



DONOR IMPACT REPORT

Project Grants: Shepard Urgent Action Grants 2020-2023



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2023 Donor Impact Summary



\$30,000

awarded to
emergency
conservation
efforts

4

emergency/
stabilization
projects
funded

Organizations & Universities of Recipients:

- *University of Palermo*
- *Hatay Mustafa Kemal University*
- *Ilia State University*
- *Humboldt University of Berlin*

2023 Scholarship Recipient Names:

- *Paula Sconzo*
- *Murat Akar*
- *Mariam Eloshvili*
- *Anke Weber*

Names of Projects & Initiatives:

- *Rescue Operations at the Site of Cham Pashaya, II*
- *Post-earthquake Action at Tell Atchana/Alalakh (Hatay, Turkey)*
- *Emergency Excavation for Data Collection from the Late Neolithic Settlement at Khramis Didi Gora, Georgia*
- *Stabilizing History. Emergency documentation and consolidation of the pillars in the burial chamber of the tomb of pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt*



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Rescue Operations at the Site of Cham Pashaya, II

Dr. Paola Sconzo (2023)
University of Palermo

Thanks to the Shepard Urgent Action Grant, a Kurdish-Italian team carried out a three-week salvage mission at the the Site of **Cham Pashaya, II (Iraq)** as part of the ongoing **ReLand (Resurfacing Landscapes: Mosul Dam Archaeological Project)**.

Cham Pashaya II is a burial mound located in KRG of Iraq. It has a great cultural bearing as it apparently belongs to the Late Chalcolithic period, a critical phase which sees the establishment of the first "proto-urban model" in Upper Mesopotamia.

The site, flooded in 1988 by the Mosul Dam Lake, has remained mostly underwater, resurfacing only twice, in 2018 and in 2023. it is vulnerable to flood-related destruction, vandalism, and looting.

The grant enabled the team to clear a **150 square foot area, uncover 25 graves, and fully excavate five** before the cemetery returned underwater.



Dr. Sconzo consults with the project's partner, Dr. Bekas Jamaluddin Hasan Al-Brifkany, from the Duhok Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage.



One of the largest graves.



An anthropologist at work.



Sconzo Cham Pashaya Examples of Cist Graves.

Before & After: Cham Pashaya II, returned to the sea

Along with natural catastrophes and destruction during conflict, artificial dam construction and the consequent water impact are primary causes of the loss of archaeological heritage. Once submerged, most flooded sites do not re-emerge. Others periodically resurface due to the reservoir's exceptional or cyclical water fluctuation processes, and once again reveal the evidence of their past. Without the swift action permitted by the Shepard Urgent Action Grant, the cist graves of Cham Prashaya would have returned underwater unexamined in the flooding a few days before the team's departure.

16-04-2023

17-04-2023

18-04-2023

20-04-2023

Cemetery Cham Pashaya. Rising of the water level in the days before the departure of the team



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



Post-earthquake Action at Tell Atchana/Alalakh (Hatay, Turkey)

Murat Akar (2023)
Hatay Mustafa Kemal University



Baran Kerim Ecer, H el ene Maloigne, B u ra Hekimo lu and Defne Bilgili working at the tripartite gate



The Middle Bronze Age Tripartite Gate System after preservation efforts



The Tell Atchana Team, 2023

Tell Atchana, Alalakh, is located along the major branch of the Orontes (Asi) River in the Amuq Valley of Hatay and was the capital of the regional kingdom of **Mukishin** the second millennium BC. Among the remarkable discoveries, the palaces and gate complex exposed in the 1930s stand as hallmarks of ancient Near Eastern architecture.

Being very close to the fault line, the monuments were severely damaged by the February 6th Kahramanmara  earthquakes. A Shepard Urgent Action Grant enabled this team to preserve the culture heritage at this key Bronze Age settlement by using conservation techniques like **mudbrick capping**, seen on the left.

The archaeologists at Tell Atchana **utilized their research centers as a humanitarian support center for the nearby villages.** Due to their efforts and support from crowd funding campaigns, containers, tents, food and medical supplies were distributed to the community.

Going into 2024, the researchers at Tell Atchana will **continue their preservation efforts** as well as assisting in further **community outreach.**

Scan to learn more



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Stabilizing History. Emergency documentation and consolidation of the pillars in the burial chamber of the tomb of pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings, Egypt

Anke Weber (2023)
Humboldt University of Berlin

The tomb of Pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings was flooded several times in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The devastating intrusion of rainwater caused major destruction in the rear part of the tomb, including the destabilization of four pillars in the burial chamber.

A Shepard Urgent Action Grant is enabling a team of Egyptian and foreign conservators to map and consolidate these pillars. They will work together to record the damages and fill the cracks and fissures with appropriate previously tested material to save these areas from collapse.



