جمعية مياسم
للثقافة والفنون
Mayasem Association for Culture and Arts

PALESTINIAN

HERITAGE DOCUMENTATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01.

ABOUT US {MACA & HERITAGE GUARDIANS TEAM}

Who we are, our mission, and our cultural vision

02.

CULTURAL PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Key projects/ initiatives that promote community engagement and heritage preservation.

03.

DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Efforts to safeguard and transmit Palestinian cultural memory.

1

ABOUT US

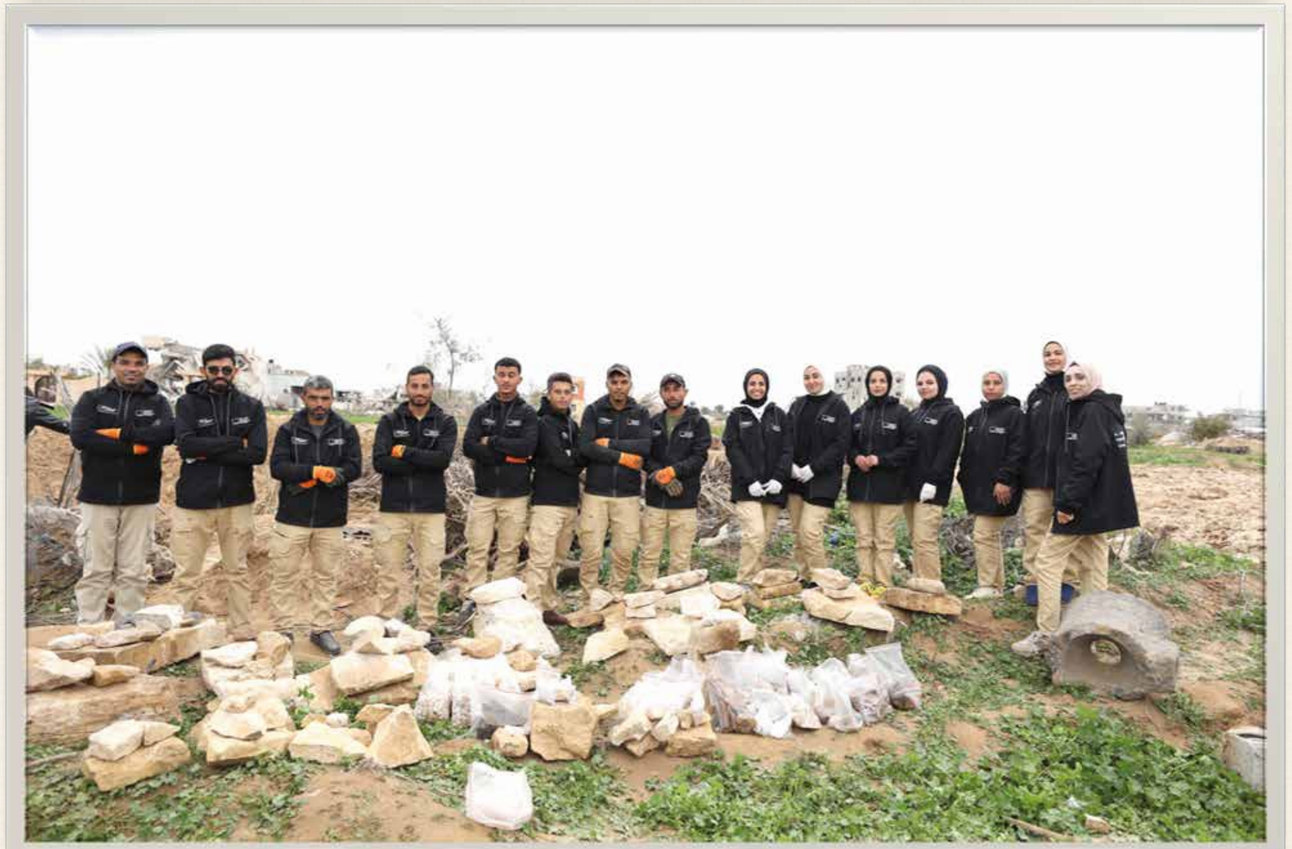
The Mayasem Association for Culture and Arts is an independent, non-profit organization founded in 2021 in the Gaza Strip, headquartered in Al-Qarara town. Established by a group of intellectuals and activists committed to societal causes, the association is dedicated to reinforcing Palestinian cultural identity, preserving national heritage from oblivion, and contributing to the documentation of Palestine’s contemporary history.

