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Across Borders Transnational Cultural Institutional Collaboration in Crisis Recovery

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Abstract

It explores the transformative potential of international collaboration among cultural institutions in the wake of crises. The study looks at the problems that cultural institutions across borders confront when facing a situation as well as the chances for cooperation and group effort. This chapter emphasizes the significance of cross-cultural relationships in maintaining and developing tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the face of adversity in various locations. It analyses the critical elements that encourage fruitful resource sharing, knowledge exchange, and using digital technology for improved connectedness. To increase international cooperation among museums, galleries, and heritage sites for crisis recovery efforts, it examines the function of cultural diplomacy. It also examines how regional and global cultural organizations, like UNESCO, may promote transnational projects and rally support for institutions of culture struggling due to crises. The study highlights the creative collaboration that has developed during prior crises, highlighting the beneficial effects of cross-cultural communication on increasing understanding and resilience in afflicted communities. In post-crisis circumstances, it highlights the importance of cultural institutions as peacemakers and reconcilers who may cross geographical lines and unite people of different cultures. To improve cross-border cooperation for crisis recovery, Beyond Borders makes proposals for cultural institutions, decision-makers, and international organizations. It places a strong emphasis on developing long-lasting relationships and encouraging a group commitment to preserving cultural history, helping to build global unity and a shared vision for a more diverse and vibrantly cultural world that is free from catastrophe.

Keywords: Crises, Cultural Institutions, Crises Recovery

Across Borders Transnational Cultural Institutional Collaboration in Crisis Recovery

The year 2024 is different from the years before it; it began with a great deal of human catastrophe. These unending crises have made it impossible for humanity to survive, and they have left man with an unresolved stare. Greed and selfishness are the hidden motivations of human beings behind these disasters and Crises. A crisis is a broad catastrophe that impacts a community or a subset of the populace in that area. Examples of such emergencies include epidemics and disease outbreaks, high rates of mortality or starvation, health crises, and climate change. Crisis types include political, economic, social, moral, and climate crises. Political crises arise from weak institutions and political party instability. International powers and organizations control crises, which damage nations' integrity and security. Throughout history, crises have occurred in various periods, requiring careful planning and action to prevent them.

The most dangerous is a moral crisis. The moral crisis is caused by political and economic crises and hinders human thinking, working, learning, and other functions. The minds of the society become sick and when the minds of the society become sick, then what will be the mental thinking and mental state of the people of any country? In which direction will the people's thoughts be going? Evils, corruption and bribery, failures in systems, crimes, wrong values in society, all these are the result of a moral crisis and this crisis does not happen all at once, but rather Political, economic, and financial reasons are also included in the coming of crisis¹. Economic problems have also made the life of the common man hell. Man is no longer fighting for the survival of life, but is engaged in the war of economic survival.

People are busy day and night in solving their economic problems. How to meet the daily needs of life? The thought of his mind goes on the same stream throughout the day. The funeral of ethics is over and no one has time to attend someone's funeral or take care of sick neighbors, so where we have to save the political and economic system of the country, we also have to save the moral crisis. The thinking of the nation has to be changed so that a strong and purposeful society is maintained and the nation is counted among the living nations. Aristotle and Plato placed a strong emphasis on ethics, and they held that the integrity of the state was jeopardized when moral degradation occurred inside a society. History has witnessed that in the states and countries where the moral system is strong, the rest of the systems are running smoothly because human values and thinking have to run the country's system or systems have to run the human

¹ Fetting, C. "The European Green Deal." ESDN Report 53, 2020.

thinking. The thinking and action now are that there should be planning to overcome crises. If we talk about the crisis of this year 2024 and the future, we have a list of serious worst humanitarian crises, which humans are facing and going to face.