Fig. 3. Pillars in the burial chamber of KV 11 before initial treatment. P1, P5, and P7 (above). P2, P4, P6, and P8 (below). ©The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project, photos: A. Weber, 2019

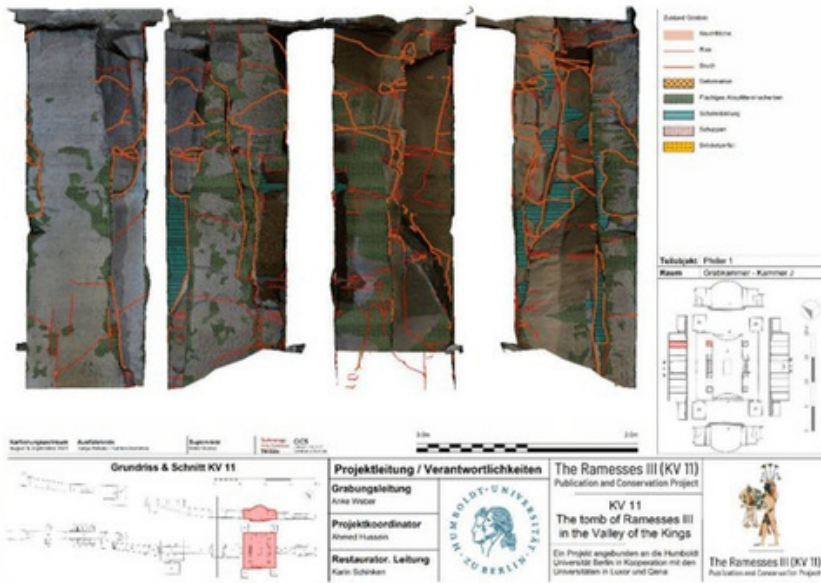


Fig. 4. Examples for damage mapping on pillar P1. ©The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project



Drawing by J. Bonomi (©British Library, Robert Hay, Add. MS 29818, p. 29) of the burial chamber with camera lucida in 1823 and overlapping modern photograph. ©The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, The Ramesses III (KV 11) Publication and Conservation Project, photo: J. Kramer, 2019

Emergency Excavation for Data Collection from the Late Neolithic Settlement at Khramis Didi Gora, Georgia

Miriam Eloshvili (2023)
Ilia State University

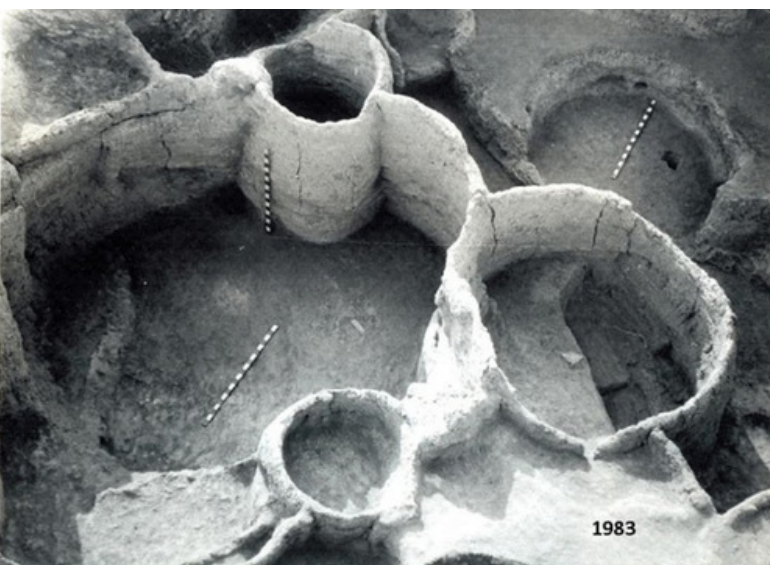
Khrami's Didi Gora is the largest Late Neolithic settlement in the southern Caucasus. The site is located in Kvemo Kartli (Georgia), was excavated in the 1970–80s, and has never been published and examined.

The hill is an active modern-day cemetery, which destroys crucial information. The site's excavated layers reflect all the stages of development of the culture from the migration to the Caucasus until its disappearance.

A Shepard Urgent Action Grant is enabling this team to collect data to be able to date all the stages of this culture before its eternal destruction.



Map of Khrami's Didi Gora location



1983 excavation photo



The damage expansion on the settlement



Before & After: Completed project photos.



(2021) Fayoum University: *Akhmim Tomb C4, Egypt*



(2022) Sela: *Roman Bathhouse in Petra, Jordan*

Lifetime Donor Summary Impact



\$59,725

awarded to
emergency
conservation
efforts

8

emergency/
stabilization
projects
funded

Year	Recipient	Country	Project	Organizations & Universities of Recipients
2020	Tobin Hartnell	Iraq	The Tabira Gate Stabilization Project at Ashur	American University of Iraq, Sulaimani
2020	Lindy Crewe	Cyprus	Stabilisation and refurbishment of a Chalcolithic roundhouse visitor centre at the archaeological site of Kissonerga-Mosphilia, Paphos District, Cyprus	Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute
2021	Wahid Omran	Egypt	Safeguarding and Documentation the Akhmim Tomb C4	Fayoum University
2022	Maria Elena Ronza	Jordan	Emergency Conservation of the Roman Bathhouse in Petra	SELA for Training and Protection of Heritage
2023	Anke Weber	Egypt	Stabilizing History. Emergency documentation and consolidation of the pillars in the burial chamber of the tomb of pharaoh Ramesses III in the Valley of the Kings	Humboldt University of Berlin
2023	Mariam Eloshvili	Georgia	Emergency Excavation for Data Collection from the Late Neolithic Settlement at Khramis Didi Gora	Ilia State University
2023	Murat Akar	Turkey	Post-earthquake Action at Tell Atchana/Alalakh	Hatay Mustafa Kemal University
2023	Paula Sconzo	Iraq	Rescue Operations at the Site of Cham Pashaya, II	University of Palermo





*Thank you for all you do to support
ASOR's mission to protect and conserve
cultural heritage.*