OUR VISION

We aspire to foster a Palestinian Arab society that cherishes its language, identity, and civilizational legacy. Our vision centers on cultivating a distinct Palestinian cultural identity and creating a dynamic space that preserves and promotes Palestine’s cultural heritage, serving as a beacon for those eager to explore its rich history.

OUR MISSION

MACA seeks to integrate culture, arts, and national identity into a cohesive cultural initiative. By providing educational, artistic, and cultural services to all community groups, we are committed to safeguarding Palestinian heritage, preserving its historical landmarks and authentic traditions, and revitalizing and promoting them both locally and globally. Our goal is to ensure the continuity of this heritage as a living legacy for future generations.



HERITAGE GUARDIANS TEAM (20 YOUTH)

- Affiliated with "Mayasem“.
- Specialized in documenting and protecting Palestinian heritage (both tangible and intangible) through:

✓ Surveying and assessing damage to museum collections and rescuing them.

✓ Implementing interactive cultural activities to enhance and promote cultural awareness.

- We work to confront erasure, destruction, and neglect, striving to build a conscious generation that is deeply aware of its Palestinian heritage and identity.

Heritage Guardians Documentation

2

CULTURAL PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

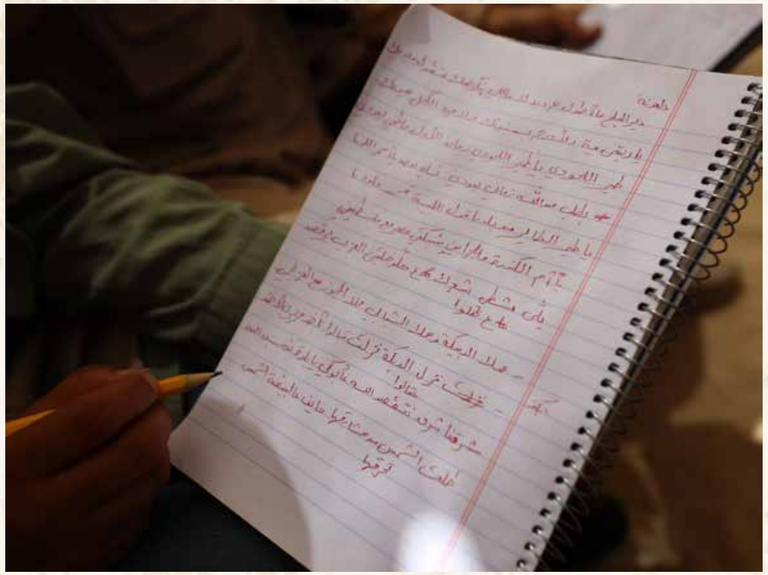
Key projects/ initiatives that promote community engagement and heritage preservation.

Project 1 – Information

The Title:
Tales on the Road: Culture Reaches You (July, 2026 – Present)

Objective:
To improve psychosocial well-being and strengthen cultural identity by reviving refugee narratives and linking them to current reality, through documenting and preserving oral heritage and engaging the elderly in transferring stories between generations within safe and inclusive cultural spaces in displacement camps to enhance community cohesion.

Funding and Partnership:
This project is funded by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund, in cooperation with Heritage for Peace (HfP).



unicef
unicef

unicef
unicef

unicef
unicef
unicef

Project 2 – Information

The Title:
From the War to the Hope (Oct, 2025 – Feb, 2026)

Objective:
Enhance children's awareness of cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) in a simplified and interactive way.

Funding and Partnership:
This project is funded by Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI).