1. Palestine: risk of famine and compelled displacement
2. Ukraine: devastation of infrastructure and risk to lives
3. Syria: Disease and destruction
4. Haiti: Growing gang violence in a nation that is becoming more vulnerable
5. Africa's diseases, calamities, and displacement crises
6. Extreme weather occurrences include wildfires and floods in the world.
7. Earthquakes
8. Afghanistan's disease and destruction
9. Crisis of identity
10. Climate Change

Impact of Crisis

As 2024 approaches, nations all around the world are still dealing with protracted hostilities, unstable economies, and the catastrophic consequences of climate change. The barriers that used to stop these crises from getting out of hand—such as humanitarian aid, peace treaties, and holding people accountable for breaking international law have been undermined or weakened. Crises have many repercussions, most of which endanger the lives of those living in the impacted areas². Apart from those who perish directly from a natural catastrophe or conflict, a great number of people are endangered by the crisis's intermediate and long-term repercussions and require outside assistance and support to survive.

The Palestine War devastated the nation's infrastructure, which in turn caused the economy to implode, food and water shortages, the closure of hospitals and schools, and a rise in poverty. The political climate tends to be unstable due to a lack of education and opportunities, making the nation susceptible to more disasters. Displacement remains a common feature of many humanitarian crises. Many people living in camps and on the run are constantly in danger due to inadequate hygiene, and limited access to clean water, food, and medical care. Syria's health system has been decimated and the country is on the verge of economic collapse due to more than ten years of war. Ten years of turmoil in neighboring Lebanon have driven up food prices and poverty even higher. Millions of Syrians are dependent on humanitarian help, and 75% of them are

² Fetting, C. "The European Green Deal." ESDN Report 53, 2020.

unable to meet their most basic needs. Goods prices will keep rising through 2023. More people may be forced to leave their homes as a result of ongoing conflict and bombings. Syria's water and healthcare infrastructures are in danger of being overrun by the first cholera outbreak in ten years.

The UNHCR reports Ukraine's conflict has caused the fastest displacement crisis in history, placing the nation on the Watchlist since 2017 (Juric,2022).³ The conflict is expected to last until 2024, increasing injury, illness, and death risks. Political unrest and gang violence in Haiti have escalated since President Jovenel Moise died in 2021, pushing the country into the Watchlist's top 10. Armed groups seize control, leading to gasoline shortages, rising food prices, and increased risks of rape, homicide, and kidnapping. (Bonilla,2022,7).⁴

In 2023, Afghanistan faces a severe humanitarian crisis due to political unrest and bloodshed. With 24.1 million Afghans in need of aid, 15.3 million of whom are children, the country's economy and infrastructure are straining. The worst earthquake in history occurred in June 2023, and the Afghan economy is still in ruins. Efforts to improve the economy and engage the Taliban have not been successful. Women and girls in Afghanistan are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, and government restrictions on their access to political involvement, education, travel, and attire further exacerbate the situation. Ethiopia's sixth consecutive failing rainy season could worsen the 24-million-person drought, while crises and violence hinder aid agencies' ability to save lives. Despite optimism for a peace treaty in Tigray, 28.6 million people still require humanitarian assistance.

Climate change impacts millions globally, worsening the humanitarian crisis and increasing the needs of vulnerable populations. Global warming increases extreme weather events like floods and wildfires, with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism activating twice in one day due to wildfires in Cyprus and flooding in Slovenia (Fitting, 2022).⁵

During the difficult wildfire season of 2023, approximately 76,000 hectares of land in Evros, Greece, burned in the greatest wildfire in EU history. The EU Civil Protection Mechanism responded by deploying about 2000 people, 1 helicopter, and 27 firefighting aircraft. With participation from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech

³ Jurić, T. "Predicting Refugee Flows from Ukraine with an Approach to Big (Crisis) Data: A New Opportunity for Refugee and Humanitarian Studies." MedRxiv, 2022.
<https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.03>.

⁴ Diaz-Bonilla, E. Haiti and Its Multiple Tragedies: Much More Needs to Be Done. Vol. 26. Intl Food Policy Research Institute, 2022.

⁵ Fetting, C. "The European Green Deal." ESDN Report 53, 2020.

Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden in the rescue and firefighting operations, this enormous endeavour served as a tribute to the solidarity of the EU member states. The severe wildfire season of last year only serves to emphasize the growing intricacy of natural risks and the occurrence of catastrophic weather events simultaneously throughout Europe and beyond.

