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Prince Claus Fund for
Culture and Development

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Cultural Emergency Reponse

Decentralizing CER:
A Regional Hub in the Caribbean Region

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Cultural Emergency Response

First aid to cultural heritage under threat due to conflict or disaster

Fast, flexible financial support & expertise

Strengthening the infrastructure for locally-led actions

Culture is a basic need

Independent organisation for first aid to culture in 2022



Our position & approach

1. **Crisis expertise, network and track-record**

Focus – CER focuses specifically on emergency aid and crisis situations

Expertise – 20 years of experience & recognized expert

Network – Trusted global network of over 800 local partners and experts

Unique emergency mechanism – fast, flexible and direct action

2. **Approach – we go where others do not go**

Crisis – we respond to every type of crisis: conflict, man-made and natural disasters

Geography – we work globally, with focus on the most vulnerable regions

Heritage value – we focus on heritage that is of local importance and often overlooked

Locally-led action – we work almost exclusively with local partners

Issues we respond to

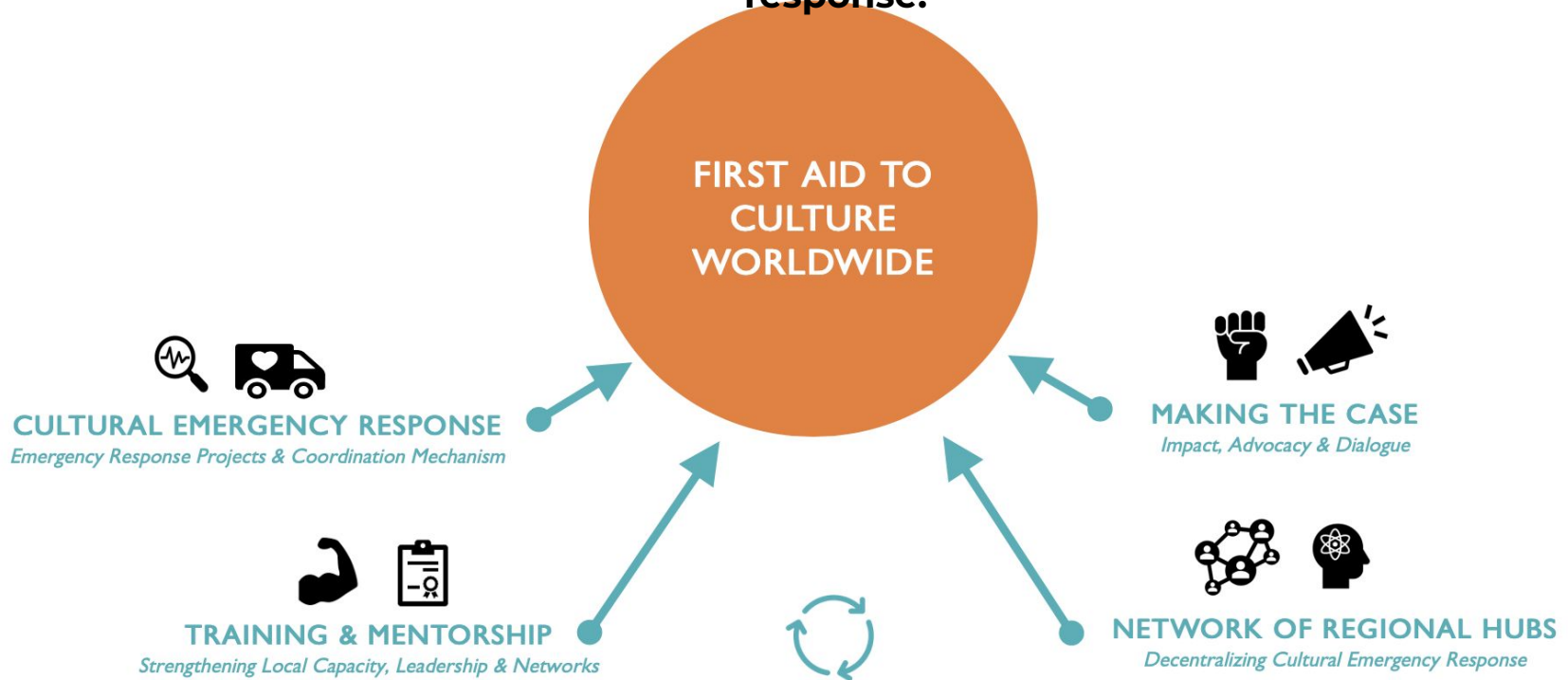
Local communities have limited possibilities to resolve emergencies, especially caused by disaster, in an era where climate change will affect cultural heritage and these communities the hardest.

