

UNESCO Programmes in Somalia (2013-2014)

About UNESCO and Somalia

UNESCO strives to create networks among nations that strengthen their solidarity to build lasting peace. In countries like Somalia, UNESCO achieves these goals by mobilising for education, pursuing scientific cooperation, building inter-cultural understanding, and protecting freedom of expression.

UNESCO's work in Somalia aims to contribute to peace, security and development in respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. To achieve this, UNESCO applies its expertise to education, sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO's programmes are interlinked to the Somali Compact, Somaliland Special arrangement, and Puntland 5-year Development Plan to increase the relevance and effectiveness of partners' cooperation in Somalia.

EDUCATION

Framework



UNESCO's primary mandate is to support Member States to develop and enhance national education development by way of attaining quality education and lifelong learning for all. *Education for All Dakar Framework for Action* has been used as the guiding framework since 2000, together with global discourse on post-2015 education agenda which has been ongoing since 2012. Considering the fact that Somalia has long suffered from civil war, the Somalia Federal Government sees education as a means for unity and development. UNESCO supports Somali education development through strengthening the capacity to plan and manage the education sector in line with the Conference Declaration and Roadmap of *Somali National Education Conference* held in June 2013, where UNESCO provided both the technical and financial support.

Only 42% of school-age children are in school, one of the world's lowest enrolment rates. Of those, only 36% are girls.

Ongoing UNESCO Actions in Somalia

Sector-wide planning: This overarching focus is in high level technical and policy advice to the Federal Ministry of Education in their efforts to reconstruct the education sector as envisioned in the Somali National Conference Declaration and Roadmap, and also to State Ministries of Education in their efforts to develop the education system. UNESCO is developing a comprehensive capacity development programme including a learning visit to UNESCO's specialized institutes, such as IIEP for educational planning and IBE for curriculum development.

Literacy and non-formal education: UNESCO is implementing a programme to improve literacy and life-skills amongst youth and adults with focus upon women, in partnership with Al Maktoum Foundation. This initiative involves advocacy for literacy development through mass literacy campaigns, development of a national literacy strategy and curriculum framework, development/harmonization of learning materials, and establishment of model Community Learning Centres.

Quality education through professionalization of teachers and head teachers: UNESCO in partnership with UNICEF and funding support from Educate a Child, is to implement a head/deputy and teacher education initiative in support of enrolling and retaining 90,000 out of school primary school-aged children in hard to reach, remote communities. This 3-year long initiative (2013-2015) will also target 2000 teachers and head/deputy teachers in formal primary education. The project will also provide comprehensive training opportunities to teachers of multi-grade teaching methodologies, and school management and leadership skills for head and deputy head teachers. This is part of the Federal Ministry of Education's *Go-2-School Initiative*, aiming to enroll 1 million out of school children. There are several other initiatives in development, mainly focusing on youth and adult skills development that provide basic skills, life skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) opportunities.



NATURAL SCIENCE

UNESCO's programmes on Natural Science Sector in Somalia include basic and engineering sciences and science policy, hydrology and marine science.

Basic and Engineering Sciences and Science Policy

Framework



Following a number of consultations with the Government of Somalia, bilateral and development partners, civil society and youth, there is an urgent need to build the needed human capital in Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy to address issues in teaching, research, innovation and infrastructure development, energy, food security, water, health and industrial development. UNESCO in partnership with UNDP and World Bank identified priority areas of engagement for economic development in regarding access to efficient, reliable and clean energy at the *Roundtable on Energy in Istanbul, 2012*. UNESCO will continue to assist in mapping the energy potential of Somalia to identify gaps, and develop policies and priorities for actions among other initiatives.

Ongoing UNESCO Actions in Somalia

- Mapping the renewable energy potential, national STI system and governance to inform policy for sustainable industrial and socio-economic development
- Capacity building in design implementation, monitoring and evaluation of STI Policy instruments in priority areas of the
- Strengthening the capacity of universities in teaching, learning and research and innovation for sustainable development
- Promoting female participation in science, engineering and technology
- Strengthening human institutional capacity in basic and engineering sciences for sustainable socio-economic development of African member states.



In addition, UNESCO works to build institutional and human capacity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Effective utilization of STI to drive growth and sustainability requires the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of robust STI policy instruments to guide the development agenda.

Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

- Strengthening the capacity of university leaders responsible for STEM in cooperation with researchers and private sector actors to exploit Africa's available knowledge base, and human resources in science and technology for sustainable development
- Increasing the opportunity for Vice Chancellors and Deans to through forums by creating the platform for discussion, forging collaborations and partners to respond to challenges in new and emerging areas of STEM
- Providing the platform for participants to develop an Action Plan for harnessing science, engineering, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship capacity and capabilities in universities in Africa for sustainable socioeconomic development
- Developing strategies to strengthen Science and Technology Institutions in Africa with follow up actions

Existing UNESCO Network

The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) is a major institutional player in human resource capacity building in science, engineering and technology in Africa which was established in 1980. ANSTI is also the regional focal point for activities relating to human resource capacity building in STI to strengthen research and training by: 1. facilitating exchange of human and material resources through training; 2. disseminating information on scientific research activities, leading the promotion of discussion in new and emerging scientific issues; 3. harnessing resources to support post-graduate training; 4.



developing standards and quality assurance systems in S&T and education; and 5. providing advice on important issues of S&T to facilitate the engagement of stakeholders to strengthen science and engineering education and research capacity for sustainable development.

Hydrology

Framework



UNESCO is a leading multilateral partner in water research. UNESCO has established the Groundwater Resources Investigation for Drought Mitigation in Africa Programme (GRIDMAP) in 2012, serving as a regional scientific platform that aims to combat climate change in water-scarce areas of Africa. The initiative works to identify sustainable, emergency water supplies, and to mitigate measures against long-term drought and famine. The initiative is a consortium of international, regional, national and local actors, funded by multiple donors. In its first phase (2012-2013), GRIDMAP focused on the Horn of

Africa where drought and famine have been acute.

Less than 1 in 3 people have access to safe drinking water.

Feasibility study on the water sector in Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland):

Within the context of the regional initiative “*Strengthening Capacity to Combat Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa - Tapping Groundwater Resources for Emergency Water Supply*” supported by the Government of Japan, UNESCO’s Hydrology unit in partnership with FAO-



SWALIM completed a feasibility study on country-level capacities in groundwater research. The study analyzed the impacts of climate change on groundwater recharge and identified vulnerabilities and opportunities related to the water resources. The study detailed sustainable management techniques to improve water availability. It also outlined technical aspects and policy recommendations for groundwater monitoring, management and options for early warning systems.

Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

Following consultations with the Government of Somalia and Ministry of Water and Energy of Somalia, the need to increase drought resilience and recovery of affected populations in South Central Somalia has been identified as a priority. The key components to achieve this project will be:

Survey, mapping and assessment of groundwater resources: This component focuses on the assessment of existing information, knowledge and capacities on groundwater; an advanced survey and mapping of groundwater resources; and the complementing hydrogeological and isotope geohydrology studies. The integration of these sub-components ensures comprehensive and accurate understanding of the current state of groundwater resources. The phase will also collect and analyse scientific data from exploratory borehole drilling, which will provide a sound basis for aquifer characterization.



Strengthening capacities in groundwater assessment, monitoring and management: This component will involve strengthening of the capacities of key institutions to undertake effective development of groundwater programmes and plans for aquifer monitoring and management. Training courses will be organized to teach teams of regional technicians, and officials involved in provision of water and management of water resources.



In addition, sets of recommendations for the sustainable management of groundwater will be developed based on a review of scientific data, national policies/legislation, IWRM principles and will aim to maintain and sustain the ability to supply clean water. As a supplementary tool for emergency preparedness, groundwater monitoring would be an important aspect to monitor resource availability and avoid over-exploitation. Training of trainers (such as university lecturers) will take place to ensure the sustainable knowledge remaining in the country.

Marine Science

Framework



The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is the UN body for ocean science, ocean observatories, ocean data and information exchange, and ocean services such as Tsunami warning systems. Its mission is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity building to learn more about the nature and resources of the oceans and coastal areas, and to apply this knowledge to improved management, sustainable development and protection of the marine environment and the decision making processes of States.