The floods that struck 33 million people in Pakistan in 2022 & 2023 roughly one in seven people were a major factor in the country's 2023 increase in severity. It is important to recognize the extent of the devastation caused to the nation; Pakistan is responding to a dire humanitarian crisis. One of the nations most impacted by climate change is Pakistan, where the floods of 2022 & 2023 were not an exceptional occurrence. In the summer of 2021, temperatures in Jacobabad, Sindh, surpassed 52° C. Likewise, Karachi has been designated as a "climate hot spot" by the World Bank (Paprocki, 2022,54-64).⁶These concerns, when coupled with other problems with violence and infrastructure, have left many Pakistanis, particularly in the country's rural parts, vulnerable to poverty, starvation, and water stress. According to UN estimates, 20.6 million people are undernourished. There were several earthquakes worldwide in 2023. A series of devastating earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023 (Gancheva & Dimova, 2023)⁷, left thousands of dead, caused massive destruction, and made matters worse for many of the already precarious refugees in southeast Turkey. This was the largest earthquake of 2023 and among the strongest to have struck the area in almost a century. A 6.8-magnitude earthquake that rocked Morocco in September of last year left many residents hurt or without a place to live. Then, thousands of people were killed or injured in Afghanistan in October due to a series of earthquakes.

Throughout human history, the term "identity crisis" has frequently been linked to the arrival of new generations. The younger generation's ignorance of their historical history, societal ideals, and social structure is typically the root cause of this dilemma. The Internet, technology, and allied sciences are typically linked to the identity problem and the developing world. The industrialized world has grown technologically at such a rapid rate in recent times that the third world, where access to necessities is a challenge, has fallen well behind the pack. The nature of science has changed due to technological advancements, but information

⁶ Paprocki, K. "Anti-Politics of Climate Change." *Himal Southasian* 28, no. 3 (2022): 54–64.

⁷ Gancheva, I., and L. Dimova. "Review of the Devastating Series of Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. Earthquake Analysis Using SAR Satellite Data: Preliminary Results." *Natural Science & Advanced Technology Education* 32, no. 1 (2023).

itself has changed as well. An identity crisis, also known as an epistemic crisis, is the loss of distinctiveness that affects a group of people, a society, or a specific class's distinguishable skills or knowledge. This is usually when the crisis arises. When issues arise that have elegant or difficult-to-find answers, challenging the dominant norm, meaning, or worldview. To stay linked to their history, traditions, and cultures, the younger generation requires experience, education, and training. There are a lot of potential solutions, like incorporating philosophy, history, art, literature, and culture into the educational system and adapting the curriculum to the demands of the modern world to preserve national concepts and provide answers to the questions that the world is bringing to light. Several factors, including the poor quality of education, social and economic stagnation, lack of research studies, the introduction of new media, language and sectarianism dominating the culture, social hatred and violence regularly, foreign influences, and social and political issues, are contributing to the identity crisis.

The younger generation's growth and development are being impeded by their identity issue. The need is local history, culture, and the arts should be promoted, high-quality publications should be promoted, and local history and cultural centres should be developed.

Transnational Collaboration in Crisis Recovery

Cross-border collaboration between transnational cultural institutions is crucial for crisis recovery. This collaboration offers assistance in several ways and is crucial in distress. Some international organizations and cultural institutions are working to recover from crises and address humanitarian issues. Transnational cultural institutional collaboration in disaster recovery involves international organizations, institutions, and entities working together to support community resilience and sustainable development, leveraging cultural healing potential.

1. Understanding and Exchange of Cultures

Cultural exchange programs can foster understanding and coexistence between Israel and Palestine, promoting communication, empathy, and understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds. UN Must Encourage Communication and Dialogue. Arrange cultural exchange initiatives that unite citizens, thinkers, artists, and leaders from the Israeli and Palestinian communities. These programs can offer a forum for candid discussion, bridging knowledge gaps and encouraging discourse.

2. Joint Projects and activities

Joint arts and cultural festivals that highlight the rich cultural legacies of Israeli and Palestinian cultures should be organized. These kinds of gatherings can provide areas where individuals can mingle, respect one another's cultural

manifestations, and discover points of agreement that cut over political differences.

