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Activities supported by the Heritage Emergency Fund in ECUADOR



Emergency conservation of historical archives in Ecuador (2016) © UNESCO

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Following the April 2016 earthquake, one of the action lines included in the culture component of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was related to the implementation of emergency actions in documental heritage in Manabí, the most severely affected province. The project was implemented in ten of the 55 affected archives. Ten workshops were organized and 86 local staff were trained. The trainers conducted theoretical and practical exercises and used tailor-made documentary conservation kits, including tools for the preservation of historical documents and relevant documents. An evaluation mission to the priority archives was later conducted to assess the use of the kits and the application of the processes taught during the first mission. It was confirmed that the delivery of the conservation kits contributed to strengthening the preservation of documents, as the personnel of the archives was able to carry out interventions with high quality materials.

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment for culture in Ecuador (2016)

On 16 April 2016, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck coastal areas in northwest Ecuador, causing widespread damage and loss of life. Subsequently, a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) for Ecuador was undertaken, and UNESCO supported the Government in the drafting of the culture component, aiming at assessing damage to cultural heritage (including historical archives, libraries and museums) in the disaster zone. In this framework, the Heritage Emergency Fund supported the hiring of four consultants (an economist, a local heritage expert and two experts with experience in post-disaster evaluations at archaeological sites and built properties) and their dispatch on two evaluation and assessment missions in the areas affected by the earthquake for the drafting of the culture component of the PDNA.