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Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in Mozambique



Expert interviewing a Mozambican practitioner to assess damages and losses occurred to intangible cultural heritage at the Mercado Maquinino in Beira © UNESCO

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for Culture (2019)

On 14th March 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai hit Mozambique as a high-end Category 2 storm with 175 km/h winds, before moving inland into Zimbabwe and Malawi. The cyclone affected 1.6 million people and resulted in the displacement of thousands of people, loss of life and the destruction of property. In addition, it had a serious impact on the cultural heritage of the affected areas. The disaster also had a negative impact on the practice and transmission of ICH elements. This was a result of the significant displacement of practitioners, driven by the loss of resources for traditional activities. As a result of the widespread impact of the cyclone, the Government of Mozambique (GoM) requested the assistance of the UN, the World Bank, the EU and other international partners to conduct a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). In this context, the HEF funded the mission of three UNESCO staff and four experts to Mozambique to coordinate the PDNA for the cultural heritage sector. The mission took place from 18 to 28 April 2019 and consisted of the provision of a training on the PDNA methodology to eight representatives (including two women) from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Mozambique, the Mozambique National Commission for UNESCO, and the Mozambican Institute for Socio-Cultural Research.

Damage assessment mission to Cabo Delgado and Nampula (2019)

One month following Tropical Cyclone Idai, Tropical Cyclone Kenneth made landfall in Mozambique on 25 April 2019, affecting the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula with wind gusts of up to 220 km/h. As the strongest cyclone to ever hit the African continent, Cyclone Kenneth had a tremendous human impact, leaving an estimated 374,000 people in need. The cyclone had a huge impact on the country's cultural heritage, including at the World Heritage property of 'Island of Mozambique', causing severe damage to the Chapel of '*Nossa Senhora de Baluarte*' in the San Sebastian Fortress. Not only this but the property's various museums, which host a number of important collections, were also damaged. The cyclone also disrupted a number of ICH practices. At the request of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Mozambique, the HEF supported a needs assessment for the culture sector from 22 to 30 November 2019. The needs assessment was conducted by two UNESCO staff and nine national experts (including one woman). UNESCO presented the report of the needs assessment to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and will continue to mobilise partners and resources to support the implementation of reconstruction and recovery activities.