3. Diplomacy across Cultures

Adopt cultural diplomacy programs that entail collaborative efforts between Israeli and Palestinian musicians, artists, and performers. This has the potential to be a very effective instrument for fostering mutual understanding and forging a cultural narrative that cuts across political divides. Encourage collaborative historical and educational efforts that offer a more thorough and sophisticated perspective on the history of the area. Fostering mutual recognition of one another's past experiences is crucial to establishing compassion and confidence.⁸ Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Work together on initiatives aimed at safeguarding and preserving locations that are important to the Israeli and Palestinian communities. This common dedication to maintaining cultural identity has the potential to bring people together.

4. Encourage concord and healing

Access to essential services including water, power, heating, health care, education, and social protection has been severely hampered by the conflict in Ukraine, and the lives of those who have been displaced have been disproportionately affected. Cultural institutions are crucial in reacting to humanitarian disasters. The response of cultural collaboration to the invasion of Ukraine has shown what is possible when political, financial, and policy interests meet with human decency, ingenuity, and generosity. Multi-sectoral and specialized support aimed at enhancing resilience and promoting opportunities for stability, recovery, and getting back on track to development are required, even when there is an urgent need for aid. The governments of the neighboring states of Ukraine and those in the vicinity have maintained open borders. As long as inflows are welcomed with solidarity, quick action has been taken to support the most in need, offer emergency aid, and meet necessities. On March 4, 2022, the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) of the European Union (EU) came into effect (Baumvol et al., 2022)⁹. This allowed qualifying TCNs and Ukrainian citizens to obtain temporary protection status without undergoing the entire asylum procedure. In the midst of devastation, Ukraine has shown incredible fortitude. It can be rebuilt even better with the assistance of the global community.

⁸ Gancheva, I., and L. Dimova. "Review of the Devastating Series of Earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in February 2023. Earthquake Analysis Using SAR Satellite Data: Preliminary Results." *Natural Science & Advanced Technology Education* 32, no. 1 (2023).

⁹ Diaz-Bonilla, E. *Haiti and Its Multiple Tragedies: Much More Needs to Be Done*. Vol. 26. Intl Food Policy Research Institute, 2022.

It is a deliberate and effective strategy to support transnational cultural cooperation as a means of aiding Ukraine's war and crisis recovery.

5. Medical Care and Humanitarian Assistance

A protracted and catastrophic battle that started in 2011 has resulted in severe sickness, destruction, and displacement in Syria. To effectively tackle the multifaceted issues of sickness, devastation, and recovery, a comprehensive strategy involving humanitarian relief, healthcare, and reconstruction is required. As the largest humanitarian contributor in the world, the European Union has raised over €30 billion in aid for Syrians in their home country as well as around the region over the past twelve years (Daher, 2023).¹⁰ This aid has been used for development, stabilization, and humanitarian purposes. By travelling to Lebanon and Turkey, sixteen European nations have supported their humanitarian partners on the ground and given civilians the basic supplies they require under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

6. Enhancement of Health and Welfare

The international community must collaborate on a comprehensive, long-term recovery process for Syria, prioritizing the well-being of affected individuals and communities and addressing the root causes of the conflict. Through employment training, apprenticeships, and support for small businesses, the IRC fosters economic rehabilitation (Sharp,2023).¹¹ Along with primary, reproductive, and mental health treatments, It also provides life-saving trauma services to medical facilities and mobile health teams.

7. Foreign Assistance and Funding for Climate Change

Monsoon rains in Pakistan have severely impacted areas like Balochistan, Sindh, and southern Punjab, causing millions of homeless people, hundreds of deaths, and extensive agricultural damage. International organizations ought to work with Pakistan to rebuild infrastructure and help flood victims. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the UN General Assembly that although Pakistan contributes less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the country nonetheless bears a heavy price for climate change brought on by human activity. The people of Pakistan are subjected to severe injustices regarding the effects of climate change and their responsibility for it. USAID teams are assisting Pakistani families affected by the 2022-2023 floods in Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab (Ahmad,2023)¹². They offer cash transfers, and hygiene and hygiene kits. The

¹⁰ Daher, A. The Syrian Refugee Crisis and Its Impact on Lebanon. Master's thesis, 2023.

¹¹ Sharp, D. "Reconstruction as Violence and Forced Displacement in Syria." In Handbook on Forced Migration, 285, 2023.

