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HERITAGE
Guidelines for COVID-19

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HERITAGE
Guidelines for COVID-19

Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen

By

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PART 2

COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

Introduction

This chapter sets out the situation of heritage and heritage management in Libya as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will begin by describing the situation, before suggesting advice for heritage staff responding to the crisis, with links to further resources. It also contains specific sections on the effects on archaeological sites, and museums and libraries, and advice on their management, as well as specific advice on digital tools. It is primarily aimed at heritage workers, or those interested in the effects of the pandemic on the heritage of these areas.

Libya is facing several challenges, including building a functioning and unified state, fighting between non-state troops, and now mitigating the pandemic. The country is currently divided between two powers: the internationally recognized "Government of National Accord" (GNA) who essentially controls the capital, Tripoli, and some surrounding towns, while the "Libyan National Army" (LNA, recently rebranded as Libyan Arab Army Forces, LAAF) of General Khalifa Haftar controls most of the east and the south of the country. Still in 2020 the conflict is taking a heavy toll on Libya's already struggling economy, with funds that should be going into critical infrastructure redirected to the war effort by both the GNA and the LAAF. An oil blockade, imposed by the LNA, has resulted in more than $4 billion in financial losses to the GNA authorities. The sudden drop in oil prices reduced Libya's profits by 90%; oil revenues are the backbone of the country's economy and 30% of its population rely on state salaries. As a result, in mid-April, the GNA announced a 20% pay cut for civil servants.

Before the latest rounds of fighting, Libya was ill-prepared to face COVID-19. Libyans used to seek medical treatment in neighbouring countries but, after the closure of all land and sea borders, this has become impossible. Both governments quickly imposed a lockdown and curfews on their citizens to suppress the spread of the virus. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), nominally part of the GNA but considered a neutral body, is operating throughout Libya under the guidance of the World Health Organisation (WHO), which has classified Libya amongst its high-risk countries for COVID-19.

However, beyond the civil war, which has been devastating the country, the aftermath of the global virus outbreak will have even worse repercussions. The fighting continues despite the UN secretary-general's call for a global ceasefire in March, 2020. War has left healthcare systems ill-equipped to handle a public health crisis of any scale and recent attacks on its hospitals are making the situation worse. In short, the risk of the further spread of COVID-19 is aggravated by the growing levels of insecurity, political fragmentation, weak health and surveillance system, and high numbers of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Health

Basic data
First case (West Libya): March 24 – a 73 year old man in Tripoli, returning from Saudi Arabia in early March.
First case (East Libya): April 7 - a 55 year old man who came to Libya from Turkey in late March.
Most affected region: Western Libya.
First death: April 2 - an 85 year old woman.
Cases per August 17, 2020[1]
- Confirmed cases 8,172
- Fatalities 153
- Recovered 933

The number of confirmed cases has drastically increased since June and the danger of a second wave of infections remains (see for more updates at ***Resources*** Daily updates).

Underreporting
In Libya, as elsewhere, underreporting of COVID-19 cases is inevitable given the low testing capacity. The main reason remains the limited testing facilities, especially in the Southern part of the country. But, the inability of journalists to freely operate in the eastern and southern parts of Libya makes it hard to obtain reliable information about the real situation of COVID-19 on the ground.

Misinformation
There is generally good information available and Libyans seem to have a good level of understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic and the preventive measures. However, the population seems to be less aware of where to seek assistance if they are displaying symptoms. Even though Facebook and other social media platforms are not reliable sources, they remain the main sources of information for most people. The National Center for Disease Control is praised for disseminating fact-based information. Their website is a good source, in addition to the WHO website. It has a live dashboard that is very up-to-date, detailed and accurate. On the other hand, COVID-19 has become the latest addition to an on-going information war aimed at discrediting the opposing camp. Widespread allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds have fuelled distrust in the authorities. For more see ***Resources*** Other Resources *World Health Organisation* - About COVID-19, - COVID-19 - Questions and answers, - Myth busters and Daily Updates - *National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)* - Dashboard and *World Health Organisation* - Office of Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Health infrastructure
Even before the coronavirus pandemic, almost 10 years of conflict has tremendously affected the capacity of the Libyan health system. The country's public health infrastructure has been neglected since the 2011 uprising - and even before. The health system, normally freely available to every citizen, has been weakened by the war. On top of that, numerous health workers had not been paid since last year until pressure from the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Libya's warring parties are worsening the risk of a COVID-19 crisis with attacks on medical facilities and intentional cuts to water supplies. Hospitals and clinics are both frequently targeted by the various armed groups and militias. Last year, there were 62 attacks on health facilities and one-fifth of the country's hospitals were closed. The NCDC formed a High Committee to Control the Spread of COVID-19