FASHION
SPORTS

Project 3 – Information

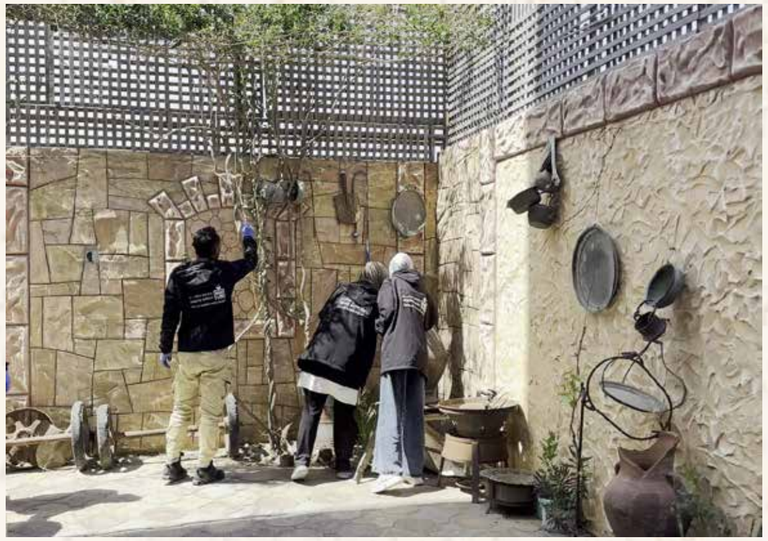
The Title:
Salvation and Digitization of Ethnographic and Archaeological Collections in the Gaza Strip (Jan – Sep, 2025)

Objective:
Training the rescue team in the secure extraction and protection of artifacts from 6 museum collection sites, to evacuate them to Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis – the designated humanitarian safe zone.

Funding and Partnership:
This project is funded by ALIPH, and in partnership with the Palestinian Museum.

Yousef Al Astal Museum Collection

Al Qarara Cultural Museum Collection



Ibrahim Shahwan Museum Collection

Ashraf Al Mamlouki Museum Collection

Project 4 – Information

The Title:
Strengthening the Cultural Identity of the children of the Gaza Strip in the Displacement Camps (Aug – Oct, 2024)

Objective:
Developing children’s cultural skills and supporting psychological recovery form the severe trauma caused by the aggression.

Funding and Partnership:
This project is funded by UNESCO.

Courses/ Trainings

Performances

Project 5 – Information

The Title:
Al Qarara Cultural Museum Rescue (May – Aug, 2024)

Objective:
Rescue the museum items, and move it from al Qarara town to Safe place (Al Mawasi).

Funding and Partnership:
This project is funded by ALIPH, and in partnership with the Palestinian Museum.

Initiative 1 – Information

The Title:
Archives from Gaza (June, 2026 – Present)

Objective:
To safeguard the written national memory and protect the Palestinian narrative from erasure and loss, by inventorying and documenting paper archives and historical documents held by families and individuals in the southern Gaza Strip.

Funding and Partnership:
No external funder (Self-funded initiative by Mayasem Association).

Initiative 2 – Information

The Title:
The Oral history collecting (May, 2026 - Present)

Objective:
To preserve Palestinian collective memory and document oral narratives and intangible cultural heritage through storytelling sessions with elders.

Funding and Partnership:
No external funder (Self-funded initiative by Mayasem Association).

Initiative 3 – Information

The Title:
Heritage First Aid (Nov – Dec, 2025)

Objective:
Promote awareness among children through heritage first aid training workshops.

Funding and Partnership:
This Initiative is funded by A.M. Qattan Foundation.

