

UNESCO Amman Quarterly NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Dear colleagues, dear friends of UNESCO,
Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of the UNESCO Office in Amman Newsletter.

The past year was marked by the formulation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Jordan for the period of 2013-17. While the final draft of the Jordan UNDAF is currently being reviewed, it is clear that its main priorities are: Enhancing Systemic Reform, Ensuring Social Equity, Investing in Young People, Preserving the Environment. UNESCO was very much engaged in the formulation of the UNDAF and has successfully articulated its mandate in the fields of education, natural sciences, culture, communication and information.

The year of 2011 was also a very important year for UNESCO globally. At the General Conference in October two new states obtained membership to the organization, South Sudan and Palestine. In Jordan too UNESCO can look back at a year of many achievements. For example, the Wadi Rum Protected Area was listed as a mixed (natural and cultural) UNESCO World Heritage Site and Wadi Mujib as UNESCO Man and the Biosphere reserve. Let me also highlight some of the main achievements of the Office throughout 2011: The Communication and Information Sector has informed the development of a National Media Strategy through the application of UNESCO's Media Development Indicators; in Education we have continued supporting the Ministries of Education and Higher Education by strengthening their policy and planning capacities and concluded our School Readiness Programme for vulnerable Iraqi and Jordanian Youth. We have also hosted the regional launch of the Arabic edition of the Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2011 hosted in May under the patronage of Queen Rania Al-Abdallah at the presence of seven Ministers of Education of the region. In the field of Natural Sciences we addressed climate change and the dramatic water scarcity through the promotion of scientific research and capacity development -in particular at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction a series of tools on safe behaviour and preparedness in case of earthquakes and floods at schools. The Culture sector has developed a Risk Management Methodology and its application to the World Heritage Site in Petra and will be publishing it as a technical UNESCO publication for the community of site managers and decision makers managing heritage sites worldwide. Moreover funds were secured to start a Siq Stability project over the period of 30 months in Petra and assistance provided to the management of museums and cultural objects, as well as promoted cultural diversity through an array of lectures and other awareness-raising activities.

Currently we are finalizing our planning for the upcoming biennium 2012-2013 and we are confident to be able to continue to implement our programme activities with the same quality while looking into alternative ways of increasing our extra-budgetary interventions. We are eager to provide you with more information so please, should you want to learn more about the UNESCO Office in Amman or wish to partner with us, please do not hesitate to contact us!

We would like once again thank all our partners for joining us in implementing UNESCO's mandate in Jordan and supporting us throughout the UNDAF roll-out process.

Anna Paolini

Head of the UNESCO Office in Amman,
UNESCO Representative to Jordan

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Engaging Young People in their National Tangible and Intangible Heritage in Jordan

A two day expert meeting was held in Amman from 18 to 19 December 2011 on the current state of heritage education in Jordan and measures for improving it. The meeting was convened by the UNESCO Office in Amman in coordination with the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and with the participation of the Ministries of Tourism and Culture, the Department of Antiquities, universities, museums and national and international experts in the field of archaeology and heritage education.

Education plays a major role in teaching young people about the significance of national and world heritage at all levels of the educational systems. It provides an opportunity for raising awareness and putting emphasis on protecting heritage sites. Developing effective approaches and suitable materials for teaching tangible and intangible heritage for students is vital for its achievement. UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Education has identified that greater guidance is needed to encourage the involvement of young people in their heritage and enhance their perception of, and role within, their own historical environments.

At the roundtable a national expert in heritage education presented the findings of a national survey that mapped out all references to cultural heritage (tangible, intangible, cultural diversity) at the elementary and secondary levels in 15 curricula (including English, Arabic Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, Vocational Education, Art, Music and Citizenship). These findings were the basis of an expert discussion on the type of supplementary educational resources that should be developed for teachers and students in Jordan. In addition, strategic recommendations were formulated on the way forward of heritage education in Jordan.

The meeting was a follow up of research and a preliminary round table discussion held in August 2011. Present was a targeted audience of Educators and Ministry officials. Education specialists, members of the Ministries of Education, Culture, Tourism & Antiquities, as well as the Department of Antiquities, the National Commission, UNESCO Office in Amman, and other parties.



Education Supporting inclusive education for hearing impaired students

In partnership with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD) and the Ministry of Education, UNESCO has launched a programme to foster the inclusion of students with hearing impairments in education. The programme is supporting the inclusion of students within the public schooling system through a two-fold approach: developing the capacities of relevant supervisors and officials at the Ministry of Education and equipping students with hearing aids. The programme started on Sunday 11 December in Amman and will last until February 2012.

Over the coming two months more than 100 supervisors and trainers from the Ministry of Education and HCD will be trained to become trainers on teaching methodologies for students with hearing impairment, sign-language and its interpretation. In the course of the programme hearing aids will be handed out to more than 100 students with hearing impairment.

