

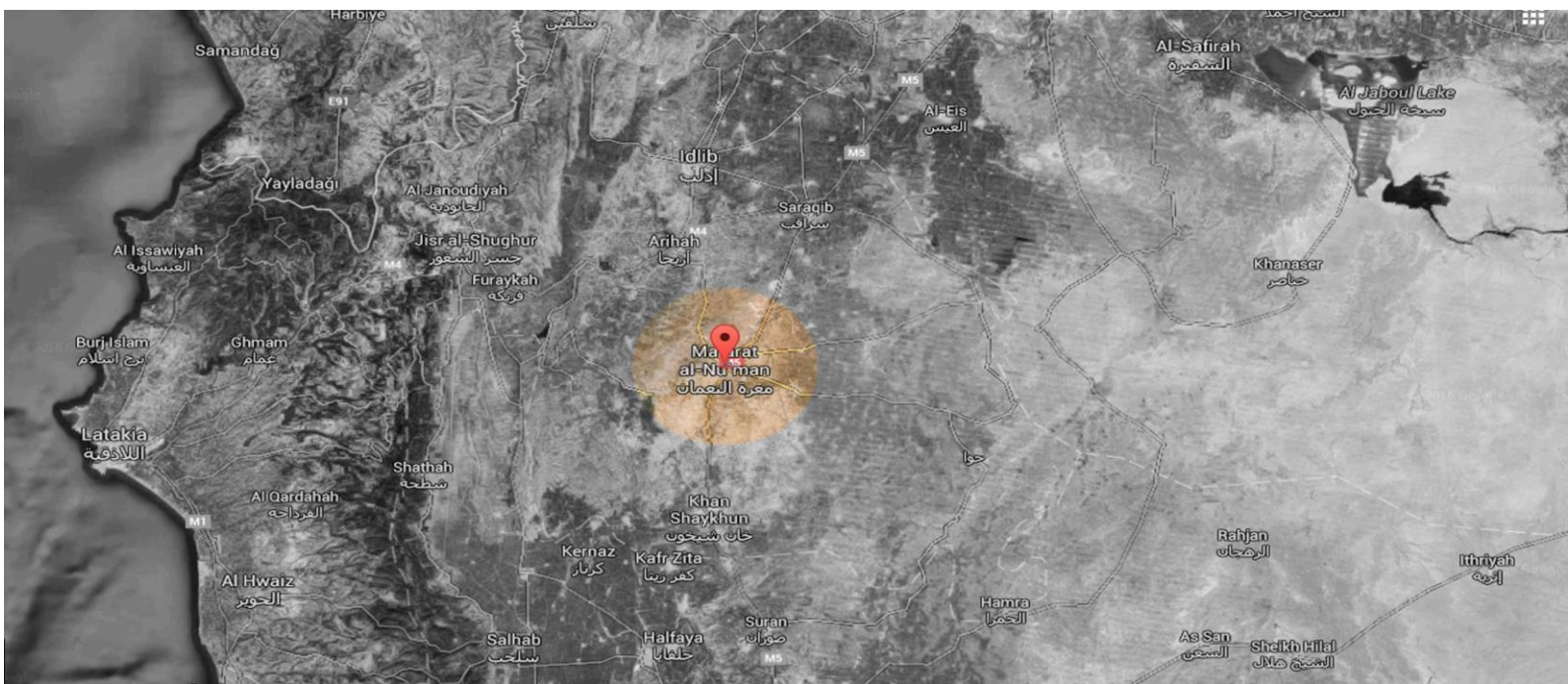
## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

### Final Report: Protection of Mosaics

### Ma'arrat Al-Numan Museum

2 August 2018



**Project Name:** Emergency intervention at Ma'arrat al-Numan to protect exposed mosaics on display and in storage.

**Location:** Ma'arrat al-Numan museum is located in the city of Ma'arrat al-Numan in Idlib province.

**Contractor:** Syrian Cultural Heritage Center

**Start date:** June 1st, 2018

**End date:** August 1st, 2018

**Project duration:** Eight weeks only.

**Funded and supported by the UNESCO Emergency Safeguarding of Syrian Cultural Heritage Project**

An air strike targeted Ma'arrat al-Numan museum (Murad Pasha Caravansary) with two missiles causing extensive damage to the north west corner of the building:

- 1- The north and west hallway of the third section- both of which had arched ceilings, were both destroyed.
- 2- Three stone beams on the north side, along with two on the west, were destroyed.
- 3- A sarcophagus transported from an area north of Ma'arrat Al-Numan in 1982 and placed on display in the courtyard was destroyed.
- 4- The west wall of the hallway leading to the lavatories in the east has collapsed.
- 5- Structural damage in the north end of the third section.
- 6- Some clay amphorae that had been moved into the third section were destroyed.
- 7- Some mosaics displayed on the north and east sides of the hallway across from the entrance to the third section from the north, were damaged. One mosaic near the west entrance fell to the ground.