حراس التراث

حراس التراث

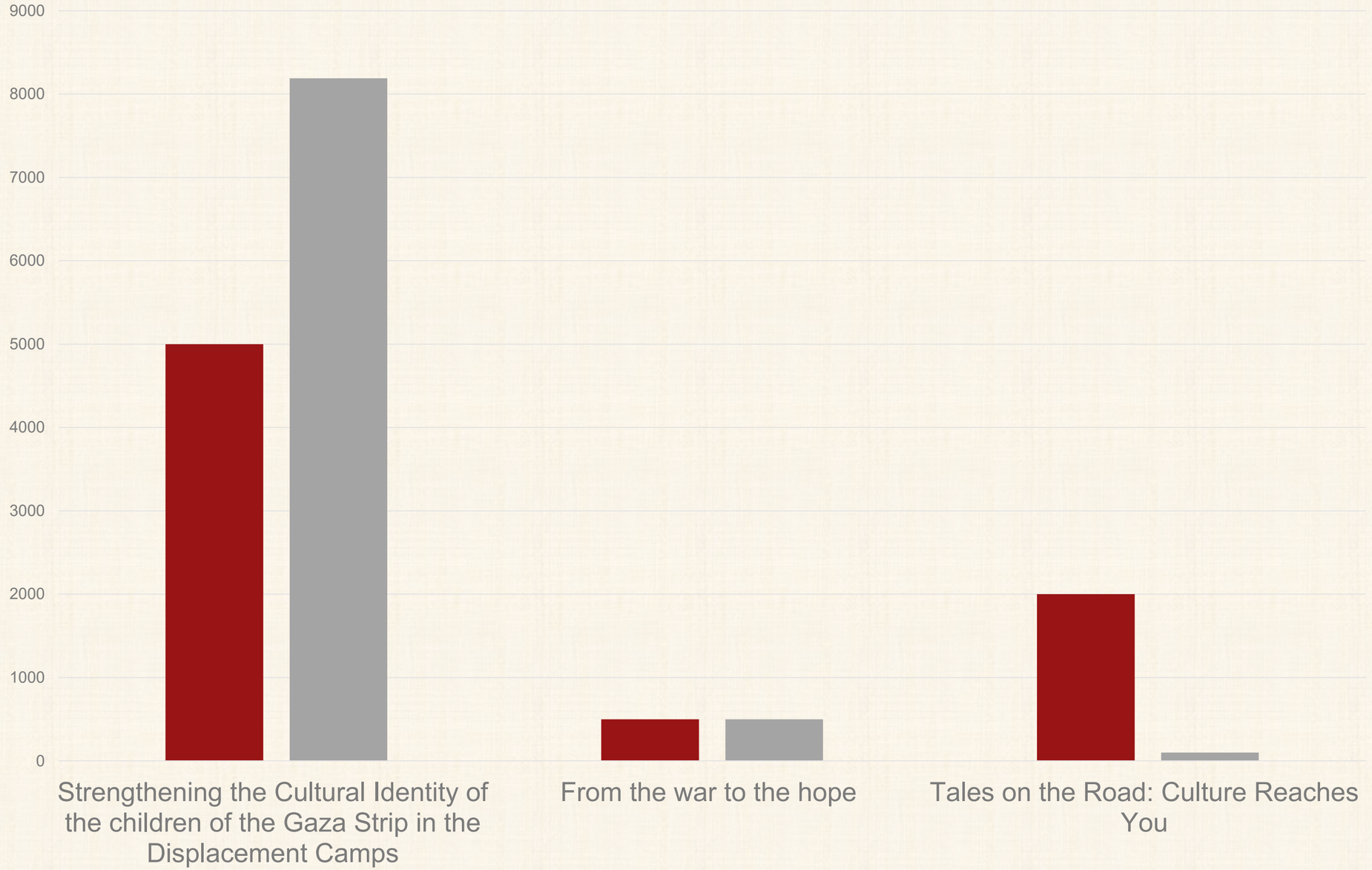
Initiative 4 – Information

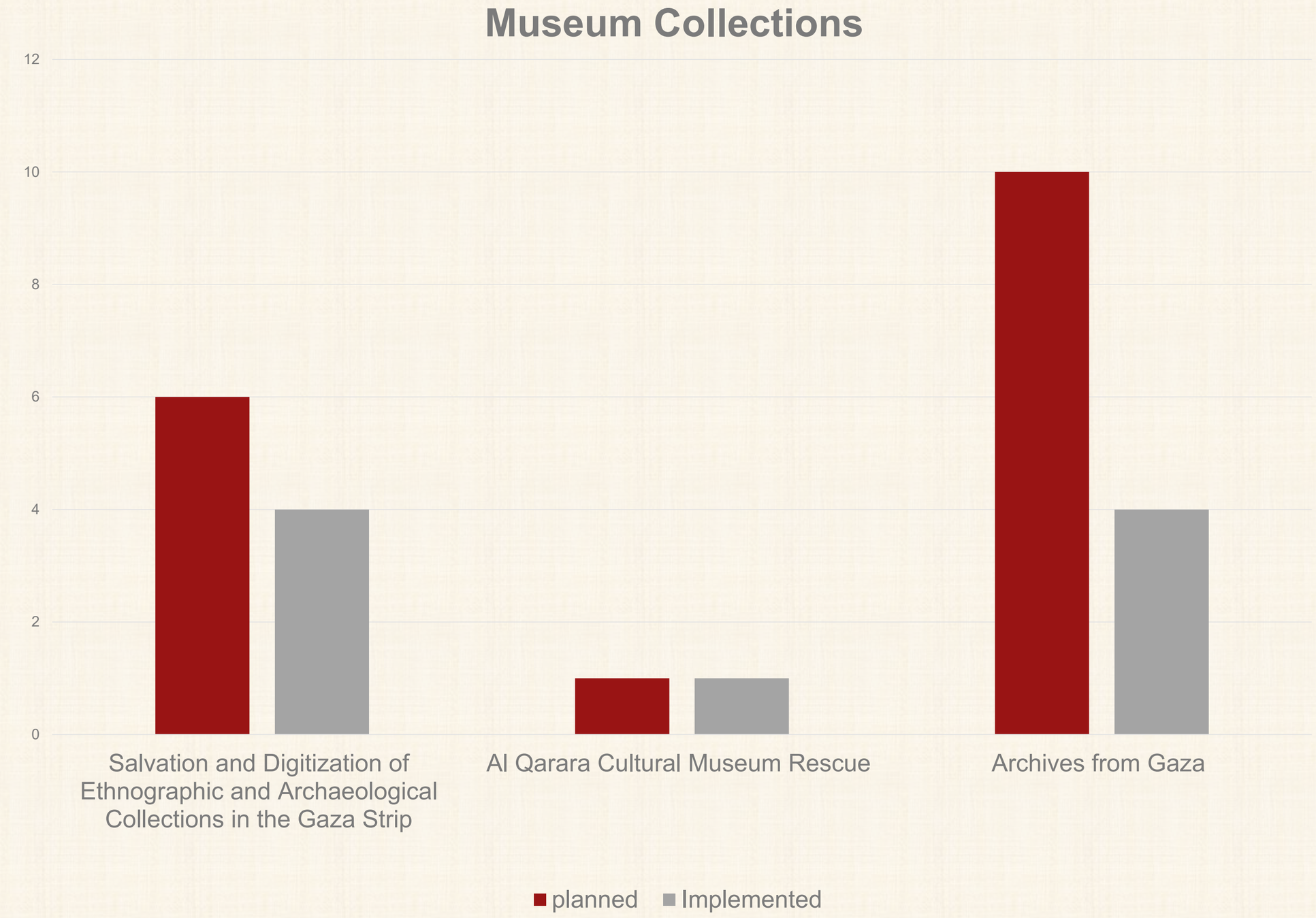
The Title:
The displaced theatre (Oct – Nov, 2024)

Objective:
