To address the profound impact the COVID-19 pandemic will have on the culture sector, UNESCO has launched a weekly "Culture & COVID-19: Impact and Response Tracker" to provide an overview of the rapidly evolving situation. It explores both the immediate impact of the health crisis and examples of how countries around the world are adapting to the situation. This is one of several initiatives by the Organization to respond to the impact of the pandemic on the cultural sector worldwide.

You can download the bulletins at UNESCO including the Special Issue with round up of initiatives from various world regions.

In December 2020 UNESCO reported on its overall response:

UNESCO has assessed the measures taken by governments to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on culture professionals and on the sector as a whole, an impact which appears to be more severe than previously assumed, according to data collected by the Organization and contained in a new policy guide.

In the film industry, it is estimated that ten million jobs will be lost in 2020 (1), while one third of art galleries are estimated to have reduced their staff by half during the crisis (2). A six-month closure could cost the music industry more than $10 billion in lost sponsorships (3), while the global publishing market is expected to shrink by 7.5% due to the crisis caused by the pandemic(4).
Responding to the crisis, which has led to the closure of a great many cinemas, theatres and bookshops and deprived artists of professional opportunities, UNESCO has developed tools for decision-makers published as a police guide entitled *Culture in Crisis: A Policy Guide for a Resilient Creative Sector*. The document is both a practical guide to help governments address the challenges artists and cultural professionals are facing during the pandemic, as well as offering advice on how to strengthen the resilience of the creative industries in the future.

In response to the pandemic, UNESCO launched a global monitoring exercise to assess, among other things, the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector, with a tool in the form of a weekly bulletin entitled “Culture & COVID-19: impact and response.” The Organization also facilitated a global conversation between professionals and artists, with more than 220 ResiliArt debates in over 75 countries, including consultations with ministries of culture, civil society and the private sector. All of these formed the basis of the guide for decision-makers.