(al- Lajena al-Alia le-Mukafahat Waba Korona) with local branch committees in each municipality and region. Another Central Advisory Committee of health professionals was formed (al-Lajena al-Istashariya al-Alia) with its own committee branches in each municipality. Many health facilities are damaged and closed. Specialized staff and protective equipment are lacking, whilst the remaining hospital beds are occupied by fighters and civilians injured by the war. The continuing lack of supplies remains an overriding concern. Many health workers, especially in the south, are refusing to report for duty because they have no personal protective equipment (PPE). Around 75% of the health facilities are not functioning to capacity due to staff shortages, need of maintenance and repair, or are not accessible due to security issues. The roads are littered with fake check points where travellers are hijacked or kidnapped for ransom, placing anyone going in search of supplies or medical care in danger. Shortage of fuel and recurrent electricity outages are further affecting the provision of health services. Furthermore, local communities and armed groups are resisting the establishment of health facilities in their areas. While high-level advocacy has been successful in the release of critical funds for the national COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and back pay of salaries for health workers, adequate financial resources to combat the pandemic are still a challenge. See for more information on COVID-19 in Libya **Resources** Other COVID-19 Resources on Libya.

State regulations
Given Libya's political division, each side has developed its own response mechanism to the pandemic. The World Health Organization is obliged to speak with both authorities, which is complicating prevention efforts. The national preparedness and response plan for COVID-19 is still to be endorsed by the both authorities. In the absence of a coordinated national response, many municipalities have imposed their own regulations and taken their own measures such as establishing local COVID-19 crisis committees.

Government of National Accord (GNA)
The government in Tripoli took on preventive measures, fining any non-adherents, closing mosques and educational institutions, banning mass gatherings and movements among cities, imposing a strict curfew, restricting air travel, and instituting protocols of temperature checks in airports and land borders. All social activities such as religious services, sports events, and visits to museums and archaeological sites were stopped. Non-essential services were staffed at 15% of their usual level. Estimates of compliance with the above emergency measures vary with the most accurate at 70%.[2] For updates see below at **Resources** Government of National Accord.

Libyan Arab Army Forces (LAAF)
The authorities in the east have attempted to control and silence any voices remotely critical of conditions in the healthcare system. They also banned gatherings and closed institutions. Since international attention has since been on confronting the health crisis, both the GNA and the LAAF escalated military operations without fear of diplomatic repercussions. Both sides have access to weapons, thanks to their international alliances. It is obvious that, in this context, any serious national containment plan is doomed to fail. In addition, both authorities started blaming each other for importing the virus to Libya through foreign mercenaries. Both sides have also issued statements to their foot soldiers not to use any military equipment or weapons seized from the opponents, unless disinfected properly. For updates see below at **Resources** Libyan National Army (LNA/LAAF).

Society

There are many vulnerable populations that are currently in Libya, such as women, prisoners held in overcrowded areas, minorities, hundreds of thousands of displaced people, and migrants - they have perhaps suffered the most. The long-lasting civil war has intensified during July-August this year. Locked-down residential districts have been shelled. Hundreds of thousands of migrants who seek to cross the Mediterranean through the country are stranded, with no legal status and around 150,000 people have been displaced because of the fighting.

The current lockdown and rising prices for basic commodities will have a major effect on the income of most Libyans and push many families into poverty. Most cities are facing shortages of basic items, such as eggs, vegetables, and wheat, as the country struggles to import produce in the face of global supply chain breakages and conflict in the western part of the country blocking supply routes. Soon after COVID-19 measures were implemented, food prices spiked in most cities in Libya. The average cost of tomatoes has gone up by more than 200% in some places, peppers by around 40%, while prices for hygiene items have gone up by at least 60%, with prices for gloves and masks having more than tripled.

A major concern during COVID-19 is that 38% of displaced households have reduced their health expenditures in order to cover their basic food needs. The situation is even worse for tens of thousands of, mostly sub-Saharan, migrants and refugees, who are crammed into detention centres after being detained on the Mediterranean by the EU-supported Libyan Coast Guard. There are also a growing number of reports of human rights violations, including hundreds of cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture, and extrajudicial executions by armed groups across the country.

People on the move
According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Libya, the migration hubs along the coasts have been targeted by air shelling. The migrants are trapped without protection, prone to COVID-19 infection, and have limited or no access to health care due to their lack of legal status and discrimination against foreigners. Migrants and refugees, especially those in detention centers, experience overcrowding and insufficient access to food, clean water, and sanitation. 75% of refugees and migrants lost their jobs in March and April. Many were supporting themselves through daily labour, which has had to stop because of the curfew and other restrictions related to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Before Ramadan, some said they could only afford to eat one meal a day. Others are struggling because international money transfers have stopped. Some are facing eviction threats from their landlords since they have fallen behind with rental payments. The barrier to health care access for refugees and migrants in Libya is often not knowing where to go in order to get assistance. If COVID-19 reaches the migrant detention centers, where humanitarian and hygienic conditions are already bad, the aftermath is expected to be catastrophic. According to the United States Institute of Peace,[3] Libyans blame migrants from sub-Saharan Africa for bringing COVID-19 into the country, although there is scant evidence backing that allegation. For more, see below at *Resources* Other resources for Libya *UNHCR* —Libya – COVID-19 Response Update; *IOM* —Libya monthly updates and situation reports and *The United States Institute of Peace (USIP)* —Libya.