Highlighting the suffering of displaced people through theatrical performance.

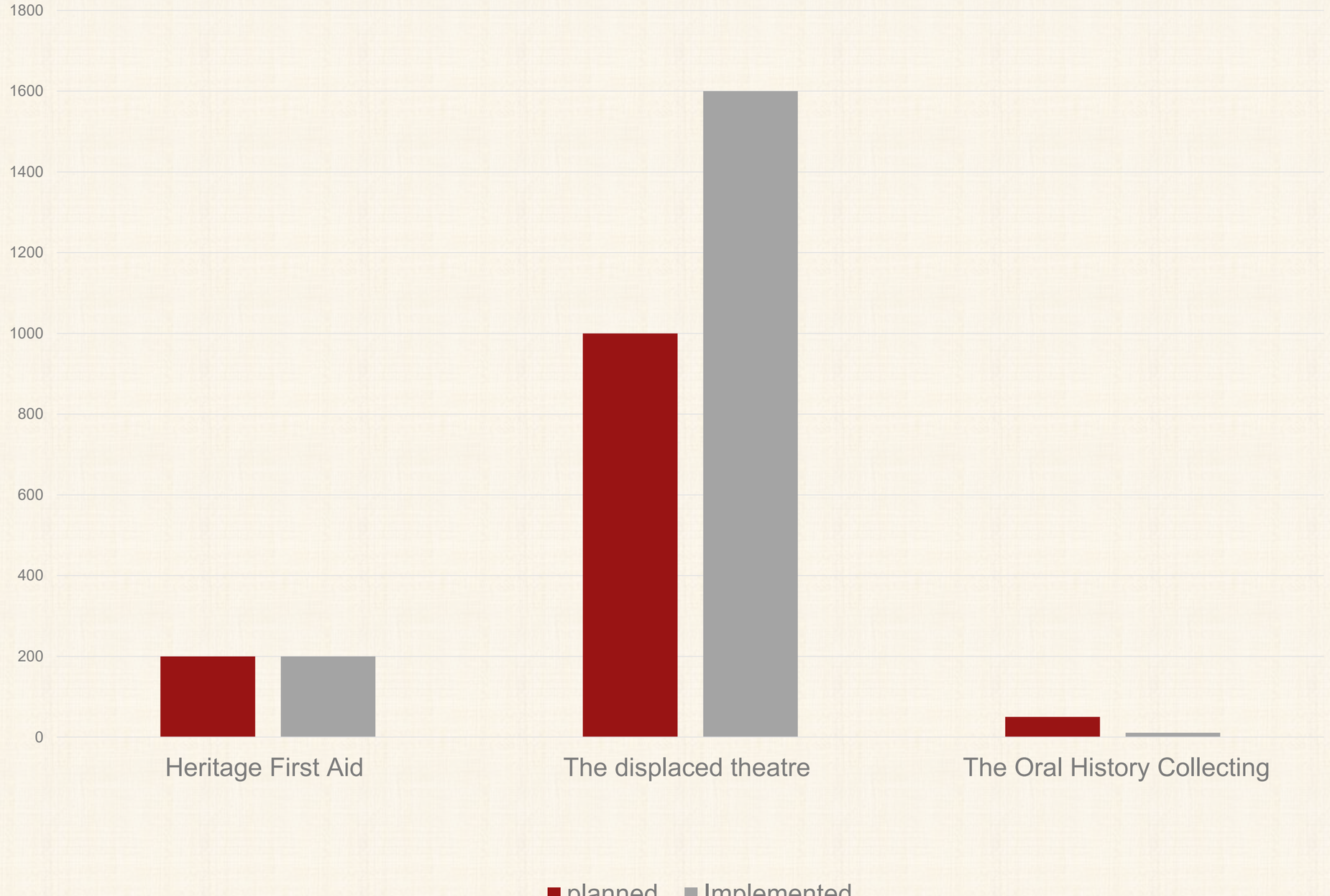
Funding and Partnership:
This Initiative is funded by European Union, and in partnership with the GUCC, within the Citizen First project.

