PETRA: A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Petra, the ancient capital of the Nabatean Kingdom, is one of the world’s richest and largest archaeological sites set in a dominating red sandstone landscape. In light of its Outstanding Universal Value, in 1985 Petra was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The ongoing project is part of the broader programme launched in 2012 that aims to prevent and mitigate landslide specific risk in the ‘Siq’ of Petra.

The ‘Siq’ is a 1.2 km naturally formed gorge that snakes through the sandstone cliffs, serving as the main entrance to the site. Due to its unique geological and cultural landscape, the ‘Siq’ is one of Petra’s most endangered areas, in which natural environmental risks pose a major threat to cultural heritage and visitors. Thus, systematic identification and monitoring of its potentially unstable areas is required.


• YOUTH FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RISK PREVENTION IN PETRA
PROJECT SUMMARY

The project was implemented by the UNESCO Amman Office in partnership with the Petra Archaeological Park and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, as well as Jordanian and international experts.

Phase II and III aimed to operationally implement the mitigation of landslide risk in the ‘Siq’ through:

- Application of priority and urgent landslide mitigation interventions in the upper ‘Siq’ plateau and on the ‘Siq’ slopes – for blocks of relatively small dimensions - to address immediate slope hazards in the short term;
- Capacity development of national authorities and local communities to address the management of landslide risk and implement mitigation measures at the site;
- Awareness among local communities and national authorities of landslide risk and other natural hazards occurring within the Petra Archaeological Park.

Major achievements were attained in the above macro areas during the project phases, including:

- Implementation of priority consolidation interventions in the Siq of Petra in line with the feasibility study developed in Phase II;
- Field training aimed at mapping instability phenomena and on-the-job training on addressing landslide risk mitigation;
- Elaboration of an awareness strategy and delivery of risk awareness workshops to 145 children and youth from the local communities;
- Professional training on management and conservation of cultural heritage, and employment opportunities to youth who will contribute to the implementation of priority interventions in the ‘Siq’.