Mental health
When the first COVID-19 cases were confirmed the most urgent needs, at that moment, were medical. However, as elsewhere, as the lockdown continued, stress levels rose, particularly inside crowded homes. The violent conflict and the political instability have already claimed much of people's resilience, even before the pandemic. Daily routines were broken, shopping was difficult, children had to stay in in cramped rooms and jobless men and women were forced to stay at home - leaving families without income.

Regular health services, including mental health care, have stopped and people aren't being treated. Mental disorders from before COVID-19 are now getting worse. Mental health and psychosocial service support is, at an international level, led by IOM and Handicap International (HI). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is also stepping up to provide mental health services to refugees and asylum seekers. Nevertheless, the badly needed psychosocial support is seriously lacking in Libya. For more, see below at *Resources* Other Resources *World Health Organisation* - Looking after our mental health).

The role of women
The impact, response and consequences of the COVID-19 crisis are gendered in multiple ways and have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of women in Libya. Libyan women already face great challenges, such as gender-based violence and insecurity. The societal changes caused by COVID-19 may further aggravate these dangers.

The UN Women organisation conducted a survey to capture the pandemic's specific impact on women in Libya.[4] They found that current COVID-19 prevention measures have negatively affected women's livelihoods, especially for those who are self-employed. Furthermore, they also found that women and children may be at increased risks of abuse while at home as gender-based violence (GBV) incidences are growing due to the deteriorating socio-economic situation. Psychological tensions and constraints as a result of lockdown/curfew are also increasing.

Women and girls have a higher likelihood of contracting the coronavirus than men and boys. Women tend to bear caregiving responsibility for ill family members; many work in the health and social care sector; this can all lead to dire social consequences for women and girls in a society that uses a woman's reputation to control them. That is why women tend to withdraw from the health sector altogether. In addition, essential services for women, such as sexual and reproductive health, may be deprioritized by health facilities so that they can concentrate on COVID-19 response, thereby putting women and girls at a higher risk of other health problems.

Female refugees and asylum seekers are facing particular challenges in accessing public health due to a lack of documentation required by many public health facilities. Pregnant women are choosing to deliver at home, presenting risks to themselves and their babies, because public hospital access is dependent on providing a marriage certificate among the required documentation, and they must be accompanied by their husband.

In short, the role women play in Libyan society has drastically changed since the outbreak of COVID-19 and they are dealing with more health threats than before the crisis. For more information and assistance see below at *Resources* Other Resources for Libya *Libya Africa Domestic Violence Agencies* and *UN Women* - Libya and at Other Resources *Abaad* - Playing for Gender Equality Program and - Gender based violence case management online course: *United Nations* - Policy Brief. The impact of COVID-19 on women and

UN Woman - Global Database on Violence against Women; The Shadow Pandemic: Domestic violence in the wake of COVID-19 (Video) and -Virtual Knowledge Centre to end violence against women and girls; *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* - Survivors of sexual violence need healing and justice even amid pandemic, leaders assert and Former child bride, once sold to pay debts, finds a new start; *World Health Organisation* - Displaced or refugee women are at increased risk of violence. What can WHO do? and Strengthening the health system response to violence against women (video).

Stigma
Social cohesion is already breaking down and discrimination incidents have been reported. People who may be infected with the virus are at increased risk of discrimination, including eviction from their homes. People have faced stigma if they have contracted or are suspected to have contracted the virus. Stigma and misinformation will increase the likelihood of potentially infected people not seeking care immediately and motivate them to hide the sick people and/or evade treatment themselves to avoid discrimination.
"It is more acceptable to report yourselves with a bullet wound at the hospital than to seek assistance when you are encountering symptoms of COVID-19" Abdulhadi Soliman, Fezzan Libya Organization.[5] For more information on how to fight stigma see **Resources** Other Resources *World Health Organization* - A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma associated with COVID-19 and What can you do to fight stigma associated with COVID-19).

Humanitarian aid

For almost a decade, humanitarian agencies have been supporting public institutions, local governments, civil society and communities in Libya to achieve stabilization, resilience and recovery, and contributing to shaping the conditions for peace and social cohesion in the country. According to UNSMIL, an estimated 893,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. In the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) *Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19*, Libya is considered to be one of the priority countries. The governance systems responsible for delivering basic services are not at full capacity due to prolonged insecurity and political fragmentation. Food security, already a challenge, is being compromised by the spread of COVID-19 and its socioeconomic impact on Libyan families.