This is the second programme in the field of inclusive education organized by UNESCO, the Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Education in 2011.

Throughout October and November, another programme trained supervisors of the Ministry of Education on how to train awareness raising techniques on the rights of persons with disabilities. This programme reached more than 80 supervisors from every department of the Ministry of Education, in the central, northern and southern regions of the Kingdom. Trainings were successfully implemented in Aqaba, Irbid and Amman.

Anna Paolini, UNESCO Representative to Jordan has ensured UNESCO's continuing support adding that "UNESCO will continue to focus on education for children with different abilities, by developing opportunities and more inclusive education programmes".

The inclusive education programmes implemented by the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities with the support of the UNESCO Office in Amman are a direct translation of Jordan's commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, as a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) since 2007.



Engaging youth in human rights – UNESCO supports Outreach Programme of the Karama Human Rights Film Festival



Education

The UNESCO Office in Amman supported Karama Human Rights Festival in Jordan through its outreach programme which reached hundreds of youth during its tour through northern governorates of Jordan from the 6th to 18th of December 2011.

The second edition of the Karama Human Rights Festival attracted large crowds and stimulated debate, education and exposed children and youth from local schools, universities, and community clubs about issues of human rights.

The UNESCO Office in Amman in coordination with the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Education supported Karama in reaching school groups and community club members, including teachers and trainers

through its established network of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet).

Engaging children and youth in human rights themes is a priority for the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in Jordan. Films are an excellent medium to trigger discussions, question established beliefs and encourage critical thinking. Educational screenings took place in the areas of Amman, Jerash and Irbid at schools and universities. Participating ASPnet schools were chosen on the basis of their interest and ongoing extra-curricular activities on human rights throughout the year.

Cooperation with Karama was particularly timely as it intersects directly with UNESCO's objectives of strengthening the education for democracy, mutual respect, civic responsibilities and tolerance. The films screened for the outreach program were chosen for their high educational value and include "Damascus With Love", "Majid", "Standing Army", "Microphone", "Raining Cats and Frogs", and "City of the Dead".

The festival will be officially opened on Monday, the 5th of December and open to the public the following day running until the 10th of December. It will showcase more than 40 of the most important Arab and international award-winning short and long films, on matters pertaining to human rights, including 14 feature films and 26 documentaries from more than 20 countries.

Alongside the film screenings, Karama 2011 will hold a panel discussion on transparency. This year also includes a seminar on the birth of human rights and its international protection, a panel session on the right to life and death penalties; a musical concert and art exhibition all related to human rights themes.

For further information on the Karama Human Rights Festival please visit: <http://karamafestival.org>. For more information on the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network in Jordan contact Ms. Hadeel Talli, h.talli@unesco.org.



A scene from Lebanese director Nadine Labaki's 'Where do we go now?' which was screened in Amman last month as part of the second Karama Human Rights Film Festival (Photo courtesy of Karama Festival)

Making adult education and training an integral part of a lifelong learning strategy

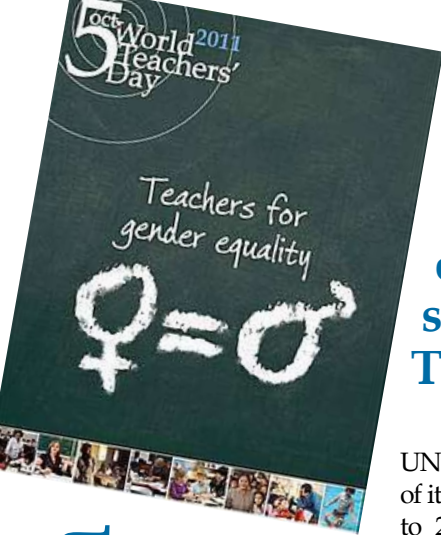
UNESCO Office in Amman hosted a regional workshop on "Making adult education and training an integral part of a lifelong learning strategy" from 29 to 30 November in Amman. The overall goal of the workshop was to convene national and international experts to help identify ways and policy options to address the growing need for continuing vocational education and training opportunities for adult and young people from Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, and, Jordan.

Organized by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL-Hamburg), the UNESCO International Centre for Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (UNEVOC-Bonn), the UNESCO Office in Amman and the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO, the workshop brought together around 60 participants from selected countries of North Africa and the Middle East including two thirds from Jordan governmental and non-governmental institutions.

Rapid economic and technological changes are increasingly imposing on adults and young people to acquire generic skills and competences needed in knowledge economies and learning societies which the formal schooling system alone will not be able to provide. There is a concrete need for policies for the development of appropriate competency frameworks to enhance the employability of adult and youth in the region through lifelong learning approaches.

