



#UNITE4HERITAGE



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UNESCO HERITAGE EMERGENCY FUND

In armed conflict or natural disaster situations, culture is particularly at risk, owing to its inherent vulnerability and tremendous symbolic value. UNESCO works with the international community to protect culture and harness its power as a positive force to prevent conflicts and facilitate peace-building and recovery, as well as its potential to reduce negative impacts on lives, property, and livelihoods in case of a catastrophic event.

The Heritage Emergency Fund is a multi-donor fund for the protection of heritage in emergency situations. It was created by UNESCO to finance activities and projects that enable the Organization to assist its Member States in protecting natural and cultural heritage from disasters and conflicts by more effectively preparing for and responding to emergencies.

“Everybody’s cooperation is vital.
There is no limit to what we can do
when we stand together to defend heritage
and protect our shared history.
The stakes are high – but we can act,
as we have in the past.”

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Photo credits

Front: Umayyad Mosque, Aleppo, Syria (2013) © UNESCO

Back: Debris from a collapsed temple in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bhaktapur, Nepal (2015) © Omad Havana, Getty Images



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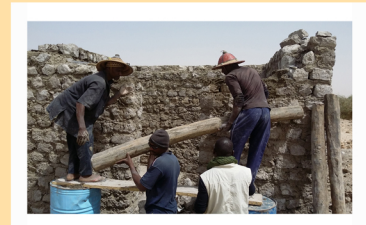
We protect heritage in emergencies

Culture is increasingly threatened by conflicts and natural disasters. UNESCO works to ensure its protection, supporting communities prepare for and respond to emergency situations. This contributes to restore hope and social cohesion, safeguard livelihoods, and facilitate reconciliation.

BE PART OF THE EFFORT

Help communities' cultural recovery

UNESCO works with local partners to rehabilitate cultural heritage that has been destroyed or damaged during conflict or natural disaster. In Timbuktu, Mali, UNESCO collaborated with local masonry associations to complete the reconstruction of 14 of the 16 mausoleums inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List and deliberately destroyed by violent extremist groups in 2012 and 2013.



Reconstruction of the Al Taouati mausoleum, Timbuktu, Mali (2015)
© UNESCO-Mamadou Koné

Help us fight illicit trafficking

Looting and illicit trafficking of cultural objects deprive people of their cultural heritage and finance terrorism and criminal networks. UNESCO works to curb illicit trafficking by training law enforcement and customs officers, tracking down illegal trade patterns, and seizing looted objects for restitution.



Training in Gaborone, Botswana (2012)
© Thato Maohi

Help us celebrate cultural diversity

UNESCO engages with young people to promote understanding and respect for all of the world's cultures. Join us and contribute to the #Unite4Heritage campaign in celebration of the world's cultural diversity.



Storytelling workshop, Ramallah, Palestine (2015)
© UNESCO

Help us understand what is happening on the ground

Due to the difficult security situation in most conflict and disaster-affected countries, UNESCO monitors damage to cultural heritage via satellite imagery, in cooperation with UNITAR/UNOSAT and other partners. This helps direct first-aid interventions where they are most needed and build strategies to fight illicit trafficking and plan for future recovery.



Old City of Aleppo, Syria (22 October 2014)
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