¹² Ahmad, M., ed. Water Policy in Pakistan: Issues and Options. Vol. 30. Springer Nature, 2023.

USAID-funded Responding to Pakistan's Internally Displaced program grants local and international NGOs for humanitarian assistance.

8. Awareness and Advocacy

The EU is adopting a new approach to reduce its environmental footprint, including in humanitarian action, to address the climate crisis. The European Green Deal aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050 (Fitting, 2022)¹³. The EU is mobilizing €1 trillion in sustainable investments over the next decade, with 30% of its budget dedicated to climate change. The world needs to encourage international collaboration and worldwide cooperation to solve climate change. Encourage and support international treaties and accords that attempt to cut greenhouse gas emissions and lessen the effects of climate change.

In the context of crisis recovery, international cultural institutional partnerships have shown a rich tapestry of opportunities, problems, and accomplishments. Cultural institutions play a crucial and diverse role in crisis recovery as they negotiate the challenges of cross-border collaboration. In times of crisis, cross-border cooperation among cultural organizations is a powerful force for the preservation and revitalization of cultural assets. Long-term resilience within communities has been fostered as well as the immediate effects of crises have been lessened because of the sharing of resources, knowledge, and cooperative efforts.

Findings

The year 2024 presents an unprecedented convergence of crises, including humanitarian, political, economic, moral, and climate-related emergencies. Key regions affected include Palestine, Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Haiti, Africa, and Pakistan, with significant loss of life, infrastructure destruction, and displacement. Climate change exacerbates crises worldwide, increasing the frequency and intensity of natural disasters like floods, wildfires, and earthquakes.

Moral crises, often intertwined with political and economic instability, degrade societal ethics, fostering corruption, crime, and systemic failures. Identity crises, especially among younger generations, result from technological advancements, cultural disconnect, and inadequate education systems, threatening cultural cohesion.

Transnational cultural institutions play a pivotal role in promoting understanding, supporting crisis recovery, and fostering resilience. Collaborative projects in regions like Palestine and Ukraine have shown potential for healing, coexistence, and resilience-building through cultural exchange and diplomacy.

¹³ Fetting, C. "The European Green Deal." ESDN Report 53, 2020.

Humanitarian and medical aid, economic rehabilitation, and education reform are essential for crisis recovery. Climate change mitigation and advocacy remain critical, emphasizing the need for international treaties and sustainable investments.

Recommendations

Strengthening Transnational Cultural Collaboration: Promote Cultural Exchange: Initiate programs that bring together artists, educators, and leaders from conflict zones like Palestine and Israel to foster mutual understanding and empathy.

Preserve Cultural Heritage: Support joint projects to safeguard culturally significant sites, promoting a shared commitment to identity preservation.

Expand Cultural Diplomacy: Encourage collaborative arts, music, and history initiatives to create narratives that bridge political divides.

Addressing Moral and Identity Crises: Integrate philosophy, history, and cultural studies into education to foster ethical thinking and a connection to heritage. Establish local cultural centers and publish high-quality content to promote awareness of national history and values. Support youth engagement programs that focus on skill development, cultural preservation, and social cohesion.

Building Humanitarian and Climate Resilience:

Humanitarian Aid: Strengthen partnerships among international organizations for timely aid in crises like Afghanistan, Syria, and Haiti. Focus on healthcare, education, and livelihood recovery.

Climate Action: Collaborate globally on sustainable practices, allocate resources to vulnerable nations like Pakistan, and implement green policies under international frameworks like the European Green Deal.

Disaster Preparedness: Invest in early warning systems, infrastructure development, and community-based resilience programs.

Fostering Global Partnerships: Encourage international agreements to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and provide technical and financial support for climate-affected regions. Mobilize funding for disaster recovery, ensuring transparency and efficiency in resource allocation.

Rethinking Crisis Recovery Approaches: Develop multi-sectoral strategies integrating political, economic, cultural, and environmental dimensions of crisis management. Empower local communities to actively participate in recovery initiatives, ensuring context-specific solutions and long-term sustainability.

By adopting these measures, the global community can build a more resilient, ethical, and collaborative framework to address the multifaceted crises of 2024 and beyond.