For further information please visit: www.uil.unesco.org, and www.unevoc.unesco.org



Supporting UNRWA's launch of the education reform strategy on World Teachers' Day

UNESCO supported UNRWA's launch of its education reform strategy for 2011 to 2015 on 5th October 2011, World

Teachers' Day, in Amman. The reform will improve the quality of learning for Palestine refugee students in UNRWA's 700 schools and allow the Agency to meet the evolving demands of an education system for the 21st century. The strategy focuses on teacher development, curriculum and student assessment, inclusive education, and technical and vocational training.

The strategy is underscored by a forward-looking vision for UNRWA education which aspires to develop the "full potential of Palestine refugees to enable them to be confident, innovative, questioning, thoughtful, tolerant and open minded, upholding human values and tolerance, proud of their Palestinian identity and contributing positively to the development of their society and the global community."

More than 100 educationalists, including UNRWA staff and the Agency's partners, including UNESCO, attended a celebration held at UNRWA headquarters in Amman. In a speech, Ms. Margot Ellis, UNRWA's Deputy Commissioner focused on the importance of World Teachers' Day in fostering awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development. She also highlighted the great role that UNRWA teachers play in educating Palestine refugee schoolchildren.

In her speech, Mrs. Caroline Pontefract, the director of education and a UNESCO staff member outlined how it will contribute to better quality education for Palestine refugee children. Mrs. Anna Paolini, the Head of UNESCO's Office in Jordan, emphasized the historic and ongoing strong relationship between the two agencies, and set out as well plans for future collaboration: *"Since 1951, the education programme at UNRWA has been administered with financial and technical support from UNESCO. Experts from the Organization have contributed to teacher training and professional development programmes, educational planning, technical advice, and strategic reform that has helped UNRWA to provide quality educational services to those that it serves. The collaboration between the two organization remains strong today and will continue with the goal of providing quality educational services to Palestine refugees."*

Education is UNRWA's largest programme, accounting for more than half of the Agency's regular budget. The Agency operates one of the largest school systems in the Middle East, providing half a million Palestine refugee children with free-of-charge basic education every day. UNRWA has been supported by UNESCO since the Agency's creation in 1949.

UNRWA provides assistance, protection and advocacy for nearly 5 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to their plight. The Agency's services encompass education, health care, social safety-net, camp infrastructure and improvement, community support, microfinance and emergency response, including in times of armed conflict.

Programme to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities launched in Aqaba

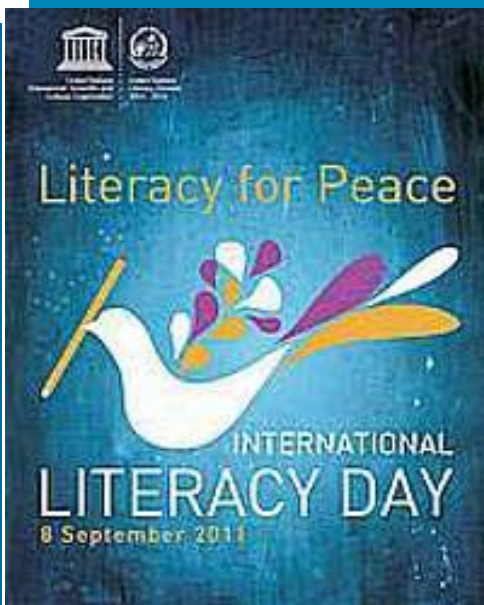
Third phase of Different Abilities Campaign Targets Ministry of Education Supervisors

The Higher Council for Affairs of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), the Ministry of Education and UNESCO began the first part of a training programme for supervisors of departments of the Ministry of Education on how to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities on 19 October, in Aqaba. The training programme reached supervisors from every department of the Ministry of Education, in the central, northern and southern regions of the Kingdom, and was repeated in Irbid and Amman, respectively.

The primary goal of the programme was to educate and sensitize teachers throughout Jordan about the rights, capabilities and needs of persons with disabilities and enable them to promote these rights in the schools. Participants were acquainted with models of disability representation vis-à-vis the terminology associated with such representations. Discussions in this regard were also complemented by awareness-raising materials produced by the "Different Abilities" campaign, which toured several schools all over Jordan from Amman, Mafraq Ramtha and Tafeelah to Aqaba throughout 2010. During the school visits, it became clear that teachers too required training and awareness on disability issues and the prevalent stereotypes attributed to people with disabilities by the public, reasons for which this training programme was formulated.

