FIRST AID TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Linking cultural heritage with disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance
FIRST AID TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAC) is an ICCROM-led, multi-faceted capacity development initiative.

At its core is a field-tested methodology and a series of simple tools for protecting cultural heritage before, during and after an emergency.

Through targeted training and sharing of knowledge, FAC enables communities, cultural heritage professionals, humanitarians and emergency responders to work together and reduce risks of damage and destruction. The initiative empowers communities to participate in their own cultural recovery, enhancing their resilience.
A GROWING MOVEMENT WORLDWIDE

Since FAC’s beginnings in 2010, hundreds of cultural “First Aiders” from more than 70 countries have been trained.

We build capacity and effect change in three fundamental ways.

**ENHANCING COORDINATION** between cultural heritage, disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance sectors

**IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS** of the cultural heritage sector to cope with large-scale emergencies

**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES** to protect their cultural heritage before, during and after an emergency
FAC is strengthening local capacities

**ENHANCING COORDINATION**

**WORKSHOPS.** For civil protection, military, emergency responders and humanitarians, these three to five-day workshops help develop standard operating procedures for including cultural first aid in national emergency preparedness and response.

**ADVOCACY.** Through international and national fora, seminars and meetings, FAC advocates for integrating culture in national disaster risk management plans and programmes.
IN-DEPTH PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.
Three to five weeks in duration, our training produces skilled and proactive cultural First Aiders.

LEADERSHIP & NATIONAL NETWORKS.
Since 2011, structured follow-up of the international courses has boosted national and regional networks, and helped cultural First Aiders to become leaders.

IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS
EMERGENCY RESPONSE. ICCROM offers in-crisis training to cultural heritage professionals, emergency responders, humanitarians and civil society groups. Field workshops and projects aimed at strengthening local capacities have been carried out in Haiti (2010), Iraq (2017), Myanmar (2016), Nepal (2015-16), Philippines (2013) and South Sudan (2013).

MULTILINGUAL GUIDANCE AND TOOLKITS. FAC provides multilingual manuals and field-tested tools. New resources under development include: crisis mapping, damage and risk assessments, salvage of movable heritage and building fragments, stabilization of heritage structures, planning for early recovery and the use of heritage for conflict transformation.
WHY CULTURE CANNOT WAIT

Places, objects and traditions provide a thread of continuity and a sense of hope.

In the face of a crisis, whether it is caused by nature or human conflict, the impulse for us to safeguard our heritage is strong.

This is what inspired Abdel Hamid to get involved with FAC in 2010. After participating in the international course, he founded the Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation, an NGO dedicated to heritage protection in emergencies. When Cairo’s Museum of Islamic Art was badly damaged by a nearby car bomb in 2014, his team was among the first to enter the site and recover the collections.

Knowing how and where to start makes all the difference.
LOOKING FORWARD

Here are some of the major initiatives we will be rolling out over the next six years.

2018 – 2023
Expanding the network of cultural First Aiders in all of ICCROM’s 136 Member States

2019 – 2020
Including cultural heritage in three to five national emergency management systems. We are aiming for 15 to 20 countries by 2023

2018
Producing a handbook on cultural heritage first aid in English and French

2019
Creating a multilingual video on the FAC methodology

2020
Producing a toolkit for using cultural heritage for conflict transformation and peacebuilding

2023
Evaluation and disseminating results
Through FAC activities, ICCROM is promoting the implementation of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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- **2020**
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- **2020 – 2023**
  Organizing three international meetings for decision-makers to promote coordinated first aid.

- **2021**
  Offering pre-deployment guidance for military, civil defence and humanitarian aid professionals.

- **2022**
  Evaluation and disseminating results.

- **2023**
  Evaluation and disseminating results.
JOIN OUR GROWING NETWORK OF PARTNERS

By partnering with ICCROM, you and your organization will

- **Co-organize FAC courses** and develop professional training customised to your needs

- **Access a growing network** of cultural First Aiders who are ready to lend support in an emergency

- **Contribute knowledge** for developing multilingual resources

- **Benefit** from a wide range of awareness-raising opportunities

- **Contribute to making culture** a part of the sustainable development agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
By linking cultural heritage with disaster risk management and humanitarian assistance, you will contribute to building resilient communities.

OUR PARTNERS

- Cultural Heritage without Borders (Albania)
- Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation
- Italian Civil Protection Department
- Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism
- Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO
- Prince Claus Fund
- Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative
- United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
#culturecannotwait