Beneficiaries




Museum Collections
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
Salvation and Digitization of Ethnographic and Archaeological Collections in the Gaza Strip
Al Qarara Cultural Museum Rescue
Archives from Gaza
planned
Implemented

Beneficiaries



3

DOCUMENTATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Efforts to safeguard and transmit Palestinian cultural memory.

Our work in documenting tangible cultural heritage includes:

1. Museum Collections:
   1. Field surveys to assess damage.
   2. Rescue of museum artifacts.
   3. Digital archiving of artifacts.
   4. Periodic inventory and storage of museum artifacts.

2. Young Archaeologist Training:
   1. Exploratory tours of cultural sites.
   2. Simulated excavation activities.
   3. Use of heritage Items in educational sessions.

3. Palestinian Embroidery Training.
4. Palestinian Traditional Games Training.
5. Clay Oven Construction Training.
6. Cultural Sites Drawing (Continuous Training, Annual Competition).

TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Our work in documenting intangible cultural heritage includes:

1. **Traditional Dance (Dabkeh) Training.**

2. **Choral Music Training.**

3. **Bus Hartuna" Activities:**

- Storytelling (Hakawati).
- Dabkeh performances.
- Choral singing performances.
- Wearing traditional Palestinian attire.
- Palestinian Wedding Re-enactment.

5. Storytelling sessions in Beit Al-Sha'ar (Bedouin tent) for Oral History Documentation.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Awards

- **PNT Heritage Award (2026) : Won first place regionally in the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion category for the "Heritage Guardians" project - Jordan.**

1

Awards

- **Appreciation Award for the Protection and Rescue of Cultural Heritage in the Gaza Strip, during the 28th General Conference of Arab Archaeologists, organized by the General Union of Arab Archaeologists – Egypt.**

2

Awards

- **Documentation of Saint Hilarion Monastery site/ Tell Umm Amer, Gaza – Winner of the Videography Category** in the 2025 UNESCO Chair for World Heritage – Star's Photography and Videography Competition, organized by WH-STAR.

3

Awards

- **Revitalization and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage of Al Qarara Village, Gaza** – Winner of the 2021–2022 ICCROM-Sharjah Award for Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management in the Arab Region, organized by ICCROM-Sharjah.

- **Arab Cultural Heritage Award for the Young – Third Level** – Awarded by the ICCROM Regional Centre in Sharjah in 2024 for producing a video featuring the Palestinian Traditional Dabkeh Team affiliated with the Association at the Saint Hilarion Monastery site (Tell Umm Amer).

4

5

With your support, we continue Mayasem's journey with full dedication and passion.