IOC is also responsible for the promotion of regional and international cooperation for the understating and management of the African oceans and coastal

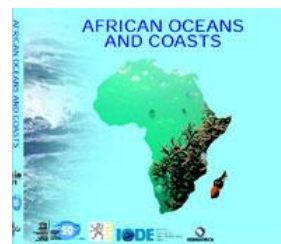


ecosystem that ensures sustainable development and safety of the coastal populations. The IOC provides a unique Africa-wide platform on matters related to ocean science and the science base for ocean management, to drive research, observations, and disaster preparedness and mitigation for the sustainable management of the African oceans and coastal areas.

Somalia's coastline stretches more than 3,025 km in length, the longest of mainland Africa and the Middle East.

Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

- Development of coastal observing system to support human and economic security (including early warning for marine related disasters)
- Marine spatial planning for integrated management of coastal environment and resources
- Assessment of coastal and marine pollution to evaluate the claims of toxic waste dumping



SOCIAL & HUMAN SCIENCE

Framework

UNESCO provides technical and financial support for youth policy development, civic engagement and participation, anchored within the context of the Organization's Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021). Currently, UNESCO is implementing the UNESCO Strategy on African Youth (2009-2013) incorporating: 1. Policy formulation and review with the participation of youth; 2. Skills development and entrepreneurship; and 3. Civic engagement, democratic participation and social innovation. Implementation of the current strategy for Somalia takes into account the importance of alignment with the *African Union Youth Charter* from institutional and programmatic basis.

Unemployment for youth aged 14-29 is 67%. Over 70% of Somalis are under the age of 30.

Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

- Development of a national youth policy and roadmap through stakeholder consultation (providing context, with specific timelines, stakeholder roles and deliverables)
- Provide a platform for a national consultative forum/dialogue involving Somalia youth to enhance ownership of the process, as well as to serve as a platform for civic engagement and political participation



CULTURE

Framework



UNESCO uses culture as a means to re-establish thriving communities to support national reconciliation. Culture is identified as an engine of economic development and social well-being. Much of Somali cultural heritage was subject to degradation from violent conflicts. Urgent steps are needed to safeguard Somali cultural heritage for present and future generations as culture can be a powerful tool to foster a common social awareness, contributing to the creation of a national dialogue for social reconciliation and cohesion. UNESCO with the financial support from the European Union conducted the *Scoping Study on the Culture Sector in Somalia*, which is to be used as a framework for action in the cultural sector of Somalia. Culture is also recognized as a key element by the Somalia Federal Government in the design and implementation of development policies that facilitate the process of building sustainable peace.



Scoping Study on the Culture Sector in Somalia: This research study report analyses the current status of the Somali cultural landscape reflecting upon the past, on-going and planned cultural interventions with recommendations for actions on the following main challenges:

- Lack of national and international legal and policy frameworks
- Poor infrastructure (including financial and human resources) and weak institutions
- Loss of cultural (tangible and intangible) heritage due to looting and civil conflict
- Absence of conservation practice, including loss of memory of related culture and traditional practices
- Incursion of foreign cultural practices and intolerant/extreme attitudes
- Inadequate awareness of the government and communities regarding the value of promoting cultural policies and activities

Somalia population counts approximately ten millions, with over 50% being traditionally linked to the nomadic pastoral economy.

Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

As a result of the Scoping Study, several recommendations have been put forward as priorities:

- Supporting Somali authorities and partners for the creation of unified policy-legal-regulatory frameworks and priority schedules
- Sensitizing partners on the importance of integrating cultural heritage into the long-term national development goals
- Securing sufficient financial resources for cultural development
- Building the capacity of skilled and competent professionals in the field of cultural heritage and on culture promotion
- Facilitating Somalia's accession to relevant international instruments on culture
- Seeking coordinated cooperation and support from the international community for cultural matters
- Rehabilitating key cultural institutions such as the Somalia National Museum and Somalia National Library



COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

Framework

UNESCO takes the lead as a co-chair of the Somalia Media Support Group (SMSG). This aim of the strategy is to increase the relevance and effectiveness of media development partners' cooperation in Somalia in harmony with the various partners' mandates and areas of expertise. The SMSG is currently implementing a 2013 to 2015 strategy that focuses on: 1. Creating a system of regulation conducive to freedom of expression; 2. Professional capacity building for the media, and 3. Capacity building for audience responsive media.



UNESCO's completed projects and activities include:

Code of Ethics for Somali journalists: UNESCO assisted national professional organizations to draft a Code of Ethics through grassroots consultation from 2 to 3 November 2013. The process also involved international stakeholders to align the Code of Ethics to international standards.