The UN has activated the Crisis Management Team, to ensure a shared situational awareness, strategic direction and response to the unfolding situation. With its partners, it continues to conduct public health awareness campaigns amongst refugees and asylum seekers, through posters, text messages and social media, aimed at mitigating the risks of exposure to COVID-19. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator, WHO, and UNOCHA engage on a regular basis with all relevant Libyan authorities, including the NCDC, health authorities, and municipalities, as well as the committees established to respond to COVID-19 by the GNA and LAAF authorities to discuss strategies and gaps. Priority activities include support for health rapid response teams, personal protective equipment, lab diagnostic kits and supplies, establishment of and support to isolation sites, capacity building, and education/awareness raising. A national COVID-19 hotline was established to receive COVID-19 related phone calls. For contact information see **Resources** Other COVID-19 Resources on Libya.

Insecurity, bureaucratic obstacles, and COVID-19 restriction measures obstruct humanitarian access and the free movement of medical and other humanitarian personnel,

as well as humanitarian assistance, across the country. Both humanitarian programs and field missions experience great difficulty in mobilizing support to implement the most urgent and critical activities. In March 2020, humanitarian partners reported a total of 851 access constraints on movement of humanitarian personnel and humanitarian items within and into Libya. Customs clearances are slow due to the global slowdown on trade and transportation. Humanitarian flights have been irregular. Despite massive challenges, the UN and other humanitarian organizations are continuing to try to reach vulnerable people in Libya. For more information see **Resource** Other Resources for Libya *Arab.org* - NGO Directory of Libya; *Humanitarian Response* - Libya; *International Medical Corps* - Libya; *Reliefweb*; *UNDP* - Libya; *UNOCHA* - Libya and Other Resources *UNOCHA* - Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

Heritage

© Ali ALSaadi. Roman Propyleaum, Cyrene.

Given 42 years of neglect during the era of the former president Gaddafi, and approximately 10 years of widespread violence, it is no surprise that cultural heritage suffers from neglect and a lack of awareness from both current governments and the general populace. It is hard to tackle issues of cultural preservation when the country is facing instabilities and the government is preoccupied with other concerns.

The situation now endangers an outstanding range of cultural heritage dating from the prehistoric, Graeco-Roman, and Islamic periods, including five UNESCO World Heritage sites, all currently placed on the UNESCO World Heritage in Danger list. The Department of Antiquities is officially under the control of the Tripoli government but, in reality, is split in two parts, one based in the west in Tripoli and the other in the East in Benghazi, with no coordination of policy. On the positive side, at the beginning of the Libyan civil war in 2011,

NATO's Operation Unified Protector successfully protected Libya's most important sites, placing them on their —no-strike list and directing their targeting accordingly; the Blue Shield's post-revolution assessment reported very little damage to the sites from either air strikes or ground combat. Despite their problems, the Department of Antiquities was able to prevent the kind of looting that took place in Iraq after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Yet today, archaeologists are, for safety reasons, unable to do site inspections and, consequently, there has been an increase in illicit trafficking of cultural goods in recent years. Reports on looted or recaptured antiquities have become frequent. The conflict is also encouraging unregulated and widespread urban development that is destroying archaeological remains. This was worsened by the introduction of a new law in 2013 that allowed people to reclaim land confiscated under Gaddafi, which led to some people acquiring archaeological sites, and illegally trafficking the objects from them, and/or bulldozing the sites for new constructions. Although archaeological fieldwork is at a standstill and no foreign missions can work safely in Libya, projects and workshops for capacity building are still being held outside the country, mostly in Tunisia and Italy. In 2016, the America Mission trained Libyan law enforcement personnel -Tourist Police and Customs officials - with the hope of forming the basis for a specialized art crime police force in Libya.

The country's local antiquities museums have all been closed and their doors welded shut. Other museums were also closed due to security concerns, and their collections were moved to places of safety during the revolution. However, with the on-going civil war, Libya's cultural heritage is still being damaged, not only from the chaos and lawlessness, but also from deliberate destruction wrought by vandals and religious extremists.

Cultural heritage is pillaged and smuggled to finance the criminal activities of Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) as long as it operates in the country. A number of important Islamic shrines, Sufi tombs, and mosques have also been seriously damaged or completely destroyed throughout the country. Prehistoric rock art at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Tadrart Acacus has been vandalized. Also public sculptures of the Italian colonial era have been destroyed by extremists.

