



**SOLIDARITY FUND FOR AFRICAN ARTISTS &
CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS
(SOFACO)**

**Fonds de Solidarité pour les Artistes et les
Organisations culturelles en Afrique**

*Assistance Fund for creation and reconstruction of the social fabric for artists
and cultural organizations in Africa facing the crisis of Covid-19*



APRIL 2020

1- Context

For the past few months, the entire world has been experiencing an unprecedented health crisis caused by the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). This global crisis has had the effect of paralyzing all human activities, predicting immeasurable negative impacts on the development of the countries in the world.

In this rather particular context where no continent or country, or even sector of activity is spared, the creative sector is proving to be one of the most severely impacted sectors by the effects of the pandemic.

In many African countries, the majority of creation, production and distribution centers are closed and artists are idle, without prospects, many of them living between despair and dismay. This puts enormous pressure on professional organizations, cultural enterprises and associations which are the basis of cultural life.

How can we imagine a world without music, without cinema, without literature, without theater, without visual arts? Can we neglect or ignore the role of the arts and creative actors in a human society?

In these conditions, it becomes urgent and a priority to imagine assistance and support strategies for artists and cultural organizations so that creativity and artistic productivity do not stop, but also allow them to effectively resist the pandemic and preserve the socio-economic fabric of the already fragile African creative sector.

It is in light of this observation, that the African Culture Fund (ACF) is launching a major campaign of solidarity and assistance for creation through this call of the Fund (SOFACO) which constitutes an urgent response to the COVID 19 crisis.

2- Objectives

The main objective of SOFACO is to strengthen the resilience of artists and cultural organizations through assistance for creation and reconstruction of the social fabric of the artistic sector in Africa facing the COVID-19 crisis.

The specific objectives are:

- a) mobilize and make available funds to finance the resilience of artists and cultural actors in times of crisis;
- b) facilitate the reconstruction of the social and entrepreneurial fabric for the cultural and creative sector to facilitate the restart of activities after the crisis;
- c) financially support artists and cultural actors working and installed on the African continent and finance innovative micro-projects of creation, production and dissemination of cultural goods and services and adapted to the context of the Coronavirus crisis.

3- Target groups

SOFACO targets the following target groups: individual creators and artists, cultural promoters and entrepreneurs, professional artists, enterprises, experts, private arts training centers and institutes, organizations or associations of cultural actors, art galleries.

4- Financing arrangements

- Accessibility

SOFACO will finance artists, actors, associations, groups, projects and cultural enterprises over a period of 3 to 6 months in the form of a grant, salary or assistance.

A maximum of US \$ 3,000 per artist and / or cultural actor is proposed for the six months, according to well-defined criteria and needs actually expressed and justified and seniority in the artist profession.

For cultural organizations and projects, a maximum of US \$ 5,000 is proposed.

- Calls for applications

May – June 2020: Launch of calls for applications.