



PERMANENT PEACE MOVEMENT  
حركة السلام الدائم



# ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE

YOUTH AS ACTORS  
FOR SOCIAL COHESION  
AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



ROOTING FOR  
THE FUTURE

Supported by



International  
alliance for  
the protection  
of heritage



Gouvernement Princier  
PRINCIPAUTE DE MONACO

“Any society that does not succeed in tapping into the energy and creativity of its youth will be left behind.”

Kofi Annan



# Rooting for the Future

## Empowering youth through heritage conservation

The Rooting for the Future project has been set up to restore and center cultural heritage sites and empower young people.

Rooting for the Future focuses on the restoration and protection of the historic Citadel in Tripoli, Northern Lebanon, a key site at the heart of the country's second-largest city. Through this endeavour, the initiative provides hands-on livelihood opportunities for young people by integrating technical conservation training with essential life and professional skills development.

By creating these opportunities, the project preserves a key landmark while simultaneously opening meaningful employment pathways for the region's youth. In parallel, the initiative promotes social cohesion by bringing together young people from diverse communities in Tripoli through dialogue sessions and collaborative projects centred on their shared heritage.



Kofi Annan  
Foundation



PERMANENT PEACE MOVEMENT  
حركة السلام الدائم





## Placing young people are at the heart of our work

Through our project, 59 young Tripolitans from diverse backgrounds received specialised training in social cohesion issues and cultural heritage. A subset of them focused on heritage conservation techniques and sustainable restoration practices, while also developing life and employability skills.

Beyond the technical restoration work, the project facilitated dialogues in which youth explored themes of youth leadership, cultural heritage, dealing with the past, conflict, and peace. As a result of these exchanges, four youth-led community projects were implemented in Tripoli to celebrate shared heritage, initiate dialogue and strengthen social connections.

By supporting these locally rooted initiatives, the project strengthens youth leadership and social ties and helps preserve Tripoli's cultural heritage for future generations.



# Restoration Work

## Reviving heritage at the heart of the city

Over nine months, the project implemented critical conservation and protection measures for the Citadel of Tripoli, contributing to the preservation of a shared cultural landmark and reinforcing its role as a space that brings communities together.

Technical interventions focused on consolidating 140 meters of the eastern façade and stabilising the North-East corner through careful stone-by-stone reconstruction, including reinforcing the underlying rock base beneath these structures.

Key structural works also included the restoration of the Northern Tower through vault consolidation, waterproofing, and rehabilitation of rainwater drainage systems to reduce the risk of water infiltration.





The project also included emergency stabilization work on two historic buildings located above Hammam Ezzeddine in Tripoli's Old City, which were at risk of partial collapse.

These traditional houses, representative of the architectural heritage and urban character of the old city, hold particular historical significance due to their prominent location overlooking the historic hammam.



The interventions included plaster removal, scaffolding installation, crack injection and the stabilization of structural elements to prevent further deterioration, ensure pedestrian safety in the surrounding area, and protect Hammam Ezzeddine from potential damage.



# Worksite School

## Offering sustainable pathways to employment

In parallel with the restoration works, the project provided sustainable pathways to employment for 20 vulnerable young people through a worksite-school approach combining heritage conservation training with life and employability skills. Bringing together vulnerable youth from different backgrounds and age groups, with equal participation of women and men, the programme fostered a diverse environment centered around cultural heritage preservation.

Through hands-on participation in the rehabilitation of the Citadel of Tripoli, trainees developed practical expertise in masonry, stone restoration, lime-based mortars, structural stabilization, and site management, while gaining exposure to conservation principles and restoration techniques required to join Lebanon's skilled heritage workforce.

Alongside the technical component, participants attended life skills sessions focused on communication, teamwork, stress management, inclusion, and professional development. The programme strengthened confidence, employability, and community engagement, while directly contributing to the site's rehabilitation.





# Dialogues on Social Cohesion

## Cultural Heritage as a common ground for social cohesion

This component focused on developing youth-centred dialogue sessions to foster trust across diverse communities in Tripoli. This began with training 11 youth participants in facilitation skills and social cohesion curriculum. Subsequently, a total of 59 young people, including youth facilitators, were led through a series of community dialogues that used the Citadel's shared history as a platform for discussion and collaboration.

A total of 26 sessions were organised, during which young people engaged with topics such as conflict, peacebuilding, youth engagement, dealing with the past, cultural heritage, and project management. By creating a space where youth from diverse backgrounds and networks collaborate, the project fosters social cohesion by encouraging communities to engage in dialogue on key issues.

Protecting and empowering Tripoli's cultural legacy is an effective means of promoting dialogue and strengthening the social fabric for future generations.