However, it is also important to shed light on the efforts of Libya's civil society to protect their heritage. Several civilians have returned artefacts to the Department of Antiquities after finding them or acquiring them from locals. Others have volunteered to watch over archaeological sites and have rallied to assist tourist police to protect and preserve them. In the last couple of years, most archaeological sites, archives, and museums reopened in a joint effort by the Department of Antiquities and local civil society organisations (CSOs).
The Department of Antiquities oversees efforts dealing with this crisis in conjunction with the regional advisory committee to control the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the heritage sector (Lajenat al-Jabel al-Akhdar le-Mukafaht Korona). They are now planning for reopening, but with insufficient capabilities locally, help is needed to source laptops and high quality electronic monitoring devices to enable employees and researchers of the heritage sector to work from home.

However, during this pandemic, sites are easier to access due to the absence of guards and workers. Heritage practitioners have expressed their concerns regarding unguarded sites outside of the urban areas. In the tourist industry, many people have been affected by the virus, like ticket vendors, tourist guides, and those who had a job in the tourist service sector, such as in hotels. Unfortunately, with a growing number of coronavirus cases, museums,

archaeological sites, monuments, libraries, and archives all closed again due to the crisis, with libraries and archives providing services on call. Field research, restorations, conservation efforts, and excavations have also been put on hold. The special police branch in charge of the heritage sector's security - Tourist Police (al-Shorta al-Siahiya) - is providing protection to all those institutions and, so far, no incidents have been reported. See also ***Resources*** Other resources *Arab Network for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage (ANSCH)* and *UNESCO - Culture and COVID-19.*

Recommendations

Heritage Emergency Funding
In the UNOCHA *Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19*, there is no cluster for Culture or Heritage and much humanitarian aid today is redirected towards fighting COVID-19 and assistance to the most vulnerable. Many aid budgets have been reduced, including in the heritage sector. While several countries created emergency funds for their own heritage sector, recognising the devastating impact of COVID-19, very few international organisations will fund heritage organisations in emergency situations(for more see ***Resources*** Other resources *Arab Network for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage (ANSCH)*. However, there are some options: here are a few examples

- *ALIPH Foundation (International Alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas):* ALIPH supports a wide variety of projects to protect heritage that is endangered, under threat, or which has suffered from negligence brought about by conflict. See: https://www.aliph-foundation.org/
- *British Council. Cultural Protection Fund*: It is aimed at helping to create sustainable opportunities for economic and social development through building capacity to foster, safeguard and promote cultural heritage. See: https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/cultural-protection-fund
- *Gerda Henkel Foundation. Funding Initiative Patrimonies*: The Patrimonies funding initiative considers projects that focus on the preservation of historical cultural heritage first and foremost in crisis regions and, in some cases, will enable scientific research in the fields of history, archaeology, and art history. See: https://www.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/en/patrimonies
- *Global Heritage Fund:* Global Heritage Solidarity Fund. Putting people first in our response, we protect cultural heritage now — and ensure that coming generations will survive to protect heritage in the future. See: https://globalheritagefund.org/global-heritage-solidarity-fund/
- *International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects (ICC).Opportunities Fund:* This fund is for helping to create a sustainable and resilient conservation community. However, you need to join ICC first. See: https://www.iiconservation.org/about/awards/opportunities
- *Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development. Cultural Emergency Response (CER):* The Cultural Emergency Response programme (CER) helps protect threatened heritage. See: https://princeclausfund.org/save-heritage-now
- *UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund:* The fund is meant for UNESCO member states, and thus government organisations, to enable them to respond quickly and effectively to crises resulting from armed conflicts and disasters caused by natural and human-made hazards all over the world. See: https://en.unesco.org/themes/protecting-our-heritage-and-fostering-creativity/emergencyfund2

Also see http://www.unesco.org/culture/en/hef/pdf/Iraq_2016-2018.pdf
- *World Heritage Fund:* The World Heritage Fund provides about US$4 million annually to support activities requested by States Parties in need of international assistance in managing their World Heritage sites. It is, therefore, only for governments and for World Heritage sites. See:
  https://whc.unesco.org/en/funding/
- *World Monuments Relief Fund:* No information available. See:
  https://www.wmf.org/world-monuments-relief-fund

Humanitarian assistance for heritage staff
Many heritage workers have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet. For them, as for others, humanitarian aid in cash assistance, food assistance, and the like, can be applied for at charitable (religious) organisations and humanitarian organisations. In order to improve your chances of a successful application, it is best to apply as a group - the larger the group the better e.g. all museum staff in a city. (For a list of select international humanitarian organisations with country offices in Libya or Tunisia, see below at **Resources** Other resources for Libya.) Staff that are still employed and need medical supplies and/or personal protection equipment can also turn to one of these humanitarian organisations.

Income generating projects
One way to survive the double crisis is to consider income-generating activities. Such projects consist of small community-level businesses, managed by a group of people to increase their household income through livelihood diversification.

Such projects are well-known in agriculture and arts and crafts, but the idea can be applied to any sector. It is different from commercial activities organised by the cultural institutions themselves, like opening a museum shop to sell arts and crafts products or publications. In the case of income generating activities, the revenues go directly to the group of people who started the project.

