



UNESCO

**Activities supported by
the Heritage Emergency Fund in
BURKINA FASO**

Safeguarding of museum collections in Burkina Faso (2019-2020)

Burkina Faso faces complex, interdependent and multidimensional challenges. The recently deteriorated security context makes the destruction, looting, illicit trafficking and sale of cultural objects highly likely, as has been the case in recent years in neighbouring African countries such as Mali and in conflict zones around the world. Faced with this situation, the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism of Burkina Faso had begun an attempt to relocate the collections of the museums of Pobé-Mengao and Oursi to safer locations. Due to the lack of resources, however, this operation could not be accomplished and thus, local and national authorities asked for UNESCO's support. The activity, supported by the HEF, was implemented through four complementary components: the organization of a training workshop focused on rapid inventory; emergency conservation and evacuation of heritage collections for 25 heritage professionals of Burkina Faso; the actual rapid inventory, packing, evacuation and securitization of the artefacts from the three museums involved; the securitization, organization and internal installation of the cultural objects in a safe location; and the digitalization of the inventories of the three museums.