Young people are a wellspring of ideas for innovation. They are today’s thinkers, problem-solvers and catalysts for peace. They are often the world’s strongest advocates of justice and dignity. But they need good jobs, quality education and access to culture for all. They need to be heard and they need to be included.

UNESCO is working at all these levels, as it supports young people in developing the intercultural skills they need to live in an age of diversity, work with youth and student organizations to develop and implement youth-driven programmes, and act across the world to strengthen education systems in order to provide young people with relevant, inclusive and quality learning. Education, employment and empowerment are our core messages as we seek to build green societies and economies for a more sustainable century.

Education, Empowerment, Employment... FOR PEACE!

Half of the Iraq’s population is under 25. The challenges they face are steep. They are hardest hit by inequalities and injustices, and too many live in poverty, unable to realize their potential, as they lack the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to find employment in rapidly changing job markets. UNESCO Iraq office is leading multiple initiatives in the field of Education that aim to respond to youth needs, and help them capitalize on their abilities.

“Fighting Youth Unemployment through Education” is a project dedicated to address the high unemployment rate by increasing opportunities for youth. Implemented in partnership with the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Government of Japan over a period of one year, it will enable 300 young TVET graduates to open and manage their own businesses through granting them entrepreneurship knowledge and skills. Furthermore, through the project “Promoting Civic Values and Life Skills among young people through education”, UNESCO is enabling school managers, teachers, and education providers to design and deliver civic values/life skills education programmes to adolescents. Providing youth with civic awareness is crucial to restore long term stability and cherish core values such as citizenship, peace building, and sustainable development. UNESCO Iraq is also targeting youth illiterates through its Literacy Initiative For Empowerment (LIFE) project. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Civil society, and through 125 Community Learning Centres, more than 7000 illiterates, particularly youth and women, will have access to education and life skills training, increasing employment opportunities in vulnerable and rural areas. Furthermore, UNESCO is supporting Iraq in raising youth awareness on the protection and prevention from HIV through a dedicated toolkit.

BLOGGING: the tool of mass expression

During long years of dictatorship, freedom of expression was severely repressed in Iraq, and media professionals were continuously persecuted. As the only UN organization with the mandate to promote freedom of expression, UNESCO is partnering with young journalists and activists, Iraqi decision makers, media institutes, and civil society organizations to create an environment where freedom of expression and information can prosper. In addition to its leading role in advocating for a better legal framework for media professionals, UNESCO is supporting young journalists to benefit from today’s technology revolution in terms of communication tools through training them on digital media skills. This technical support was extended as UNESCO actively participated in the creation of the Iraqi Bloggers’ Union. Through this longstanding partnership with youth, UNESCO hopes that a new generation of freedom advocates will lead the way towards a future inspired by freedom of expression and the right to information, crucial for an effective democracy and a good governance.

Together for the Environment

Environmental practices and eco-friendly solutions are no longer new-age trends or assets, but a vital necessity that should be integrated in global and national policies. It is no longer a question of jeopardizing our future, as we are already feeling the negative outcomes of careless behaviours draining resources and exhausting the planet. Shifting towards sustainability requires awareness, and begins with personal commitment and simple individual steps that inspire governmental plans and international strategies. Realizing this important fact, UNESCO is partnering with youth to build a better Iraq. For the occasion of the World Environment Day 2012 and under the theme “Green Economy: does it include you?” UNESCO joined efforts with the Ministry of Environment, sister agencies and youth organizations to organize several events aiming to show the special features of the Iraqi environment and highlight the key concerns threatening it, as well as to raise awareness on the concept of Green Economy.

Preserving the Intangible...

Cultural diversity is deeply rooted in Iraq’s identity and constitutes the main pillar in achieving peace and stability. It is clearly seen in the different cultural sites, but it is also manifested in the rich intangible heritage – such as languages, oral traditions, values, performing arts, as well as traditional knowledge. The conservation of this heritage is essential to preserve a people’s identity. In addition to the interaction between different cultures, UNESCO Iraq office is supporting the transmission of these customs and values from one generation to the next through sponsoring cultural events and concerts showcasing young performers and artists from all over Iraq. For the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development 2012, UNESCO brought together young artists as well as female artists who showed the importance of intergenerational transmission of musical and poetic skills.

COPYRIGHT © 2012 UNESCO OFFICE FOR IRAQ
For more information, please visit www.unesco.org/en/iraq-office
أن الشاب منيع للفكر الاستكراري، بل إنه مفكر اليوم والأيام، القادر على حل المشاكل وخير السلام. ومرأى ما يكون الشاب أشد محتملياً في العالم لل Tháng الازكي، إذا أربى طفلًا يفترض انفجاع الأفكار من أجل فتح ميناء العالم، ويتفهم السنة لآرائهم، ويدفع الشاب إلى الإصدار في المجتمعي، والاهتمام في القانون، وزيادة الأساتذة على إمدادهم في الجمع.

وعمل اليونسكو حاصلة على جميع هذه المستويات. من خلال عدم استجابة الشاب، والLECTION الشاب في مجال تجربة مواهبات الفن، ومن خلال الملكية والتنمية فينانين، الدولة، والجهات، والوسائل، والمنح، والأسواق.