It is important is to realize what your —Unique Selling Point is. It could be producing copies of iconic artefacts (assuming no permissions are needed), production of publications, organizing online training or courses, or online cultural activities. As traveling is, at the least, very difficult or forbidden, products need to be offered online. However, staff could also set up projects outside the heritage sector, like producing masks or disinfectants. Alternatively, projects could be started that indirectly benefit the institution staff. One good example is to start community-based income generating activities based around a local archaeological site to mitigate subsistence looting that may be occurring by finding another way to use it to bring money into the community. Clearly these kinds of projects require a lot of creative thinking. For funding staff, you could propose an income generating project at humanitarian organisations (see below at **Resources** Other resources for Libya).
See for more on income generation projects:
- *Food and Agriculture Organisation.* Income generating activities (IGAs):
  http://www.fao.org/3/x0206e/x0206e03.htm
- *Museum and Heritage.* Income generation:
  https://advisor.museumsandheritage.com/features/income-generation-how-to-increase-revenue-in-museums/

Expertise

Some staff or organisations feel they need expert advice. In that case, see under the specific heritage sector guidance in Part I: Heritage. It should be noted that many people underestimate the knowledge and expertise that is around them, in their own country or another MENA country. Local expertise has no language barrier, you deal with a more culturally sensitive organisation, and, often, the suggested advice is appropriate to the region. In short, seek advice as close to home as possible. If that is not possible, it is best to target one (foreign) heritage institution you feel comfortable with. Develop a relation with that institution where you can reach out with all kinds of questions. If you are seeking academic knowledge, for the latest academic articles in a specific heritage field you can consider:

- Academia: https://www.academia.edu/
- ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/login

Both require an account, but will not pass on your details, and many academics use them to share their work. In addition, many UK universities now have an Institutional Research Data Repository, where they place copies of any articles written by their staff for free access.

Tasks

A crisis can sometimes be an opportunity. Cultural institutions where staff have been reduced, can still work on alternative tasks. This might be an opportunity to take care of overdue maintenance, provide extra training for staff, and take on non-job related but essential tasks like security improvement, or climate or pest control management. Switching tasks gives staff a chance to learn more about the wider work processes of the organisation which, ultimately, is very advantageous for the organisation. If a cultural institution is closed there is still a chance to make new plans, design new strategies, and update collection catalogues, executed and coordinated by digital tools. And do not forget to start a heritage awareness campaign, as many might not know what you are doing, how important your work is, and what the role of cultural heritage in society in general is. (See details Part III of the Guidelines - *Basic Digital Tools*).

Further assistance

The potency of laymen is often underestimated. Groups organized around different issues could have experience with issues your organization is struggling with, like awareness raising campaigns, the use of digital tools, networking, and marketing strategies. Think of youth groups, women's organisations, nature conservation groups, students, local peace committees and community groups. It may be worthwhile contacting them and putting out a call for assistance. You could also combine an awareness raising campaign with a call for assistance, for example, to join a neighbourhood watch. For this purpose you should open an emergency number. In the recent past, imams, mosque visitors and entire neighbourhoods have helped cultural institutions to move their collections voluntarily, protected repositories and cultural institutions, and communities have also defended archaeological sites. The latter is very important as guards and antiquities police, often involuntarily, have been forced to leave sites unprotected. If security forces or police are not protecting an institution or archaeological site you could, of course, always request that they do so.

Networking

During the present pandemic, it will be very difficult to acquire funds for heritage emergencies. Many of the problems, however, might be solved through cooperation. Crossing the divide and leaving political, religious and ethnic differences behind will provide even more possibilities for solving some of your problems. Heritage is not, in itself, political - people make it political.

Similarly, bringing partners from diverse heritage sectors together is very rewarding as many heritage workers face the same, or similar, problems, and it is a great learning opportunity. Networks can be created on a "horizontal" level – between, for example, staff in similar roles, like conservators, librarians, archaeologists – or on a vertical level, heritage wide, such as all museum staff. Today, social media can be very useful to connect, enabling people to communicate quickly with each other and organise themselves in small groups, via, for example, WhatsApp or Telegram. You can also create (closed) discussion groups on Facebook, or LinkedIn, or you could join already existing groups. There are downsides to this: 1) many of them are not safe and anybody can "listen in"; 2) your data will often be used for commercial purposes without your knowledge. Be on the alert for Privacy and Safety concerns. If you want a safer internet connection, you can use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) that can protect your privacy from hackers. (For details, see Part III of the Guidelines - *Basic Digital Tools*).

