



Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in the SUDAN



Support for the rehabilitation of the Institute of African and Asian Studies and Folklore Department of the University of Khartoum (2019)

In response to the fragile security situation in Sudan and ongoing civil unrest the Institute of African and Asian Studies (IAAS) requested UNESCO's support for the rehabilitation of workplaces and the replication of the existing collection of ethnographic and research data. Due to the unrest in Sudan, the University of Khartoum, including its Folklore Department and the IAAS, has been significantly damaged. The HEF, therefore, supported asset replacement and procurement in order to ensure resumption of research and work at the IAAS, notably buying office equipment, including eight computers. To ensure sustainability of the action and to support the documentation and archival efforts of the IAAS, a copy of existing archives of IAAS's ethnographic and research database – amounting to 40 TB – was created and shared with the National Council for Cultural Heritage and Local Languages Development – the leading Sudanese government body responsible for the UNESCO 2003 *Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage*.

Development of emergency preparedness and response plans for the Sudanese National Museum and two World Heritage properties in Sudan (2019)

In the context of ongoing destruction, looting and damages in several countries of the Arab Region affected by conflicts and political instability, the Department of Antiquities and Museums of Sudan sought the support of UNESCO in order to mitigate key security-related risks at its National Museum and at the two World Heritage properties of 'Gebel Barkal and the Sites of the Napatan Region' and the 'Archaeological Sites of the Island of Meroe'. In response, the HEF supported the organization of a three-day workshop in April 2019 on 'General Principles of Risk Management for Culture', targeting 18 management staff of Sudanese museums and World Heritage properties (including 5 women). As a follow-up to the workshop, expert missions were dispatched to the National Museum and to the two World Heritage properties, in order to assess vulnerabilities, risks and threats for each heritage component and to identify targeted risk-mitigation strategies. A final workshop was organized in October 2019, where the outcomes of the risk assessments were presented and discussed with 42 participants (including 23 women) representing the Sudanese World Heritage properties and museums.