During the two-day workshops, attendees were also trained on communication and facilitation skills, and joined in on a number of role-play activities, illustrating the theoretical concepts discussed. The programme was a direct translation of Jordan's commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, as a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) since 2007. As the leading organisation working with disability affairs in the Kingdom, and under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Raad bin Zeid, the HCD is mandated to follow-up on and monitor Jordan's implementation of the UNCRPD, at the policy level, serving as a co-ordinating and advocacy body for all concerned entities, and working towards the full inclusion of Jordanians with disabilities into society. UNESCO is a longstanding partner of the HCD, providing continuous support to improve inclusive education and the challenges persons with different abilities face in Jordan. Anna Paolini, UNESCO Representative to Jordan has ensured UNESCO's continuing support adding that "UNESCO will continue to focus on education for children with different abilities, by developing opportunities and more inclusive education programmes".

The term disability covers a wide range of different physical, sensory, intellectual or psycho-social impairments which may or may not affect a person's ability to carry out their day to day activities or functional tasks. Persons with disabilities in Jordan are approximately 4-5% of the general population, equalling about 300,000 people. On the global level, one-tenth of the world's population, or 650 million people live with a disability. Nevertheless, persons with disabilities, all over the world, still suffer from stigmatisation, discrimination and unequal access to social and economic spaces, rendering collaborative efforts and awareness raising campaigns vital in tackling prejudices and inequalities.



Providing school-drop outs a second chance: non-formal education center opened in Umm Sayhoon

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Jordan National Commission for UNESCO and Questscope, UNESCO Office in Amman marked International Literacy Day 2011 with the opening of a Non-Formal Education Center serving school drop outs in Umm Sayhoon, in

the Petra region on 9th October. The establishment of the non-formal education center aims to reduce the number of dropouts in the Petra region and to provide opportunities to individuals of the local Bedouin communities to develop their education skills to further reduce poverty and inclusion within their community.

The opening of the non-formal education centre was also an occasion to celebrate International Literacy Day which each year is celebrated on 8 September. This year's theme was "Literacy for Peace". In her speech addressing the local community, Anna Paolini UNESCO Representative to Jordan said "Since its creation in 1946, UNESCO has been at the forefront of global literacy efforts and is dedicated to keeping literacy high on national, regional and international agendas. Literacy is a human right that can empower individuals to advocate for their rights. Literacy programs are essential for empowering individual and equipping them with confidence and skills and knowledge to make better and more informed decisions about their life."

Bedouin communities of the villages of Um-Sayhun and Amarin are situated in close proximity to the Petra site where many school-aged children are engaged in economic activities and school drop-out rates are markedly high. In partnership with Questscope, proven alternative education methods are being deployed to help dropouts and others to learn needed language, mathematics, science and other capabilities necessary to complete the 10-grade certification in the Jordan school system. The center is the starting point but it is the commitment and support of the community that is essential to its success.

The project is funded by the Annenberg Foundation and implemented by UNESCO Office in partnership with Questscope, the Ministry of Education and the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO. Questscope is an NGO dedicated to transforming the future of vulnerable youth and communities in the Middle East by equipping them with the resources and hope they need to become compassionate and productive citizens.



Supporting Jordan in developing education policy and planning capacities

UNESCO continues its capacity development support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education & Scientific Research with two trainings on policy and planning in education in Amman. The trainings held on October 2-17 and November 14-25 were organized in coordination with the Planning Unit at the Ministry of Education and aim at enhancing the capacities of senior and middle management in the field of educational planning and policy analysis, from the Ministries of Education and Higher Education. The overall goal of the training is to assist the Ministries of Education and Higher Education in the development of coherent policies and plans that are crucial to bring about the real and sustainable change in the education sector and the achievement of the Education for All goals.

The UNESCO Office in Amman continues its role in supporting national decision-makers in developing solid and relevant educational policies and strategies and in managing their effective implementation within the context of the Education Reform for Knowledge Economy Project, 2009-2013. ERfKE II focuses on the reorientation of educational policies, goals and strategies on governance and management reform for sound planning and monitoring of performance, and through the provision of quality physical learning environments.

The trainings were the continuation of a series of trainings in the area of education policy and planning which started in April 2011 and were organized in coordination with the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO. The October session focused on sector analysis and diagnosis and policy formulation, while the November training focused on educational indicators and project design and implementation.

Education

Introducing ASPnet themes to National School Coordinators and Teachers in Oman

A two day training workshop for UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) coordinators in Oman was held in Muscat on the 13th and 14th of December to introduce the themes of World Heritage, Inclusive Education, Environment (Education for Sustainable Development) and Human Rights. Organized with the participation of the UNESCO Office in Amman, the Omani Ministry of Education and National Commission for UNESCO the workshop also introduced the UNESCO ASPnet to new ASPnet coordinators and teachers from all areas of Oman.

"The ASPnet has proven to be an excellent mechanism to mainstream such important

themes as human rights and environmental education into extra-curricular activities in Jordan, I am pleased to see that also in Oman the UNESCO ASPnet modality is making great progress" said Hadeel Talli, Regional ASPnet Coordinator from the UNESCO Office in Amman. In the course of the workshop, projects implemented in Oman during 2011 were presented by local coordinators and annual plans for the coming academic year formulated.

