



# HERITAGE EMERGENCY FUND

## How does it work?

### 1) What is the Heritage Emergency Fund?

The Heritage Emergency Fund, a multi-donor and non-earmarked funding mechanism, was established by UNESCO in 2015, to enable the Organization to respond quickly and effectively to crises resulting from armed conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards all over the world.

### 2) What are the aims of the Heritage Emergency Fund?

The Heritage Emergency Fund aims at strengthening the ability of Member States to prevent, mitigate and recover the loss of cultural heritage and diversity in emergencies and advocating for the incorporation of the protection of culture into humanitarian action, security strategies and peace-building processes, including to harness the potential of culture to strengthen resilience and support recovery.

### 3) What is the scope of the Heritage Emergency Fund?

The Heritage Emergency Fund finances activities that address an emergency, defined as follows:

*a situation, resulting from natural or human-made hazards, including armed conflict, in which a Member State finds itself unable to overcome the severe consequences on the protection, promotion and transmission of heritage or on efforts to foster creativity and protect the diversity of cultural expressions.*

The activities supported by the Fund must fall within the domains of the UNESCO Culture Conventions, and in particular: cultural and natural immovable heritage, cultural movable heritage, cultural repositories, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural goods, services and activities. Our latest Annual Progress Report, presenting interventions in these different areas, is available [here](#).

### 4) Who can apply?

Support under the Heritage Emergency Fund may be requested by the Secretariat of a UNESCO Culture Convention or a UNESCO Field Office, in consultation with national authorities, at any time of the year and through a dedicated Application Form. UNESCO Member States wishing to request the assistance of the Fund can contact the relevant Field Offices, who will launch the process.

### 5) Who are the beneficiaries of the Fund?

The Heritage Emergency Fund supports activities in UNESCO Member States, focusing in particular on:

- Least Developed Countries as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy;
- Lower-middle-income Countries as defined by the World Bank;
- Level 3 emergencies as designated by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) in consultation of the Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC);

- Countries where a mission coordinated by the United Nations Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (UNDPKO) is based.

#### **6) What is the funding ceiling?**

The maximum amount which may be requested from the Heritage Emergency Fund for each application is US\$ 100,000.

#### **7) Who decides on the allocation of resources of the Heritage Emergency Fund?**

Within the authority delegated by the Director-General, the Assistant Director-General for Culture, or his/her representative, is responsible for the approval of requests for funding.

#### **8) What are the criteria for the allocation of resources of the Heritage Emergency Fund?**

Any funding request must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- contribute to achieving one of the objectives the Fund (see question 2);
- concern an emergency (see the definition presented in question 3);
- refer to Culture as a whole or to one of the dimensions of Culture covered by the UNESCO Culture Conventions (see question 3).

In the case of preparedness activities, the following priority considerations will be taken into account in deciding whether assistance under the Heritage Emergency Fund should be granted, to the extent possible and as appropriate:

- support a country which has never previously benefited from the Fund's resources;
- play a catalyst effect ("seed money"), promoting financial or in-kind contributions from other sources;
- be still unfunded, after consideration of other possible funding sources;
- ensure balance in the distribution of the resources, between:
  - regions;
  - different dimensions of culture covered by the UNESCO Culture Conventions;
  - preparedness and response activities;
  - nature of the emergency to be addressed (conflicts vs. natural disasters);
  - type of activity to be implemented (surveys, trainings, urgent safeguarding measures, etc.).

#### **9) How long is the approval process, from the submission of an Application to the final decision?**

The approval process takes approximately one week for emergency response, and two weeks for emergency preparedness activities. The activity implementation period usually does not exceed 12 months. Activities are implemented by the Secretariat of the UNESCO Culture Convention or by the UNESCO Field Office who originally requested assistance.

#### **10) Who can contribute to the Heritage Emergency Fund?**

The Heritage Emergency Fund is supported by voluntary contributions received from UNESCO Member States, International Agencies and Organizations, as well as other entities, and private donors. To support the Fund, please click [here](#).