

## WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- + A Portfolio of good practices mapped.
- + Training tools for cultural and humanitarian operators produced.
- + 20,000 UN Staff and humanitarian operators in more than 100 countries trained.
- + A network of practitioners in the field of arts for human rights development, including UNESCO Chairs and international experts created.
- + Over 100,000 people living in places of hardship enrolled in artistic initiatives.
- + The work 50 young emerging artists accelerated and scaled.

## WHAT MAKES UNESCO RELEVANT?

UNESCO is mandated within its constitution to contribute to the promotion of all human rights.

It includes the right to participate in cultural life as well as the right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity.

The Organization also has an important role in the promotion and protection of cultural diversity.

With its 193 Member States, and among its networks in the fields of human rights, social inclusion, artistic freedom, education, and cultural diversity, UNESCO has a unique and transversal perspective on the welfare of human beings and its importance for 'building peace in the minds of women and men'.

## SEARCHING FOR PARTNERS

- + UN and other intergovernmental organizations.
- + International artists.
- + UN humanitarian agencies and funds dealing with emergency situations.
- + Cultural structures (venues, artists residencies, etc.).
- + Foundations supporting contemporary art.
- + Governmental cooperation funds.



By engaging people and encouraging their interaction through artistic and cultural expression, actions in the field of culture can open a space in which individuals and groups can (...) develop resilience after violent or traumatic experiences, including human rights violations, and imagine the future they want for themselves and how better to realize human rights in the society they live in.

**Karima Bennoune,**  
UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, 4 January 2018

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### SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES SECTOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE SECTION

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Art-Lab is designed to contribute to :



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*This project is organized in the context of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022), for which UNESCO is lead agency.*



# ART LAB



FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
AND  
DIALOGUE





Dancers Lia Rodrigues Cia de Danças  
© Sammi Landweer

How can we restore dignity for those people who have left everything behind?

How can we facilitate national reconciliation and bring together fragmented societies?

How can we prevent violence in post-conflict contexts and amongst excluded communities?



## SOME FACTS

- + **70.8 million** people have been forced from their home around the world. This includes nearly **25.9 million refugees**, over half of whom are **under the age of 18** (UNHCR, 2019).
- + Today when a person sets foot in a refugee camp in Africa, it is estimated that they will stay there for **17 years** of their life.

## THE POWER OF ART

- + The arts have proven to be a powerful tool in supporting reconciliation, rehabilitation, and reintegration. For instance, in the Central African Republic, SGBV (sexual and gender-based violence) decreased from 76% to 16% in the Mole refugee camp after four months of dance workshop with the Refugees on the Move programme (African Artists for Development) in 2016.
- + Many narrative reports highlight the transformative power of art when working with populations living under continuous stress. The use of arts in humanitarian and development work should therefore be more consistent and systematic.
- + Artistic activities are a powerful means of social integration, connecting people beyond differences. They can help individuals to envisage a new life and a better future.

## THE GAPS TO BE FILLED

- + A holistic approach which addresses the 'softer' aspects of human needs still does not exist. Placing such an approach at the core of humanitarian welfare programmes must be prioritised in order to better release the creative forces of individuals.
- + There remains a lack of systematic evidence on the impact of the arts in recovering human dignity and strengthening social cohesion.
- + Benchmarks for what constitutes good practice in the domain have not been identified.
- + There is no guidance or advocacy tools on how to maximize the contribution of art to human rights and dialogue.

## ART LAB IN BRIEF

- + A laboratory of artistic interventions highlighting the social role of artists in processes of memory and reconciliation, therefore promoting human rights, dignity, artistic freedom, and freedom of expression.
- + A global scope, including at least 10 pilot projects.
- + A 4-year programme.
- + A \$5,000,000 USD budget.
- + A structure testing, compiling, analysing, and training on how to use the arts to promote human rights within:
  - Post-conflict contexts
  - Camps or urban settings (refugees)
  - Excluded communities

