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Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN



Damage assessment mission to the region of Kermanshah (2017) © UNESCO

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for Culture in the Islamic Republic of Iran (2019)

In March and April 2019, heavy rain and subsequent flooding and landslides caused loss of lives, human displacement and extensive destruction in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of the country's 31 provinces, 25 were affected. Golestan, Khuzestan, Lorestan and Ilam were the worst affected regions. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran requested the assistance of the UN, the World Bank and the EU to conduct a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which took place in July 2019. In this context, UNESCO was designated as the lead UN agency for the coordination of the assessment of the culture sector, implemented in close consultation with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). The PDNA mission targeted three affected provinces – Lorestan, Khuzestan and Golestan – to evaluate the effects and impact of the floods on the culture sector. In order to avoid duplication of efforts and maximize the efficiency of the PDNA, it was decided to focus primarily on the losses – and not only on the damages, which had already been the object of the previous national assessment. There was a special focus on the impact the floods had had on intangible cultural heritage, which previously, had not been given due consideration. Thanks to the support of the HEF, moreover, weekly meetings of the Culture and Tourism Sub-Sector team were held in order to discuss the gathered data and develop the Culture and Tourism Chapter of the PDNA report.

Emergency rehabilitation of Moavenalmolk Takie and Biglorbeghi Takie in Kermanshah (2018)

In December 2017, the Heritage Emergency Fund supported a rapid post-earthquake damage assessment in the region of Kermanshah, in collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). Following the report of the damage assessment mission, UNESCO received a request for technical support for the emergency stabilization and rehabilitation of two sites, Moavenalmolk Takie and Biglorbeghi Takie, both situated in the Kermanshah region. The *takies* (sites) are used for important public functions as well as various religious and cultural ceremonies, thus representing important cultural spaces for the local communities. The Heritage Emergency Fund financed an expert who worked closely with local technicians to carry out in-depth technical analysis and on-site investigations for the preparation of a detailed rehabilitation plan, which includes a list of proposed interventions. This contributed to reinforcing the capacities of ICHHTO staff in the rehabilitation of historical monuments. A video featuring the emergency rehabilitation of the two *takies* was produced.

Damage assessment mission to the region of Kermanshah (2017)

In November 2017, a series of earthquakes occurred in the region of Kermanshah, in the western part of Iran. The disasters caused significant loss of life and livelihoods. In addition, the seismic events caused damage to a number of heritage sites. In this context, the Heritage Emergency Fund supported a rapid post-earthquake damage assessment to the affected sites in partnership with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts & Tourism Organization (ICHHTO). During the assessment, priorities, as well as key structural interventions were identified, in order to avoid further damage. The mission, which took place from 13 to 21 December 2017, resulted in the elaboration of a detailed technical report, which provided: an assessment of the typology and level of damage as a result of the seismic events; an assessment of new risks; an overview of the cultural needs of the communities around the sites; and the identification of priorities as well as recommendations of possible interventions.