Education



Teacher development training series concluded in Madaba

A series of teacher development trainings on integrating vulnerable youth into education concluded in Madaba on December 15, 2011. The training organized by the UNESCO Office in Amman with the Ministry of Education and the Jordan Education Initiative focused on positive learning environment in classrooms, addressing technical classroom challenges and quality education. It was the last of a series of trainings on the "INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies" held for the Ministry of Education throughout 2010 and 2011 as part of

UNESCO's School Readiness Programme for Vulnerable Jordanian and Iraqi Youth.

The training took place in Madaba and reached 100 teachers from the Madaba Governorate and three surrounding districts: Muwaqar, Thiban, and Al Jiza. Upon the conclusion of the training, teachers have to prepare their classroom plans for the coming year. As a follow up support mechanism, trainers will visit teachers in their classroom to evaluate and discuss performance.

Supporting the Ministry of Education in accommodating Iraqis in Jordanian schools was a key element of the programme. Following a royal decree King Abdullah II issued in August 2007, more than 27,000 Iraqi students joined public schools on a yearly basis. The influx of Iraqis in the Jordanian schooling system – Iraqi children who received the right to enroll in public schools system regardless of residential status – added pressure on the Jordanian school system. The programme, funded by the Australian Aid Fund directly complemented the government's efforts to support teachers in providing quality education to vulnerable Jordanian and Iraqi Youth and supported the Ministry of Education in safeguarding adequate minimum standards to deliver quality programmes. The programme is ending with the end of the year.

Natural Sciences



UNESCO Office in Amman celebrates the International Year of Forests at Ajloun Reserve

On the occasion of the International Year of Forests, UNESCO Office in Amman, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair of the Studies on Desert and Desertification Control at Yarmouk University, Dr. Ahmad Daradkeh, and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, a one-day celebration was held at Ajloun Reserve with the participation of students and the Nature Protection Clubs of the governorates of Ajloun and Jerash. The celebration included plays, poems, songs and competitions submitted by students' clubs in the participating provinces which highlighted the importance of protecting forests and proposed solutions for the protection of forests.

At the end of the celebration, prizes were presented to the participating clubs and winners of the environment competition, which was part of the day's activities.



Enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Development in Jordan



A workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation Tools for Science Technology and Innovation, organized by UNSECO, in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology was held in Amman from the 6th to 8th of December 2011. The workshop provided selected participants from key ministries and scientific institutes in Jordan the skills to develop and use Monitoring and Evaluation tools in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). By the end of the workshop the participants were able to apply their knowledge and skills on Jordan's current STI policy and created a Monitoring and Evaluation Process Report and Communication Plan.

This workshop comes within the framework of a project of the UNESCO Office in Amman in support of the development of a Science, Technology and Innovation Policy & Strategy for Jordan for the years of 2012-2015. The project is implemented in partnership with the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Supporting Jordan in updating the National Water Master Plan (NWMP)

A training course on Water Evaluation and Planning WEAP lead by experts from the Stockholm Environment Institute was held in Amman from 30th October to 3rd November 2011. The course saw the participation of 17 specialists from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and is supporting the Ministry in its efforts of updating the National Water Master Plan (NWMP) using the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) methodology.

According to the Jordan's Water Strategy, Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries in the world and needs to explore alternative resources and new management options for the coming years. Commenting on the training, an expert from the Stockholm Environment Institute said, "As part of its effort to develop a National Water Master Plan (NWMP), the Ministry is using the Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) tools to assess the current water supply and demand situation and to evaluate various policy and management interventions aimed at bridging the gap between water demands and available resources. This workshop will give the Ministry some of the necessary skills to update and evaluate its master plan."

Along similar lines Eng. Ali Sobeh, assistant to the Secretary General of the Ministry commented on the timeliness of the training "Given the water situation in Jordan, the Ministry needs to manage the limited water resources it has with extreme efficiency in order to be able to meet the increasing demand for water. This workshop comes at right time as and is very important to the Ministry. It is providing us the opportunity to acquire the skills we need to update the National Water Master Plans."

The training was organized by the UNESCO Office in Amman as part of the joint UN programme "Adaptation to climate change to sustain Jordan's MDG achievement" of the MDG Achievement Fund. The MDG Achievement Fund is an international cooperation mechanism with the aim to accelerate the progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide. Under this fund, in Jordan, UNESCO together with UNDP, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) is enhancing Jordan's capacity to adapt to climate change.



UNESCO Office in Amman holds a workshop on rangeland management

A two-day training workshop on rangeland management was held in Mujib reserve on October 1 and 2. The workshop targeted the local community in Mujib and Dana reserves. The workshop was designed to increase the awareness of local communities on how to develop a sound rangeland plan to sustain the productivity of rangeland locations within the targeted reserves.



