Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in INDONESIA

Cultural heritage risk mapping at the World Heritage property of ‘Prambanan Temple Compounds’ (2019)

The successive earthquakes which struck Palu and Lombok in 2018 revealed that cultural heritage is not systematically integrated in disaster preparedness, response and recovery processes in Indonesia. As part of a national effort to strengthen disaster preparedness, the Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB) launched an initiative in collaboration with relevant Ministries to assess the vulnerability of public institutions to disasters by incorporating locational data into the Government’s hazard mapping portal (InaRISK). In the framework of the BNPB’s initiative, the HEF supported a pilot mapping exercise at the World Heritage property of ‘Prambanan Temple Compounds’, and the surrounding heritage areas, to collect and integrate relevant cultural heritage data (tangible and intangible) into the InaRISK portal. In close collaboration with the BNPB and the Ministry of Culture, UNESCO deployed a technical team across active faults in the targeted area to collect the necessary data. Following the completion of the pilot, a workshop was organized on 9 December 2019, bringing together the BNPB, Ministry of Culture and technical partners to share the results of the data collection exercise. Through this support, the HEF raised capacities of local partners, including students and community representatives, in digital and information technology and its contribution to cultural heritage preservation.
Needs assessment and technical assistance for weavers in North and East Lombok (2019)

In August 2018, Lombok was hit by a series of earthquakes. As a whole, little assessment was done on the damages that occurred to tangible or intangible cultural heritage, including traditional weaving, which is the main source of livelihood for village women. Following initial consultations carried out by the Cultural Values Preservation Offices of Bali Province with the affected communities, as well as with NGOs working on the ground, the demand for a thorough assessment of ICH emergency needs in Lombok was identified. In this context, Indonesia’s National Disaster Mitigation Agency requested UNESCO’s support to assess the conditions and provide recovery support to the traditional weaving activities in two key areas of the island of Lombok: Bayan Beleq (North District) and Pringgasela village (East District). The project funded through the HEF provided recovery support in two stages. During the first phase, field assessments in East and North Lombok districts were conducted. During the second phase, technical assistance was provided through asset replacement, training for digital archiving and production and marketing support. More than 79 local weavers (out of which 69 were women) attended the marketing and product innovation trainings in Yogyakarta, organized in collaboration with two designers.


An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 on the Richter Scale, hit the city of Palu on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi on 28th September 2018. The earthquake also created a large tsunami as well as soil liquefaction. The disaster led to significant damage to the Museum of Central Sulawesi, in Palu. In response, UNESCO, through the HEF supported a number of activities during the course of 2018 and 2019 aimed at rehabilitating the museum and its unique collection of 17th century Chinese and Japanese ceramics. From 20th to 27th of January 2019, the Vice Director of the museum and the Editor-in-Chief of a local newspaper in Palu (‘Radar Sulteng’) visited Japan to observe current practices at Japanese museums for the protection of collections as well as the development of related community outreach programmes on DRR in collaboration with civil society and the media. This contributed to the capacity building of the museum staff in Palu. They were educated in how to implement disaster-resilient storage and display methods as well as public sensitization and education programmes on DRR for cultural heritage. In addition, in October 2019, a special exhibition on post-disaster activities of the Government of Palu, including the restoration of ceramics at the museum, was organized. This exhibition attracted significant attention from the media and the public.