- Stakeholders need to be better prepared.
- Communities often lack the infrastructure to safeguard their cultural heritage, especially in times of crisis.
- Vulnerable communities are hit disproportionately.
- There is little or no independent funding available for organizations or people that could respond locally.



Cultural Emergency Response

Infrastructure, people, and environment for fast, efficient and impactful response.





In the face of crisis

It became painfully clear that cultural heritage and cultural institutions are incredibly vulnerable in the region.

There is growing awareness, however:

- Infrastructure, capacity & materials are lacking
- **No local entity coordinating efforts**

NETWORK OF REGIONAL HUBS

Decentralizing Cultural Emergency Response

- Organize & strengthen local capacity, infrastructure and response networks.
- Navigate crisis in a sustainable & inclusive way.
- **In crisis:** available expertise & material easily deployable to affected area.
- **In non-crisis:** work closely with local communities & networks to prepare for emergency situations to prevent permanent loss.



Long-term goals:

1. Enable **locally driven, faster & more adequate** cultural emergency response in vulnerable regions, by **decentralizing** efforts and ensuring **regional coordination**.

2. Foster **exchange and support**, mentoring and learning opportunities by creating a global **network** of regional Hubs.

3. Embed cultural emergency response in local policies and **(humanitarian) mechanisms** through advocacy & coordinating efforts with other local actors involved.

4. **Enhance & promote solutions to local problems** and actively share best practices with the global heritage protection community.

Regional Hub Network:

By 2025: 10 Hubs connected & operating worldwide

CER has 3 successfully operating Hubs in:

- 1. Central America:** Guatemala (2019)
- 2. Western Balkans:** Albania, Kosovo & Bosnia Herzegovina (2020)
- 3. Middle East:** Lebanon (2021)

In collaboration with local partners, a Regional Hub for Emergency Response to Cultural Heritage in the Caribbean

- Go-to-center for cultural emergency due to disaster or conflict.
- Manage emergency preparedness.
- Capacity strengthening for heritage protection.
- Coordinate urgent rescue & preservation of cultural heritage in the region.

The Hubs are...

- **Designed and led locally** by experts and established organizations.
- Providers of **expertise**, people & infrastructure for quick local emergencies.
- Trustworthy network to quickly disburse emergency **funding** in large-scale crisis.
- Eyes & ears on ground for scouting, selecting & coordinating first aid projects.



= **LOCAL LEADERS**



LEADING EXAMPLE- HUB IN CENTRAL AMERICA

- **Established in 2019** by project partner/ trained in First-Aid to Cultural Heritage.
- **Strengthening regional capacity** in cultural heritage protection and crisis response Network + training sessions- stakeholders (13 First-Aid Course bilingual courses and translation FAC manual to Spanish).
- **Emergency response and preparedness** adapted to local context and provided for risk preparedness, mitigation and mapping (risk assessments for 5 regional cultural sites).
- **Acute cultural emergency response coordinated** and implemented for 4 damaged cultural heritage in Guatemala and El Salvador (disasters induced by natural hazards).
- **Advocacy** for the integration of culture into disaster relief efforts- participating in 13 international conferences and active member of the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network (CHEN).
- **Awareness to protect CH** raised at national level- authorities and civil protection actors.

The urgency in the Caribbean:

- Highly vulnerable to natural hazards- Climate Change Crisis- increasingly threatening the rich/diverse cultural heritage.
- Limited coordination in the region of cultural emergency response networks, efforts, expertise, resources, and materials.
- Local heritage stewards have limited expertise, means, & networks to respond quickly & efficiently.
- Limited transfer of knowledge & sharing of expertise on heritage protection at local level.

The role of CER in the Regional Hub Programme:



- Developing a global network & mentorship programme.
- Supporting locally adapted training courses, preparedness & mitigation plans.
- Advocating & lobbying with regional policy makers and civil society.
- Fundraising for & the disbursement of emergency funding for cultural emergencies in the region.

Gracias
Merci
Thanks

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Fonds

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