Improving capacities in Integrated Flood Risk Management and Flood Disaster Preparedness Planning and Emergency Response in Jordan

A short training course on flood risk assessment and management for specialists from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Master students from water and environment related disciplines was held in Amman from 30 October – 3rd November 2011. The 17 participants were trained by experts from the China Institute for Water Resources and Hydropower Research (Beijing) who introduced them to Integrated Flood Risk Management and Flood Disaster Preparedness Planning and Emergency Response.

Commenting on the training, Engineer Ali Sobeh, Assistant to the Secretary General for Ministry of Water and Irrigation at the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation said, “Flash floods are a major natural hazard in Jordan. This workshop was very important to the Ministry as it gave us the opportunity to learn from international experiences on how to better plan and respond to flash floods.” According to “Jordan’s Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)”, (2009) flash floods have varied impacts on different areas and proper risk and vulnerability analysis for each flood prone area needs to be carried out and proper climate and topographic maps are needed for vulnerable areas.

The training was organized by the UNESCO Office in Amman as part of the joint UN programme “Adaptation to climate change to sustain Jordan’s MDG achievement” of the MDG Achievement Fund. The MDG Achievement Fund is an international cooperation mechanism with the aim to accelerate the progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide. Under this fund, in Jordan, UNESCO together with UNDP, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) is enhancing Jordan’s capacity to adapt to climate change.



Developing regional negotiation skills in the field of transboundary water resources management

A regional five-day training workshop on negotiations skills for water officials from Iraq, Palestine and Jordan was held in Amman from 20 – 24 November 2011. The workshop was led by an international water conflict expert and trainer. Through a number of role plays and case studies the trainer gave the participants the needed skills for successful collaborative transboundary water resources management and enhanced the negotiation abilities of the participants to reach sustainable solutions related to shared water disputes.

Water, is an essential resource, vital for life, human well-being, economic development peace and security. However, especially in the Arab region fresh water is constantly decreasing in quality and quantity. As a result, water is the center of intense disputes and becoming the natural resource most likely to cause conflicts in the twenty-first century. The alarming increase in population, accompanied by a doubling in the growth of the world-wide demand for water every twenty-one years, raises concerns and tensions among states.

The training was based on UNESCO’s successful “Sharing Water, Sharing Benefits, Working Towards Effective Trans Boundary Water Resources Management” manual developed in cooperation with the International Hydrological Programme for water professionals. It was organized by the UNESCO Office in Amman as part of the joint UN programme “Adaptation to climate change to sustain Jordan’s MDG achievement” of the MDG Achievement Fund. The MDG Achievement Fund is an international cooperation mechanism with the aim to accelerate the progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide. Under this fund, in Jordan, UNESCO together with UNDP, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO) is enhancing Jordan’s capacity to adapt to climate change.



UNESCO Prepares Museum Staff and Civil Defence for Potential Emergencies

In coordination with the Civil Defence, the UNESCO Office in Amman held a simulation of an emergency at the Jordan Museum in Ras al Ain on Wednesday the 12th of October. The simulation was carried out to prepare the Jordan Museum and the Civil Defence for

an emergency, should one ever occur. The event of an emergency poses particular challenges to a museum. Not only would visitors need rapid evacuation, but the museum's artifacts would need to be saved. Through the emergency simulation, the UNESCO Office in Amman assisted museum staff to better prepare themselves, while also preparing Jordan's emergency services to handle artifacts in the event of a disaster.

The real-life simulation was the final activity of a two-day theoretical training at the Jordan Museum on how to handle emergencies at museums. Participants included staff of the Jordan Museum, the Department of Antiquities, members of Jordan's Civil Defence and university students.

The emergency simulated the course of events during a fire, but skills taught could equally apply to natural hazards such as flash floods or earthquakes. Part of UNESCO's mandate is to ensure that a country's cultural objects are protected. Such objects often hold critical importance to cultural identity. UNESCO's Representative in Jordan, Dr. Anna Paolini, commented that "Jordan lies directly on the seismic active Dead Sea Transform fault, so the risk of an earthquake is very real. The same is true for the risk of flooding. UNESCO is very pleased to work closely with the Civil Defence, and with the staff from Jordan Museum and museums of the Department of Antiquities, to provide essential and practical training."

This simulation exercise follows international best practices and was developed by one of UNESCO's international experts in Protection of Cultural Heritage, Dr. Adalberto Biasiotti who oversaw the training exercise at Jordan Museum. The practical exercise was the follow up activity of a UNESCO seminar on 'Security in Museums' which was held in Amman in June 2011."