Find some examples below:
- *Arab Network for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage (ANSCH)* - Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/ANSCH-110334927271070/?ref=search&__tn__=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDdn0BQiitlUMWW53VQBUZuL6tGY9alFi-zB9R8wtOiKMt-4cOqFBcjtf5WzwZWeMX_jOB1xYQZfpf9
- *Cultural leaders*: https://www.weforum.org/communities/cultural-leaders
- *Cultural Heritage Conservation Science. Research and practice*. LinkedIn Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/140198/
- *Friends of Libya Cultural Heritage.* Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofLibyaCulturalHeritage/
- *Heritage for All* - Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/214091372432295/?ref=br_rs
- *ICOM Arab* - Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1207313432621070/
- *ICOMOS* – LinkedIn Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1623567/
- *World Economic Forum* - Arts & Culture Global Solidarity Network: https://www.weforum.org/covid-action-platform/projects/arts-culture-global-solidarity-network

Resources

Daily updates
- *Corona Tracker.* Libya: https://www.coronatracker.com/country/libya/
- *National Center for Disease Control (NCDC)*. Libya (AR):
  - Homepage: https://covid19.ly/
  - Dashboard: https://ncdc.org.ly/Ar/libyan-covid-19-dashboard/
  - Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/NCDC.LY/
- Two new apps dedicated to COVID 19 and supported by NCDC:
  - Speetar: https://speetar.com/
    Determining health condition if any symptoms appear. Connecting directly to the National to determine the risk level. Communicating with the doctors of the centre 24 hours a day to follow up.
    Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.speetar.app&hl=en
    Apple: Not currently available

- o COVID 19-Libya:
  Displaying statistics that enables every person in Libya to know the number of cases in his/her city.
  Android:
  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ly.com.tmc.covid19_libya&hl=en_GB
  Apple: Not currently available
- *Worldometers*. Libya: https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/libya/
- *World Health Organisation, Office of Eastern Mediterranean Region:*
  https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiN2ExNWI3ZGQtZDk3My00YzE2LWFjYmQt
  NGMwZjk0OWQ1MjFhIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkY
  zI4MGFmYjU5MCIsImMiOjh9

Government of National Accord (GNA)
- *Government of National Accord.* Coronavirus:
  - o Homepage: http://www.pm.goc.ly/
  - o Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/LibyanGovernment/
  - o Twitter Group: https://twitter.com/governmently
- *Libya Ministry of Health*
  - o Homepage: http://www.health.gov.ly/
  - o Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/Ministry.of.Health.Ly/
  - o Twitter Group: https://twitter.com/MOH_Libya_Media

Libyan National Army (LNA/LAAF)
- *Libyan Government*
  - o Homepage: www.gov-ly.website
  - o Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/GovernmentLY/
- *Interim Ministry of Health*
  - o Homepage: http://www.health-ministry.ly
  - o Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/mohtazlibya17/

Other COVID-19 Resources on Libya
- *Dynamic Dashboard for Libya*: http://ow.ly/6Ghn50z9UTh
- *International Committee of the Red Cross.* Libya:
  https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/africa/libya
- *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* Displacement Tracking Device:
  Dashboard Covid-19 - Libya:
  https://www.iom.int/countries/libya
- *National COVID-19 hotline*. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC):
  - o Email: Libya.ETS@wfp.org
  - o Contact Number: 1404 (Arabic)
  - o Homepage: https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies/libya-crisis
- *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).*
  Humanitarian Response. COVID-19 - Libya– weekly situation reports:
  https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya/health
- *Wikipedia.* COVID-19 pandemic in Libya. Wikipedia. Statistics daily updated:
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_Libya

- *World Health Organisation.* Libya:
  - Country Office Libya: https://www.who.int/health-cluster/countries/libya/en/
  - Dynamic Dashboard for Libya: https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/ly
  - News: http://www.emro.who.int/lby/libya-news/
  - Twitter Group: https://twitter.com/WHOLIBYA
- *World Health Organisation.* Office of Eastern Mediterranean Region: http://www.emro.who.int/index.html

Other resources for Libya
- *Arab.org.* NGO Directory of Libya: https://arab.org/countries/libya/
- *Humanitarian Response.* Libya: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya/health
- *International Medical Corps* Libya: https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/country/libya/
- *International Organization for Migration (IOM).* Libya monthly updates and situation reports:
  - Homepage: https://www.iom.int/countries/libya
  - Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/IOMLibya/
  - Twitter Group: https://twitter.com/IOM_Libya
- *Libya Africa Domestic Violence Agencies* https://www.hotpeachpages.net/africa/index.html#Libya
- *Reliefweb.* Libya: https://reliefweb.int/country/lby
- *The United States Institute of Peace (USIP).* Libya – Analysis and Commentary: https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications?countries[571]=571&publication_type[12]=12
- *UN Agencies in Libya* (occasional Covid-19 news): https://unsmil.unmissions.org/un-libya
- *UN Support Mission.* Libya:
  - Homepage: https://unsmil.unmissions.org/
  - Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/UNSMIL/
  - Twitter Group: https://twitter.com/unsmilibya
- *UN Women.* Libya: https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/search-results?keywords=Libya&country=60aae8e98f5f41e080818a82d61b0fbb
- *United Nation Development Fund (UNDP).* Libya: https://www.ly.undp.org/
- *UNESCO.* Maghreb Region (occasional Covid-19 news): https://ar.unesco.org/fieldoffice/rabat
- *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).* Libya – COVID-19 Response Update: https://reporting.unhcr.org/libya
- *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).* Libya:
  - Homepage: www.unocha.org/libya
  - Twitter Group: www.twitter.com/ocha_libya
  - Financial Tracking Service: https://fts.unocha.org/countries/127/summary/2020