# Community Projects

## Empowering Local Initiatives

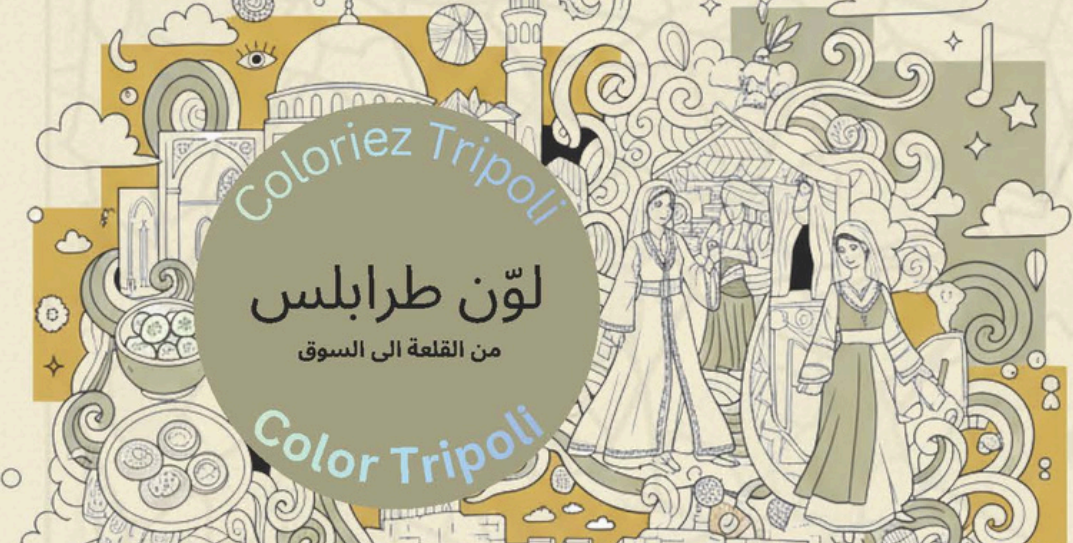
Building on the dialogue sessions, four youth-led initiatives received funding to develop and implement community projects leveraging Tripoli's shared heritage to foster social cohesion.

These projects bring together young people from diverse communities to collaborate on locally-rooted initiatives that strengthen social ties and promote dialogue.

From improving accessibility to promoting traditional crafts, these projects demonstrate the power of youth leadership in heritage protection and in preserving the city's cultural legacy for future generations.







# GenT

Helping children discover Tripoli's common heritage, one picture at a time.

**The idea:** A group of volunteers work to transmit Tripoli's heritage to future generations.

**The vision:** The production of a colouring booklet and the organising of awareness sessions for children to introduce them to Tripoli's history in an engaging and accessible way.

**The impact:** Enhances awareness of the city's heritage from an early age and encourages communication between children and parents through shared cultural activities. It aims to strengthen a sense of belonging and identity, encourage organisations to protect heritage, and address cultural isolation amid the proliferation of digital content.

**Results:** Interactive reading and colouring workshops were organised for children, creating an engaging environment. The team organised school visits to ensure diversity and inclusivity in the implementation process.



# Stories Without Barriers

Making cultural heritage accessible to all.

**The idea:** A team of young people dedicated to making heritage a shared space for everyone.

**The vision:** Setting up QR codes for sign-language videos and Braille text throughout the Citadel.

**The impact:** Promotes inclusivity in cultural spaces and provides accessible content for people with visual and hearing disabilities, serving as a model for cultural accessibility.

**Results:** Six inclusive storytelling videos in LSL language interpretation were produced and spread across multiple Citadel locations. The team developed accessible digital content and integrated QR-enabled multimedia experiences for visitors through 15 QR panels. The team launched an “Inclusive Citadel” digital campaign to raise awareness and conducted community outreach visits to support the Deaf community.



# Ruwaad al Kalaa

Heritage as a space for dialogue.

**The idea:** Interactive cultural tours to link heritage and community cooperation.

**The vision:** Conducting guided tours of the Citadel and its surroundings, combined with interactive workshops on shared history.

**The impact:** Brings together residents from different backgrounds to collaborate on activities rooted in their city. The project aims to encourage a sense of belonging through dialogue and cooperation and to foster social cohesion among groups.

**Results:** Two community-led tours of the Citadel were held, with a total of 120 participants. The tours included visits to the Al-Mansouri Great Mosque, Saint George Cathedral, the Old Souks, and the Citadel, as well as a cultural puppet show at the latter location.



# Kounoz Tarablos

Teaching children about their common cultural heritage by doing and acting.

**The idea:** Young people explore the links between heritage sites and traditional crafts.

**The vision:** Organising visits to traditional soap manufacturers and workshops in pottery-making, connecting children with Tripoli's intangible heritage.