As part of the simulation exercise, fire officers arrived at the scene to extinguish the "fire," and evacuated 40 student volunteers from the museum. After the visitors' safety was secured, the salvage of burned and wetted replica artifacts began. To imitate the types of emergencies that might be encountered in reality, trainees were required to enter the museum in dark and smoky conditions.



UNESCO convenes Arab Regional Meeting on Natural World Heritage in Amman



In early December, experts from the Arab region working on Natural World Heritage met in Amman to elaborate measures on how to enhance awareness and compliance with the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in the Arab Region.

Organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, in coordination with the UNESCO Office in Amman and the participation of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) the meeting brought together national focal points working on natural heritage such as site managers of natural and mixed (natural and cultural) heritage sites, as well as representatives of IUCN and other organizations working in the Arab region from December 6th to 9th.

In order to consolidate the regional network of natural heritage experts, UNESCO successfully convened participants and experts from throughout the Arab region, including Yemen, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, and Iraq.

Jordan has four World Heritage sites, including Wadi Rum, which is listed as both a cultural and a natural site. Wadi Rum is one of two mixed listing for the Arab Region and therefore presents a unique management opportunity.

"The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage reminds us of the ways in which people interact with nature, and of the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two, this interaction between people and nature is key to the sustainability of our natural heritage", said Anna Paolini, UNESCO Representative to Jordan in her opening remarks.

The meeting was held under the patronage of the Minister of Environment HE Yaseen Khayyat, who opened the meeting. Jordan's representatives at the meeting include Wadi Rum and RSCN, and the Ministry of Tourism.



Calling all Jordanian Designers: UNESCO Amman launches design contest for handmade objects

The UNESCO Office in Amman launched a Design for Handmade Objects Contest, open to all Jordanian designers. The aim of the contest is to encourage Jordanian designers and craftspeople to keep up traditional crafts while adapting them to a changing environment and market.

The designs should be inspired by Jordan's diverse popular culture and living heritage, and be based mostly on locally available, natural and/or recycled materials. A jury of artists, designers and handicraft producers will choose the winning designs which will be announced at a public event in 2012. The deadline for submission is 10th February 2012, and applications can be made online on www.alhoush.com.

UNESCO recognizes that there are excellent designers in Jordan, and also that there are many handicraft producers in the country. Crafts are one of the most visible part of cultural diversity and heritage. The added value of craft products stems from the fact that they mirror the creativity, culture and heritage of craftspeople. It is UNESCO's intention to encourage innovation and promote the presence of creative craftspeople in the national and global market and develop links between crafts and design.

Supporting the Petra Development Tourism Regional Authority (PDTRA) in improving human waste management at the Petra World Heritage Site

As part of its continuous support to the PDTRA, UNESCO Office in Amman has recently carried out an assessment of human waste management in the World Heritage site of Petra. From 11 to 17 of December 2011 an international UNESCO expert made a thorough assessment of the current waste management conditions in the site. Based on this assessment the expert will develop a set of concrete recommendations on how to improve management of human waste in Petra in line with international best practices in early 2012.

Human waste management is a complex issue in itself but even more so at archaeological sites where high numbers of visitors and fragile archaeological features are additional factors to be considered. In the case of Petra, the nature and size of the site constitute further challenges. Moreover, water scarcity, visitor sensitivity and the difficult accessibility of certain areas of the site for waste vehicles and visitors need to be considered. Following the principles of best-practice in World Heritage sites the expert will recom-

mend most suitable locations for toilets inside the site of Petra and propose designs for eco-friendly units that will have the least visual and ecologic impact on this fragile and unique site that receives up to 4,000 visitors per day during high season.



Risk Management Methodology Applied at the Pilot Area of Petra and Results Presented During an Experts Meeting

The risk assessment and management phase of the Petra Risk Mapping Project was implemented at the Petra Archaeological Park (PAP) during 20 days of rapid risk assessment fieldwork from October 21 to November 8. The fieldwork was based on the methodology adopted and drafted for the risk management at the PAP by the UNESCO Office in Amman in partnership with the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) at the University of Leuven (Belgium). This methodology for risk management was validated earlier, on October 18, at a meeting held at the UNESCO Office in Amman between the authorities managing the Park and the stakeholders and experts working and researching on the site.

The fieldwork team was composed of two master students in conservation from the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) at the University of Leuven in Belgium, and the staff from the Department of Antiquities, the Petra Development and Tourism Regional Authority, and the UNESCO Office in Amman as well as a local student in conservation and an architect. The fieldwork started after two days of training on the application of the methodology and techniques to be used on the field for the team members.

The risk management methodology was tested during this fieldwork and it was applied on both archaeological elements (carved and standing structures) and natural elements, in order to be able to study the effect of manmade and natural risks on the PAP as an archaeological landscape. Two archaeological elements, the Temple of the Winged Lion and the Turkamania Tomb, as well as one natural area, the Basin Area, were selected as the Pilot Area and studied during this rapid risk assessment fieldwork.

