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UNESCO-EU Projects Newsletter December 2016

# NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the UNESCO Amman Office:

Seasons greetings from the UNESCO Amman Education team! In this latest addition of the UNESCO-EU Project Newsletter, UNESCO Office in Amman provides an overview of achievements and progress to date in implementing its European Union-funded activities.

Since the last newsletter, significant progress has been made on all projects and they continue to have a positive impact on all the lives they touch. From supporting the Ministry of Education with technical assistance, to supporting youth with access to training diplomas, UNESCO and its partners are ensuring that the right to education is maintained for the most vulnerable Jordanians and Syrians refugees.



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EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen and EU Ambassador to Jordan Andrea Matteo Fontana is briefed by UNESCO Amman Office staff.

## EU Commissioner Thyssen visits site of UNESCO Youth Mentoring Project in the Zaatari Refugee Camp

In September of 2016, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen visited the UNESCO site of the EU funded youth mentoring project in the Zaatari refugee camp. This provided an opportunity for more than 40 Syrian youth to express their achievements and concerns. The students expressed how the youth mentoring project, especially the emphasis on life-skills, positively impacted their ability to cope with their daily struggles in the camp.



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The launch of "Enhanced Open Education Management Information System (EMIS)"

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Open EMIS:  
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UNESCO Youth Mentoring Project Brings New Hope to Syrian Refugees in Za'atari Camp

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The participating youth were part of the EU-funded UNESCO “Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan” implemented in partnership with Al-Quds College that provides opportunities for 1,300 youth to participate in education programs. A 23-year-old woman from Dar’a attributed the training to getting three interviews, and securing a volunteer position. Another 27-year-old male who has been living in the camp for 3 years expressed his gratitude for the training but brought to light the lack of opportunities for such training for most people in the camp. He asked for the creation of more training opportunities for everyone—children to older adults.

The Commissioner responded to the youth, expressing foremost the value of soft skills in the labor market. She praised the training they received that strengthened these soft skills. She also expressed appreciation to the Jordanian government for their generosity, for coordinating the Zaatari camp and hosting this number of refugees, and for granting work permits for refugees. The Commissioner emphasized the need for job creation, but noted that job creation is a global challenge.



## The launch of “Enhanced Open Education Management Information System (EMIS)”



H.E Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Prof. Mohammad Thneibat awarding training certificates.

A significant achievement in the UNESCO “Technical Assistance to Enhance Accessibility & Use of the Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE) Education Management Information System (EMIS) for Evidence-based Policy Formulation” project, generously funded by the EU, was marked in August 2016 during an event under the patronage of H.E Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Prof. Mohammad Thneibat on Monday.

The UNESCO OpenEMIS, a generic and open source toolkit aimed at facilitating the process of setting up reliable national information systems adapted to the needs of the education administration, was officially launched. The launch of the cutting-edge system, which extends across all public and private schools

and serves to equip the MoE with intensive data-analysis abilities to better outcomes for Jordan's education system represents a major achievement in the UNESCO project. It is also a significant milestone for the Government of Jordan's program on Education Reform for Knowledge Economy II (ERfKE II) and for all the partners, International Organizations and donor countries that continue to support financially and technically the MoE. The event also served to highlight the incredibly successful collaboration UNESCO has enjoyed with the Ministry of Education staff, at every level.

Ms. Costanza Farina, UNESCO Representative to Jordan expressed sincere appreciation to EU delegation officials, for their active engagement in the project activities and for their stalwart conviction that a solid data base is critical in making informed decisions and ensuring long-term investment in education advancements.

# Open EMIS: The Human Impact in Jordan

Khawla is the type of principal you wish you had as a kid. She is composed and approachable and throughout the time we spend talking, children come in and out of her office to visit. Khawla is devoted to her work and eager to share the ups and downs of her experience with the Open Education Management Information System (EMIS) System, a UNESCO initiative that emerged from the need for better regulation in education systems due to growing complexity. With the generous support of the European Union and at the request of the Government of Jordan, UNESCO set out to provide technical expertise to restructure the country's EMIS.



Khawla Al-Badayneh, School Principal, hard at work.