**The impact:** Strengthens a sense of belonging and identity while building social cohesion, especially between children. Through traditional food, workshops and visits, it reconnects participants with the city's living heritage.

**Results:** 20 children participated in these visits to discover Tripoli's intangible heritage through soap workshops, pottery studios, and traditional dishes. A video was produced featuring these visits and workshops.

# With Thanks

---

## **We would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their support:**

DISTRUCT Solutions  
Jean-Paul Chami  
Ilina Slavova  
Knox Thames, Emily Scolaro, and  
Emily Cole from Pepperdine  
University

Nour Karam  
The Municipality of Tripoli  
The Order of Engineers and Architects in  
Tripoli  
Wassim Moussa  
YMCA Lebanon

## **This project would not have been possible without our participants (facilitators, work site school, dialogue sessions, seed grantees) who we would like to thank for their hard work:**

Abdelkader Joud  
AbdelHafiz Derbas  
Aline Youssef  
Amar Charafo  
Assil Balla  
Ataa Abou Leila  
Aya Trad  
Ayman Mohamad  
Dany Yakhni  
Doaa Fattouh  
Douaa Cheikh Khamis  
Emneh Charafeldin  
Fadi Hawchar  
Fadila Wehbe  
Farah Hawchar  
Fatima Mariam  
Fida Hawchar  
Ghaith Obeid  
Ghazwa Masri  
Ghinwa Melhem  
Hassan Assaad  
Ihab Khalil  
Jawad Tabbouch  
Kamal Sahyouni  
Khaled Chouk  
Mahmoud Kamali

Mariam Ali  
Mireille Lattouf  
Mohamad Mawas  
Mohamad Oweida  
Mohamad Hmouda  
Mona Renno  
Nada Ziadeh  
Nariman Mohamad  
Nivine Sleiman  
Rabih Kamzoul  
Rana Khoder  
Rayyan Abdelkader  
Rayyan Hannouf  
Reeham Sahmarani  
Rima Najjarin  
Roukaya Mohamad  
Saleh Saleh  
Sally Kassem  
Samira osman  
Sandra Raffoul  
Shahad Jarahabesh  
Shaymaa Rifaai  
Siham Al Raja  
Souha el Okleh  
Souhayb Kerdi  
Yara Trad

Yasmine Charafo  
Zeina Rabaa

Special thanks are given to the seed grantees who carried out essential projects:

- GEN T and the organizations that assisted them.
- Kounoz Tarablos and the organizations that assisted them.
- Ruwaad Al Kalaa and the organizations that assisted them.
- Stories without Barriers and the organizations that assisted them.

**Photo credits:** DISTRUCT Solutions, Kofi Annan Foundation, Permanent Peace Movement, IECD, Wassim Moussa. All photos have been used with consent. Photos are not to be republished.



# Partners

---

## **Fight for Humanity (FFH)**

FFH works to fulfil the human rights of individuals affected by armed conflict and violence. It advocates for the respect for human rights and contribute to peace in countries affected by armed violence and conflict through campaigns, dialogue and training.



## **Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD)**

IECD is an international solidarity organisation, supporting human, economic and social development in the countries where it operates. Its mission is recognised as being in the public interest. It implements projects in the fields of education, entrepreneurship and access to employment through training.



## **Kofi Annan Foundation (KAF)**

The Kofi Annan Foundation is a Geneva-based NGO founded by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Advancing democracy, youth leadership and international cooperation. We build on Kofi Annan's legacy for peace, working for a fairer and more peaceful world.



---

## Permanent Peace Movement (PPM)

PPM was founded in 1986 by a group of university students. Unified by their aversion to violence and common vision of a peaceful future, they set the cornerstone for what has grown into an experienced organization that promotes peace in the MENA region.



PERMANENT PEACE MOVEMENT  
حركة السلام الدائم

## The Directorate-General of Antiquities (DGA)

The DGA is a Lebanese government directorate, a technical unit of the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for the protection, promotion and excavation activities in all sites of national heritage in Lebanon.



وزارة الثقافة  
المديرية العامة للأثار  
Ministry of Culture  
Directorate General of Antiquities

# Supported by

---

## **Supported by ALIPH with the financial participation of the Principality of Monaco**

ALIPH is the main global fund dedicated to protecting cultural heritage endangered by conflict, crises, climate change, and natural disasters. It supports the people on the ground who take concrete measures to protect or restore museums, sites and monuments, and intangible heritage in the most challenging contexts. Since its creation in Geneva in 2017, ALIPH has supported about 600 projects in 64 countries.

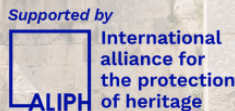
*Supported by*



# ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE



PERMANENT PEACE MOVEMENT  
حركة السلام الدائم



SCAN TO LEARN MORE