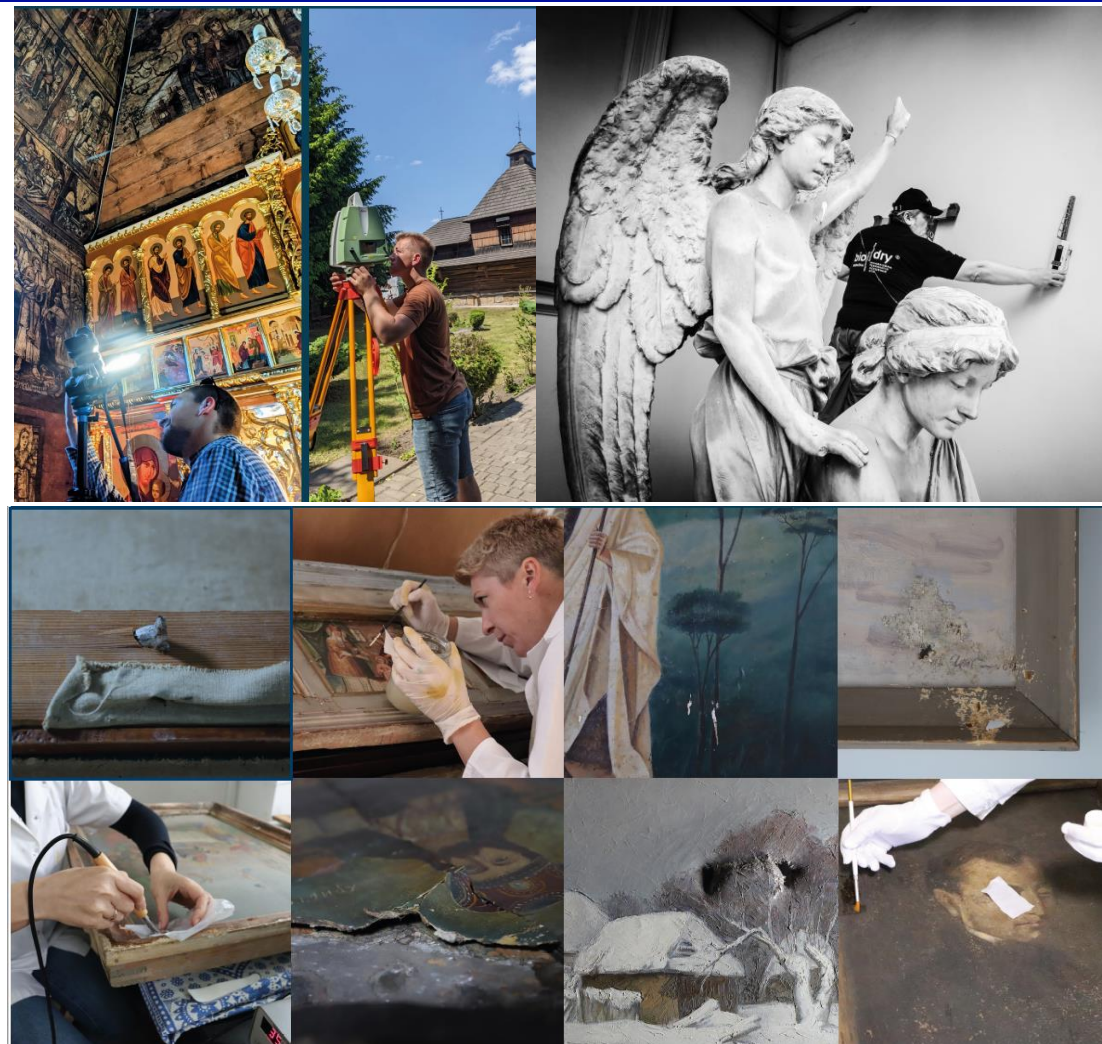
# ALIPH in Ukraine



## Providing rapid response

### ALIPH Ukraine Action Plan

- In early March 2022, the ALIPH Foundation Board adopted an **Action Plan** for the Protection of Heritage in Ukraine with an envelope that today amounts over **USD 5 million**.
  - **Three external fundings came to reinforce ALIPH's action (for a total amount of USD 3,04 million)**
  - To date over **USD 5 million** have been committed to **more than 340 cultural heritage organizations across Ukraine**.
- ✓ **Protection of Museums, Libraries, and Archives**
  - ✓ **Protection of Sites and Monuments**
  - ✓ **Support to Ukrainian Heritage Professionals**



← THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Getty



ALIPH

## Results to date

For over:

- **215 museums**
- **26 libraries and archives**
- **62 cultural sites**
- **6 national and 28 regional heritage institutions**
- **35 civil society organizations working on heritage protection**

ALIPH has for example financed the purchase of **storage equipment** (shelves, cabinets, cases, etc.), metal boxes, packing materials, **fire safety equipment** (fire extinguishers, fire blankets, fire alarms), as well as generators, dehumidifiers, and **materials to secure doors and windows.**



# Digitization in practice

## Webinar for archive and library professionals in Ukraine

**ДІДЖИТАЛІЗАЦІЯ НА ПРАКТИЦІ ВЕБІНАР ДЛЯ  
ПРОФЕСІОНАЛІВ З АРХІВНОЇ ТА БІБЛІОТЕЧНОЇ СПРАВИ В  
УКРАЇНІ**

**How to apply ?**



## EMERGENCY RELIEF

This process is designed to make it possible to provide rapid support for measures aimed at protecting heritage that is under serious threat of destruction or deterioration.

In order to be eligible, projects must demonstrate the necessity of rapid action to cease or prevent the irremediable degradation of heritage.