Aysha also works at Um-Huthaifa Primary School for Girls, supporting the 840 young ladies currently enrolled. She is passionate about the Open EMIS system and has served as an inspiration and trainer to faculty from surrounding schools. Aysha has become an informal consultant for the teachers in her area and went so far as to create her own manual for the system. Her dedication shines brightly and has been contagious for those around her who seek her out through the EMIS "Whats App" group she created to help with her troubleshooting. She jokes that her dedication created a rift between her and her husband as she was "spending evenings with the system rather than with him!" When the internet at the school was not strong enough to upload information, Aysha would spend countless hours at home inputting data.

With nearly 1.9 Million students registered in basic and secondary education, 120,000 teachers and a massive influx of refugees seeking continuing education opportunities in Jordan, ensuring student data is organized and readily available at the click of a mouse is more important than ever. Rolling out Open EMIS across the 7,240 schools in Jordan has been an overwhelming success.



Back at the Primary School, Khawla and Aysha discuss how the Open EMIS system has also helped to flag students who may be suffering in poverty. Last week, a little girl was found trying to wash her clothes in the bathroom. Khawla and her team intervened and when they pulled up her profile on the Open EMIS, they found she was from a single parent family in dire financial circumstances. The teachers collected some new clothes for her and met with the girl's mother.

Before parting ways, Khawla and her staff lead us on a tour of their school. What they have managed to create with extremely limited resources is impressive. Previously, if a teacher was absent students would often be left without instruction in a bare classroom. Renovating what used to serve as a storage room, the team has created a multi purpose activity room serving as a place for students to develop their skills when awaiting the return of an absent teacher. But there is room to grow; the computer lab which serves all 840 students has only 4 functioning computers. "There is always a way to help", declares Khawla. And we know she means it.



Rodayna Al-Salamat, Field Officer and Aysha Al-Showbaji, EMIS Officer and Teacher pose in front of their beloved school (from left to right).



## UNESCO Youth Mentoring Project Brings New Hope to Syrian Refugees in Za'atari Camp

Nearly 700,000 Syrians have become registered refugees in Jordan, fleeing the devastating conflict in their home country. Many of these refugees have found themselves at Za'atari camp in northern Jordan. Before departing from Syria, young refugees have had their dreams for the future crushed due to the death and destruction that has become a daily reality in many parts of Syria. UNESCO's Youth Mentoring project, a project of UNESCO's EU funded programme "Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan", has offered a glimmer of hope to these vulnerable youth. The project has been implemented by UNESCO in partnership with Al Quds College.

For Yaseen, a young Syrian refugee volunteering with a variety of humanitarian organizations working in Za'atari Camp, the mentoring activities have provided a fresh perspective. He enjoyed the range of topics covered throughout the EU funded training, beginning with learning about personal competencies. Yaseen shared that, "the training enhanced my capacity to interact with different personalities and people around me expressed that they could see the positive change in me. Now I am able to better manage my stress". With his new outlook on life, Yaseen is more eager to engage with others and express his vision for the future. He added, "the education of many Syrian youth in the camp has been interrupted. I encouraged other youth to participate in this life-changing mentoring project. I recently got a university scholarship and I am so happy about it".

Khitam, a youth mentoring trainer for this project expressed that at the beginning of the project, youth beneficiaries working mostly as volunteers, were afraid of being evaluated by their supervisors. By the end of training, volunteers were asking to be evaluated and for Khitam, this represented an incredible change.

There is strong evidence that the participating Syrian youth in Zaatari have developed the core competencies necessary for them to thrive in the labor market or continue their education. Some participants were reluctant to join the project. One such participant, Hala, shared how impressed she was by how effective the training was. She learned problem solving skills, assertive communication, how to write a CV, workplace etiquette and how to conduct interviews in a professional manner. The training also helped her to control her anger and develop her social skills. Hala reflected, "I soon became more positive in life and at work. The training helped me to deal with children and with colleagues with a positive attitude". Hala's supervisor praised her saying, "Hala has become creative in her work and now has a clear vision of what she wants". We are all cheering for her.



Youth mentoring in action.

### Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan (2013-2016)

#### Key Successes

- 439 MOE Trainers trained
- 1,955 Public School Teachers trained
- 400 Syrian and Jordanian Youth earn BTEC 3 Diplomas
- 712 Syrian and Jordanian youth participate in Non-Formal education programmes
- 665 Syrians participate in Informal Education in host communities
- 439 Syrians participate in Informal Education in Za'atari camp
- 1,050 Syrians participate in Youth Mentoring programmes in Za'atari camp
- Jami3ti Higher Education Clearing House established
- OpenEMIS Teacher Professional Development Module enhanced

**B**LENDED  
APPROACH

**P**SYCHOSOCIAL  
SUPPORT



# Meet Our Team

## Yukiko Matsuyoshi, Education Programme Specialist

Yukiko Matsuyoshi has served as Education Programme Specialist for the UNESCO Amman office since October 2016. She has also worked with UNICEF Afghanistan as Programme Specialist in Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and UNESCO Kabul as Chief of Education Unit in 2011-2016 prior to assuming her current post. She holds a Masters of Arts in Development from the University of Sussex, UK and a Masters of Philosophy in Education from Columbia University, New York, USA.

## Eddie Dutton, Education in Emergencies Project Officer

Eddie Dutton has served as the Project Officer for Education in Emergencies since 2014 in Jordan managing the EU funded project, "Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development Opportunities for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan." He has also worked with UNESCO in Lebanon and Tanzania prior to assuming his current post. He holds an MA in Education from George Washington University.

## Pierre Chapelet, Education Management Information Systems Project Officer

Pierre Chapelet has served as a Project Officer for the UNESCO Education team for the last two and half years in Jordan managing the EU funded project, "Technical Assistance to Enhance Accessibility & Use of the Jordanian MoE Education Management Information System (EMIS) for Evidence-based Policy Formulation". He has also worked at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, in the Section for Education Policies and Strategies prior to assuming his current post. He holds a Masters of Advanced Studies in Applied Geography from Rouen University.

## Sumayyah Abuhamdieh, Teacher Professional Development Project Officer

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Albert Einstein  
Sumayyah worked as a teacher for preschool children to university level and Head of Teachers after that. Just like the way she worked with students to awaken love of learning in them, she has striven to awaken love of teaching in teachers.

## May Ishaq, Youth Skills Development Officer

May joined UNESCO a year ago with years of diversified work experience in the private sector and in the management and evaluation of emergency funded education and protection projects. At UNESCO she is responsible for the management of the Youth Skills Development Component of the EU-funded project entitled "Sustaining Quality Education and Promoting Skills Development Opportunities for Young Syrian Refugees in Jordan."

## Sa'eda Ramzi, EMIS Project staff

Sa'eda Ramzi joined UNESCO after 6-years experience in the Education sector in Jordan. She is responsible for assisting the national technical task forces with pilot-testing and final users-acceptance testing of the OpenEMIS modules and contributing feedback for adjustments, as applicable.

## Mosab Alfaqeeh, EMIS Project staff

Mosab has served as Project Officer-IT Specialist, on Jami3ati project for UNESCO AMMAN SINCE July 2016. He also worked in private sector as a Data analyst in Finland 2015-2016 ,and worked as software engineer from 2011 to 2015 , He holds a master degree in computer science.

## Sa'eda Abu-halimeh, EMIS Project staff

Sa'eda joined UNESCO one year ago as an EMIS Project member after 10 years of working in the Education sector in Jordan with governmental and private institutions. She develops training materials, support the national team in the preparations of EMIS roll out activities, and contributes to the organization and provision of capacity building activities for education planners, statisticians and EMIS end users across Jordan.

## Asma Nashawati, Project Assistant

Asma joined UNESCO after 6 years experience in Administration at the UN/Jordan. She is responsible for supporting the Education Team by all means to ensure smooth implementation.

## Siyao Wang, Intern

Siyao joined UNESCO in September 2016 as an intern with a determination to work in public sector, especially education field. She took part in many volunteer activities related to education before coming to UNESCO. She is learning from this internship and hopes to contribute more in the future.

## Videos from Education Sector

Teacher Professional Development:  
<https://youtu.be/fXkBXUftOk>

Youth Skills Development:  
<https://youtu.be/VDVTT2G4og8>

