



Small Grants Guidance

As part of Building Resilience:

Empowering Civil Society to Protect Heritage Amid Conflict and Climate
Challenges programme

March 2026

ANSCH Small Grants Programme

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Table of Contents

1. About the Programme	2
2. About Heritage for Peace and the ANSCH Network	3
3. Purpose of the Small Grants	4
4. Who Can Apply	5
5. Grant Size and Duration	6
6. Eligible Cultural Heritage.....	7
7. Types of Activities Supported	8
8. Activities Not Supported	9
9. Application Requirements	10
10. Selection Criteria and Process	11
11. Monitoring, Reporting, and Documentation	12

01

About the Programme

This Small Grants Programme supports locally led pilot interventions to protect cultural heritage in conflict- and climate-affected contexts, including Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Palestine (Gaza), and Ethiopia (Tigray). These regions face overlapping conflict, climate stress, displacement, and institutional collapse, while holding some of the earliest and most significant heritage of humanity.

In contexts where insecurity and instability severely limit international access and state capacity, local civil society organisations are often the only actors able to safeguard heritage. This programme prioritises fast, practical, and achievable actions that respond to urgent threats while strengthening local capacity, ownership, and resilience.

This phase of the Small Grants Programme is supported by the Cultural Protection Fund (CPF) and implemented by Heritage for Peace through the Arab Network of Civil Society Organisations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH). The programme will be also opened to wider Civil Society Organisations outside (ANSCH) network in the target countries.



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About Heritage for Peace and the ANSCH Network

This Heritage for Peace (HfP) is an international non-governmental organisation working to safeguard cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict contexts through civil society engagement, capacity building, and advocacy.

The Arab Network of Civil Society Organisations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH) is a regional network coordinated by Heritage for Peace. It brings together civil society organisations, professionals, and community initiatives working on heritage protection across the Arab region and neighbouring contexts. ANSCH provides a platform for cooperation, shared learning, and practical action.

This Small Grants Programme builds directly on ANSCH's mission by translating regional cooperation into concrete, locally implemented heritage protection projects, supported by the Cultural Protection Fund.

03

Purpose of the Small Grants

The Small Grants aim to:

- Protect cultural heritage at immediate risk
- Enable local civil society leadership where international intervention is limited
- Support community engagement, including women and youth
- Strengthen practical skills in project delivery, documentation, and reporting
- Generate learning and examples that can be shared across the ANSCH network

The grants are intended as pilot projects, not large-scale conservation programmes.

04

Who Can Apply

Applications are open to:

- Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)
- Non-profit organisations

Applicants must:

- Be based in, or working directly with communities in one of the target countries; Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Palestine (Gaza), and Ethiopia (Tigray).

Grant Size and Duration

Grant amount: £5,000 per project. Grants are intended to support focused, small-scale pilot interventions rather than large or complex conservation programmes.

- Project duration: up to 3–4 months, to be completed within the overall project timeframe. Activities should be designed to respond to urgent needs and be achievable within this period.
- Budgets and timelines must be realistic, clearly justified, and proportionate to the proposed activities, local context, and risks. Applicants are expected to demonstrate value for money and a clear link between costs, activities, and outcomes (costs of money transfer may be included in the budget).

Eligible Cultural Heritage

The Small Grants Programme supports projects focused on the protection of cultural heritage at risk, including both tangible (physical) and intangible (living) cultural heritage in the target countries such as:

- Archaeological sites and monuments
- Historic buildings, religious sites, and traditional architecture
- Historic urban areas and settlements
- Traditional crafts and artisanal skills
- Traditional music, dance, festivals, and costumes
- Oral traditions, stories, and local histories

07

Types of Activities Supported

Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to):

- Emergency or preventive actions to protect heritage at risk
- Documentation and recording of tangible and intangible heritage
- Small-scale conservation or protective measures
- Community-based heritage protection initiatives
- Awareness and education activities directly linked to safeguarding heritage
- Engagement of women and youth in heritage protection and transmission

Projects must demonstrate a clear safeguarding outcome. Activities focused only on cultural expression without a link to heritage protection or transmission are not eligible.

Activities Not Supported

The Small Grants Programme does **not** support the following activities:

- Large-scale reconstruction, major capital works, or long-term infrastructure projects
- Ongoing organisational running costs or core salaries not directly linked to the project
- Academic research, publications, or conferences without a clear safeguarding outcome
- Cultural events, festivals, or performances without a direct link to heritage protection or transmission
- Commercial or income-generating activities as a primary objective
- Activities that may place people, communities, or heritage at risk
- Projects that duplicate existing funded work without clear added value

Projects must demonstrate a clear, practical contribution to safeguarding cultural heritage at risk. Activities that focus only on cultural expression, promotion, or visibility, without a protection outcome, are not eligible.

Application Requirements

Applications should be clear, concise, and proportionate. Applicants will be asked to provide:

- **Heritage significance:** Description of the site or asset and its importance to the community and/or wider heritage.
- **Threats and urgency:** Explanation of risks (conflict, climate impacts, neglect) and why action is needed now.
- **Proposed activities:** What will be done, how, by whom, and where.
- **Organisation and team capacity:** Brief description of the organisation and relevant experience.
- **Community engagement and inclusivity:** How communities, particularly women and youth, will be involved.
- **Timeline and budget:** Simple workplan aligned with activities.
- **Sustainability and follow-up:** How results will be maintained or built upon after the project.

Applications may be submitted in **Arabic or English**.

Selection Criteria and Process

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Significance of the heritage and urgency of the threat
- Relevance and clarity of proposed activities
- Feasibility within budget and timeframe
- Capacity of the applicant to deliver
- Community involvement and inclusivity
- Contribution to learning within the ANSCH network

Projects will be reviewed through an internal and external assessment process, in line with Cultural Protection Fund principles and good practice.

Monitoring and Reporting

Selected grantees will be required to submit:

- A short narrative report (template provided) summarising activities, key results, challenges, community involvement (including women and youth), and lessons learned.
- A simple Excel financial report showing approved budget lines, actual expenditure in local currency, conversion to GBP (with exchange rate used), and any remaining balance. (Please note that the form is available in the application).
- Basic supporting documentation, including receipts or invoices and photographic evidence of activities and results.

All documentation must be clear, organised, and directly linked to the approved project activities.