**Phase IV:** Protecting any remaining exposed mosaics within museum galleries:

**Workflow proceeded as follows:**

Move exposed mosaics from the courtyard into the museum building for protection.

Lay a protective cover on the mosaics by applying a layer of glue (water soluble) and placing a layer of TYVEK (or similar material) over them.

Protect the mosaics by placing sandbags over and around them. This method of protection has been successfully implemented at the museum of Ma'arra previously and is recommended by the Smithsonian Museum.

The entire process is documented using videos and photographs.

Moving the mosaics from the courtyard into the museum building





Preparing exposed mosaic for protection





Covering mosaic with water soluble glue



Covering mosaic with cloth over the glue



Filling up sandbags for protecting mosaics





Preparing Sandbags





Sandbagging the cloth covered mosaic







Sandbagging mosaics



Cleaning the museum wings and securing the mosaics

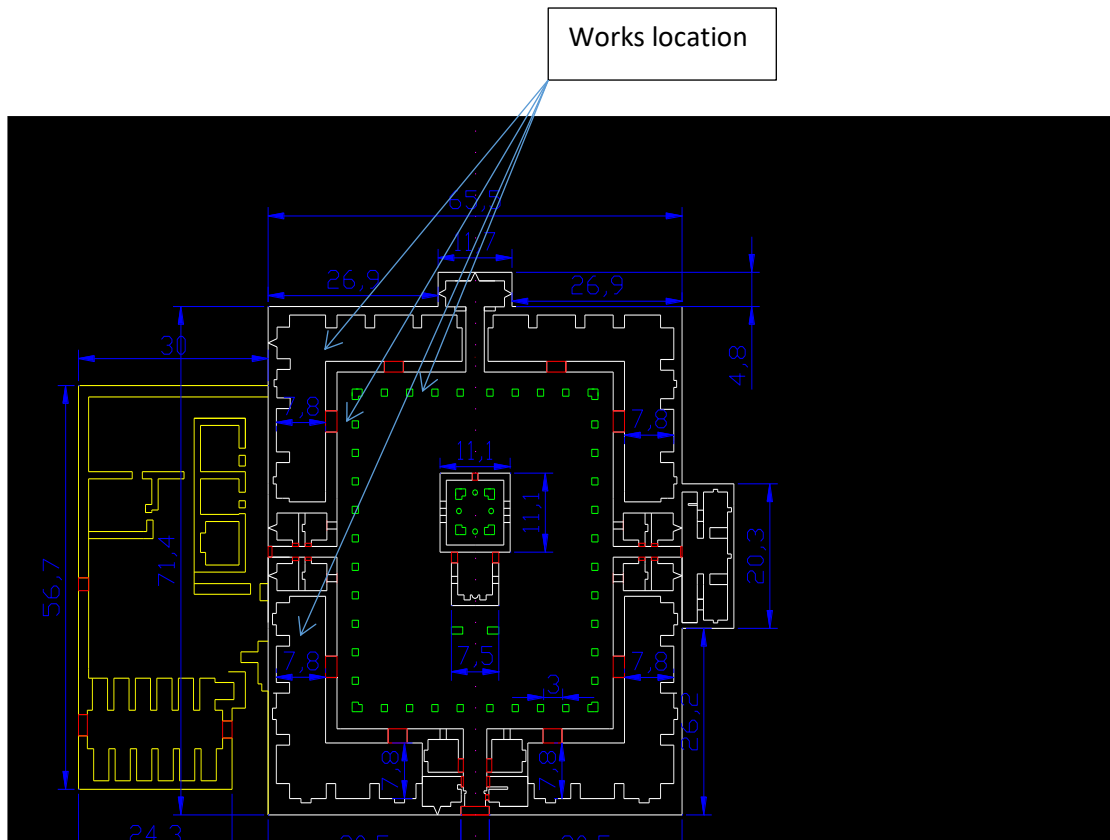




Restoring damaged stone burial tombs







**Work executed by:**

Abdul Rahman al-Yahya (Engineer)  
 Nayef al-Qaddour, Ahmad al-Annan, Akram al-Qassoum, and  
 Mohammed al-Battal (Archaeologists)

Syrian Cultural Heritage Center  
 On August 18th, 2018

**Report by:**

Abdul Rahman al-Yahya  
 Khaled Hiatlih

**Site monitors project director:**

Dr. Amr Al-Azm