To respond to emergency situations, requests are handled throughout the year.

[APPLY](#)



[DOWNLOAD THE GUIDELINES](#)



[TERMS & CONDITIONS](#)



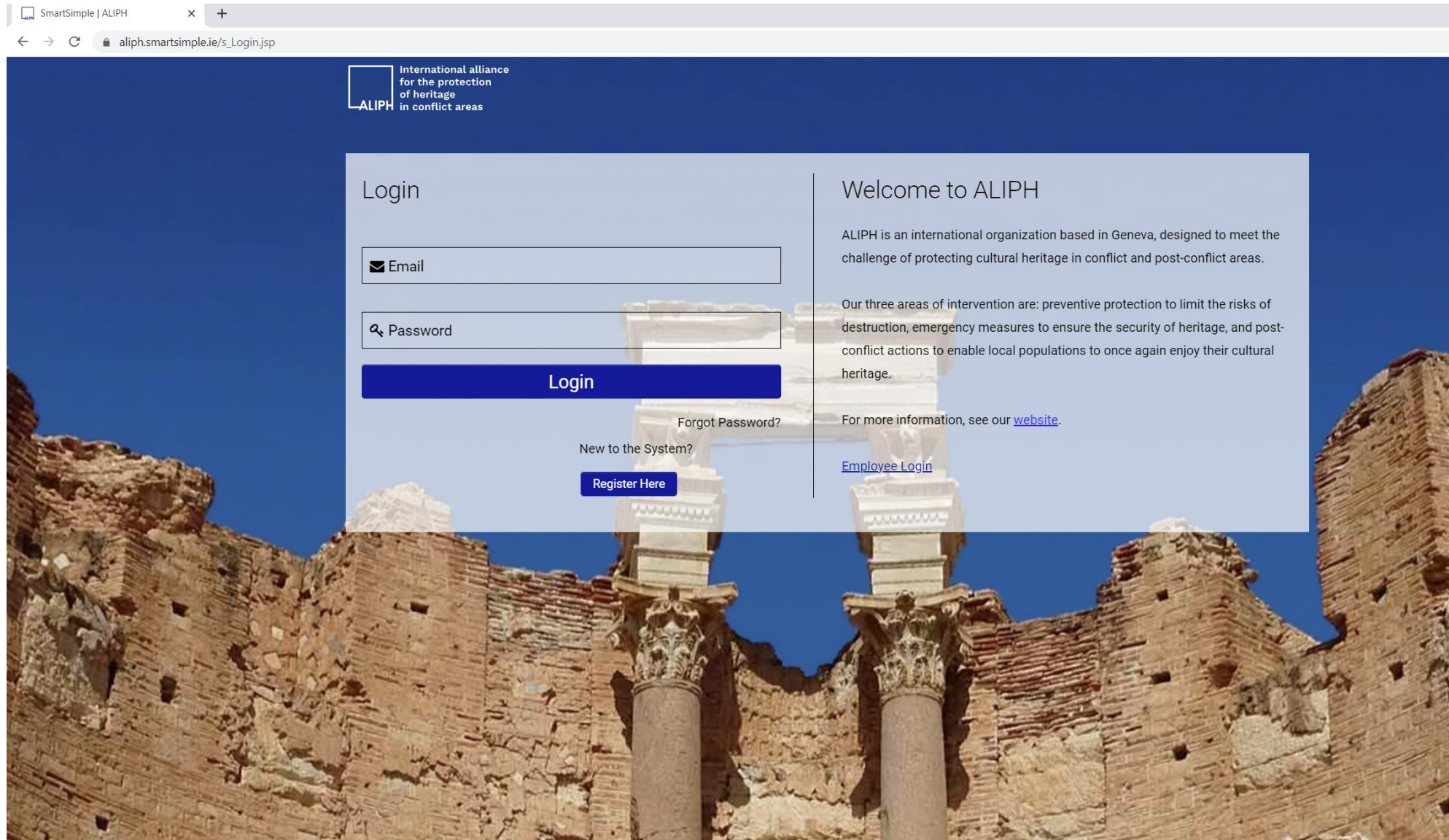
## CALL FOR PROJECTS

ALIPH supports a wide variety of projects to protect heritage that is endangered, under threat or which has suffered from negligence brought about by conflict.

To be considered for selection, projects need to fulfil certain criteria, in particular the relevance, effectiveness and sustainability of the solutions being proposed, their scientific quality and their contribution to local development.


There is currently no open call for projects.

<https://aliph.smartsimple.ie>



SmartSimple | ALIPH

aliph.smartsimple.ie/s\_Login.jsp

 International alliance  
for the protection  
of heritage  
in conflict areas

## Login

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Password

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Register Here

## Welcome to ALIPH

ALIPH is an international organization based in Geneva, designed to meet the challenge of protecting cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas.

Our three areas of intervention are: preventive protection to limit the risks of destruction, emergency measures to ensure the security of heritage, and post-conflict actions to enable local populations to once again enjoy their cultural heritage.

For more information, see our [website](#).

[Employee Login](#)

# Ingredients of successful ALIPH-funded project

- **Justification for link with conflict / post-conflict rehabilitation / dialogue among communities**
- **Concrete interventions and on-the-job training**
- **Local partnerships and support from local authorities**
- **Scientific methodology (appropriate expertise for proposed activities, CVs of experts)**
- **Value for money (10% administration costs, no exorbitant expert and travel fees, basis of calculation clear, estimates, BOQ's)**
- **Due diligence on operator (financial solidity and management, separate bank accounts, cash flows)**



Thank you !

[aliph-foundation.org](http://aliph-foundation.org)

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