Other resources
- *Abaad.*
  - Playing for Gender Equality Program
    https://www.abaadmena.org/game
  - Gender based violence case management online course
    http://gbvcm-course.abaadmena.org/
- *Aga Khan Development Network.* COVID-19 information:
  - Information on homemade and disposable masks:
    https://www.akdn.org/publication/covid-19-information-homemade-and-disposable-masks
  - Staying safe at home and work: https://www.akdn.org/publication/staying-safe-home-and-work
- *Aga Khan University* - CoronaCheck**. (via Google Play):
  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.edu.aku.akuhccheck
- *Arab Network for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage (ANSCH)* – Covid-19 Guidelines:
  https://ansch.heritageforpeace.org/guidelines/
- *CoronaCheck* (via Google Play):
  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.edu.aku.akuhccheck
- *Disaster Ready.* Understanding Burnout During COVID-19. Self-Care & Resilience (AR):
  https://ready.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/material/82ac32f9-1892-483a-87e0-2f8005ffe51d
- *UN Women.*
  - Global Database on Violence against Women
    https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/syrian-arab-republic?pageNumber=2
  - *The Shadow Pandemic: Domestic violence in the wake of COVID-19* (Video)
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llNP__bW-o0
- *United Nations.* Policy Brief. The impact of COVID-19 on women:
  https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women
- *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*
  - Survivors of sexual violence need healing and justice even amid pandemic, leaders assert:
    https://www.unfpa.org/news/survivors-sexual-violence-need-healing-and-justice-even-amid-pandemic-leaders-assert
  - Former child bride, once sold to pay debts, finds a new start
    https://www.unfpa.org/news/former-child-bride-once-sold-pay-debts-finds-new-start
- *UNESCO.* Culture and COVID-19:
  https://en.unesco.org/news/culture-covid-19-impact-and-response-tracker
- *UNOCHA*. Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19:
  https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary
- *Women now for Development*
  https://women-now.org/
- *World Health Organisation*
  - A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma associated with COVID-19 (24 February 2020)
    https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/a-guide-to-preventing-and-addressing-social-stigma-associated-with-covid-19

- o About COVID-19: http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/about-covid- 19.html
- o COVID-19 - Questions and answers: http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/questions-and-answers.html
- o Displaced or refugee women are at increased risk of violence. What can WHO do? https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/displaced-refugee-women-violence-risk/en/
- o Health Alert on WhatsApp (Arabic): wa.me/41225017023?text=
- o Looking after our mental health: https://www.who.int/campaigns/connecting-the-world-to-combat-coronavirus/healthyathome/healthyathome---mental-health
- o Myth busters: http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/myth-busters.html
  and https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters
- o Protect yourself and others: http://www.emro.who.int/health-topics/corona-virus/protect-yourself-and-others.html
- o Strengthening the health system response to violence against women (video): https://youtu.be/Qc_GHITvTmI
- o What can you do to fight stigma associated with COVID-19? (Video) https://youtu.be/vinh0lIG1p0

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[2] Heritage for Peace (22 June, 2020). *Empowerment of civil society for the protection of cultural heritage in Iraq, Libya, Yemen and North- East Syria - Barcelona Workshop 2020* [Needs Assessment]. Not published. Interview with Ahmed Hussein, The Department of Antiquities, conducted 22 June 2020.
[3] Wilson, N (April, 2020). *Coronavirus Shows Why Libya Needs to Build its Institutions*. Retrieved from https://www.usip.org/publications/2020/04/coronavirus-shows-why-libya-needs-build-its-institutions.
[4] UN WOMEN (April 14, 2020) *Press release: Already impoverished and impacted by insecurity and discrimination, Libyan women are likely to be hit hardest if COVID-19 takes hold in the war-torn country, UN Women warns* [Press release]. Retrieved from https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/04/press-release-new-report-the-economic-and-social-impact-of-conflict-on-libyan-women
[5] Reliefweb (14 May 2020). *Human Security at Stake: The gendered impact of COVID-19 in war torn Libya* [Policy brief]. https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/human-security-stake-gendered-impact-covid-19-libya-policy-brief-may-2020