



Amman Office
مكتب عمان

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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UNESCO Amman Office

EDUCATION

Education transforms lives and is at the heart of UNESCO's mission to build peace, eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education.

UNESCO Amman office is currently operating throughout Jordan, supporting Jordanian institutions and host communities as well as refugees living across the kingdom.



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that education is essential to the success of all 17 of its goals. Ambitions for education are primarily captured in SDG 4 which is dedicated to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and to promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, has been entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda along with its partners.

The roadmap designed to facilitate the global achievement of the ten targets of SDG 4 has been set forth in the 'Education 2030 Framework for Action' which provides guidance to governments and partners on how to turn commitments into action. 'Education 2030' goes beyond past attempts to ensure access to basic education and the main responsibility for implementing the agenda is shared between the government and UNESCO with partners providing support through coordinated policy advice, technical assistance, capacity development and monitoring of progress at global, regional and national levels.



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

- **Target 4.3:** Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. UNESCO provides technical and vocational education and training for Jordanian and Syrian youth, supporting them in transitioning to opportunities in the labor market or continuing their education and training.
- **Target 4.4:** Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. UNESCO supports teacher training, improving the quality of education and fostering an integrated approach to teaching professional development.
- **Target 4.7:** Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. In a cross-sectoral approach, the UNESCO culture team contributes to sustainable development and conservation of environmental, natural and cultural heritage, recognizing that the active engagement of children and youth is essential to this work.

UNESCO Amman office has been taking a leadership role in ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, UNESCO became involved with the Ministry of Education and the National Center for Human Resources Development, working to enhance capacity in a series of workshops surrounding unpacking SDG 4, focusing on targets and thematic indicators for monitoring and evaluation. Further SDG-focused support and assistance has been provided in 2018.

The Two Pillars



TVET and Higher Education

UNESCO supports programmes to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. In line with national development priorities, UNESCO helps to enhance the relevance of TVET to equip all youth and adults with the skills required for employment, decent work, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning.

UNESCO's work focuses on three key areas outlined in its global Strategy for TVET (2016–2021): fostering youth employment and entrepreneurship, promoting equity and gender equality, and facilitating the transition to green economies and sustainable societies.

- Youth populations are often neglected in instances of crisis and UNESCO is working to provide opportunities for this critical group to continue their education in post-basic and post secondary education streams, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) at community colleges and Higher Education Institutes.
- In line with the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), UNESCO has supported the provision of alternative learning pathways for out-of-school youth through providing access to TVET. In 2017, over 200 Jordanian and Syrian youth graduated from BTEC-Level 3 TVET training programs. In 2018, a further 250 students were enrolled in BTEC-Level 2 TVET training as part of the second phase of this successful skills development program.
- 500 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women have been supported with life skills and vocational training to create their own businesses.
- Based upon recent successes, UNESCO is continuing to focus on the expansion of TVET programming and future areas of intervention.



Sustainable
Development
Goals



System Strengthening

Education is a basic human right. UNESCO's comparative advantage is found in supporting Ministries through successful collaboration. National capacities are strengthened as UNESCO strives to encourage and facilitate access, quality, relevance and equity in the delivery of educational services to all beneficiaries, including Syrian refugees.

- UNESCO has provided support to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in preparing their Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2018 – 2022. Anchored in the goals of the National Strategy for Human Resource Development 2016-2025 (HRD), the ESP follows a participatory and inclusive approach, in line with the best international practices. After the successful launch event of the ESP, UNESCO is now aiming to strengthen the MoE core policy functions of planning and budgeting; monitoring; research and evaluation; and data to implement the five-year plan.
- The MoE has made investments to strengthen the Open Education Management Information System (OpenEMIS) to serve as a centralized source of information for planning and monitoring results, particularly on access to formal education. Through UNESCO's OpenEMIS project, the MoE has established the base towards overall accuracy and reliability of national education statistics.
- UNESCO assisted the MoE in the development of an education-financing model and implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based school mapping to better inform decision making.



UNESCO's Syria Crisis Response

Over the past 7 years, Jordan has felt the impact of the Syria crisis and currently is hosting 660,935 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR, as of April 2018. Approximately 80% of Syrian refugees live in host communities across Jordan where the effects of the protracted conflict have affected both Syrian and Jordanian citizens. The UNESCO Amman office is responding to the crisis through the nationally led, resilience-based approach, which provides longer-term support to national institutions.

UNESCO has taken a strategic role in shaping the global agenda for education in emergencies anchored in SDG 4 implementation across the Arab States. The 2013-2021 Medium Term Strategy stipulates that UNESCO will advocate for a sector-wide approach for the rehabilitation of education systems in post-crisis situations and the enhancement of resilience. In the context of the Syria crisis, UNESCO will continue to concentrate on critical areas such as TVET and life-skills, secondary education and higher education, including enhancing the quality of education through teacher education and training.

The prolonged nature of the conflict has overstretched the public sector's ability to sustain quality education. UNESCO Amman office has intensified efforts to provide an education response to the Syria crisis, particularly through its Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth Strategy. The Education unit aims at mobilizing significant funding as UNESCO assists Jordan in educating Syrian and vulnerable Jordanian students and maintaining the quality of Jordanian education services to citizens.



The Way Forward

Strengthening public education systems requires enhanced national education governance and accountability, planning, costing, data collection and teacher professional development. Stronger investment in communities and civil society organizations is essential to sustain schooling, supporting learning and protecting children and youth. Multi-sectoral approaches and partnerships need to be systematized. In addition, the education response needs to be embedded within a lifelong learning approach that starts from early learning and continues through tertiary and higher education levels. The scattered efforts at reaching the youth population with education must be reinforced to provide and expand post-basic education opportunities, while addressing school-to-work transition. Looking ahead, challenges remain as education funding continues to require additional support.



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