Media Law and Policy Review: UNESCO provided support and technical assistance in drafting a comparative study on existing media laws and policies in Somalia, making concrete proposals for the future media regulative framework. The comparative study used UNESCO Media Development Indicators with specific reference to the category that treats regulation of the media conducive to freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity of the media.

Community radio support: Somalia's first women's community radio station, KASMO FM, was officially launched in Mogadishu during the International Women's Day celebrations on 8 March 2013 with the assistance of UNESCO's IPDC Programme. The radio broadcasts on a frequency of 89.1 MHz from 12.00pm to 6.00pm every day and is operated and managed by Women for Relief and Development Actions (WARDA). UNESCO supports WARDA in view to promote women's rights by advocating for their active participation as free individuals and equal citizens in the establishment and maintenance of a democratic and peaceful environment at national and regional levels.



Proposed UNESCO Actions in Somalia

Reinforcing the capacities and skills of information professionals in the preservation of audiovisual heritage: Digital technology offers unprecedented means to transmit and store information. Documents and data in digital form are important for science, education, culture and economic and social development, but assuring their continuity is far from resolved problem. *The UNESCO/UBC Vancouver Declaration/The Memory of the World in the Digital Age* calls for education and training programmes for information professionals to be developed and to be provided to prepare or reposition them to implement both digitization and preservation practices relevant to the needs of governments and their citizens. Somalia will be targeted and more specifically, Radio Mogadishu, in assisting with the "Preservation and Digitization of Documentary Heritage", initiated by AU/UN-IST. The documentary heritage composed mainly of magnetic tapes includes a unique record of Somali history, pre-dating the introduction of Somali writing system in 1972, will be digitized in line with international standards to render it accessible for current and future generations.



Enhancing professional and accurate media reporting on the electoral process: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) ranks Somalia among the top 10 deadliest countries for journalists in the world. In 2012, a record 12 journalists were murdered in Somalia. Physical threats or harm committed against journalists are manifested in various forms: assassinations, imprisonment, physical abuse, attack and harassment. UNESCO will build the capacity of both media professionals and the judiciary and law enforcement agents in line with the *UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity* during the election period in Somalia. Media professionals will be targeted by training of journalists on safety and protection issues and sensitization roundtables with editors and media group owners. Assistance will also be provided in the creation of a Help Desk for Journalists to assist media workers in distress. Finally sensitization campaigns will be launched targeting the judiciary and law enforcement agents on the provisions of safety of journalists. The interventions are in line with the peace and state building goals of the Federal Government of Somalia, as expressed in the Somali Compact, that highlights the role of the media sector in rebuilding Somalia and more specifically PSG 1: Inclusive Politics emphasizes the role of 'a vibrant, pluralistic and engaged civil society and media' in promoting accountability and oversight in Somali governance.

Since 1992, 52 journalists have lost their lives in Somalia in direct reprisal for their work. In February 2014, UNESCO together with other UN Agencies rewarded 12 journalists for their captivating stories on children and youth, gender, access to basic services and investigative journalism.

UNESCO is committed to advancing freedom of the press and safety of journalists through a variety of actions such as awareness raising, promoting partnerships and co-ordination. Somalia will be targeted to train media professionals and government authorities on the importance of the safety of journalists, adapting existing elective journalism education courses to local conditions of concerned countries. The activity will be carried out in cooperation with journalism education institutions and professional associations.

About UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

The UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi was created in 1965 for the purpose of serving as a regional hub for science, technology and innovation (STI) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Following the UNESCO Africa Field Reform of 2011, UNESCO Nairobi Office has evolved from a Regional Office for Science and Technology to the even broader scope of a Multi-Sectoral Regional Office responsible for 13 Member States in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Islands (**Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda**), with the UNESCO programme interventions (in Education, Natural Sciences, and Social and Human Sciences, Culture, and Communication and Information). In addition, the Regional Office for Eastern Africa coordinates the African components of the following UNESCO programmes, commissions and institutes (i.e.: The African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions - ANSTI, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - IOC, Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme - IHP, The Programme on Man and the Biosphere - MAB, UNESCO Institute of Statistics - UIS) to enhance its capacity to deliver intellectual and humanist response to globalization and emergencies, and with the extraction and transfer of knowledge needed to influence sustainable development of a member state's legal, policy and implementation frameworks.



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