Threats and disturbances to these elements were located, identified and recorded and the condition of the Pilot Area was assessed based on visual inspection. After the risks were identified and their impacts were assessed, the mitigation strategies were sug-

gested and the decision priorities were identified for the managers involved in the management of the site.

As a next step and in order to review, modify and finalize the risk management methodology based on its applicability and experienced gained during the fieldwork, an experts meeting was held on December 19th 2011. The achieved goal of the meeting was to bring together representatives from local authorities, experts with extensive knowledge of Petra, and fieldwork team to present and discuss the data gathered during the fieldwork, the rapid risk assessment results, and the implementation of the proposed risk management methodology.

The methodology will be updated and reviewed based on the fieldwork experience and comments raised during the experts meeting. Once finalized, The Risk Management Methodology for the Petra Archaeological Park will serve as a tailored tool to identify risks for the site, assess their impact on heritage and to help site managers to prioritize the decision making for the better management of the site.



Discussion during office work among fieldwork team members in the assessment of risks at the Turkamania Tomb



Presentation of risk management fieldwork results and discussion roundtable during the experts meeting held at UNESCO office on 19 December 2011





Dr Malek Twal, Secretary General at the Ministry of Political Development presents an overview of the government's latest media-related accomplishments

Government and media representatives agree on the need for an independent, self-regulatory media body for Jordan

UNESCO Office in Amman held a two-day retreat at the Dead Sea moderated by an international media self-regulation expert to discuss the need for a self-regulatory media body in Jordan. The retreat took place from 13 to 14 of October and brought together 20 press freedom advocates and media regulation specialists from the government, civil society and media including high-level government representatives from the Prime Ministry, the Ministry of Political Development, and the Ministry of Social Development.

After intense discussions, an agreement was reached by all participants on the need for an independent media self-regulation mechanism in Jordan and a number of possible models for a self-regulatory media body in Jordan were elaborated and a roadmap towards enactment formulated.

Earlier in the year, UNESCO had provided international expertise to the Government of Jordan by providing an assessment of the media situation in the country following UNESCO's Media Development Indicators (MDI). One of the recommendations of the MDI assessment was the establishment of an independent self-regulatory media body that regulates issues related to professionalism and ethics of journalists in Jordan. A second workshop is scheduled for early next year to plan for further action towards the realisation of media self-regulation in Jordan.



Group Discussions among participants in the Media Self-Regulation Retreat

UNESCO supports Community Media Network in Building the Capacities of Female Citizen Journalists in Jordan's Rural Areas

Six young women from the Jordan Valley, Karak, and Irbid have been enrolled in a series of training courses in radio reporting techniques as part of a project supported by UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). "Building capacities of Female Citizen Journalists in Jordan's Rural Areas" will provide the selected young women with skills to produce professional reports on socio-economic issues present in their communities from a female, rural perspective.

Throughout the next 7 months, participants will receive intensive training in order to form a sustainable network of qualified female citizen community-radio journalists, and at the final stages of their course, will produce 12 shows voicing the needs of their communities by providing them it with a media channel and local content.

The project, which was launched early January 2011 at the Jordan Valley, was approved for funding by the IPDC Bureau at its 55th Meeting held in Paris in March 2011 and is implemented by Community Media Network in Jordan (CMN).

Just over ten years ago, Jordan liberalized its media landscape granting licenses to private media which caused a steady growth of satellite channels, private radio stations, and few magazines and newspapers. However, content

and production have mainly catered for the needs of the urban population, have been characterized to be purely commercial, are quite often male biased, and largely centralized in the capital Amman.

Except for very few community radio stations and campus radios in Irbid, Karak and Maan, and very limited space in the newspapers and two local TV stations, correspondents to the 12 governorates have little space or time on air to cover local issues of their areas and thus, local communities in rural areas, particularly women, have limited access to media production and are underrepresented.

To provide women in rural communities with the chance to participate in the media arena and voice their concerns and needs, and those of people in their communities, CMN applied to the IPDC in 2009 by sending a project proposal, as part of an open invitation to countries worldwide.

Each year, the IPDC calls for proposals from countries around the world, and only projects that meet the requirements and specific criteria are supported. A bureau of 8 countries elected by the 39 members of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council evaluates the proposals according to clear standards and makes decisions on the allocation of the annual funding budget.

The list of upcoming projects to obtain funding will be released in February 2012.





UNESCO Office in Amman
مكتب اليونسكو عمان

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is a specialized agency of the UN and works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. UNESCO's mission in Jordan is to work with the government of Jordan to provide effective high quality educational, scientific, cultural and communications programmes.

For more information about the work of UNESCO in Jordan, please visit www.unesco.org/en/amman

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