



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



PEACE
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65

WAYS
UNESCO
BENEFITS
COUNTRIES
ALL OVER
THE WORLD

Published in December 2010
by the Sector for External Relations and Public Information
of the United Nations Educational Scientific and
Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07SP, France

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Printed by UNESCO
The printer is certified Imprim'Vert®, the French
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ERI-2010/WS/3



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Foreword



UNESCO proudly turns 65 this year. I see this as an opportunity to pause for a moment to consider where we stand. The world has changed beyond recognition since the UNESCO Constitution was adopted in London in 1945. The family of states has grown, even as new actors have risen to prominence on the international stage. Current challenges are complex and transnational. New times raise hard questions. Are we delivering on a mandate that continues to be relevant and that responds effectively to a world marked by global crises? Are we making the most of the extraordinary opportunities that are also among the defining features of today's world, such as new information and communication technologies?

Like many other international organisations also mandated to address the most pressing needs of humanity and of our planet, UNESCO has constantly to reconcile different objectives. We must respond to the demands of new situations, while remaining true to our long-term commitments. We must maintain a sharp focus on a few well-defined priorities, without neglecting any area of our broad mandate. There is one question that underlies all of the others. How does UNESCO make a difference?

This anniversary brochure answers this question. Under eight headings that reflect the most important areas of our work, we have listed here sixty five ways by which UNESCO makes a difference – today and every day, in countries all over the world. The result, I hope readers will find, provides insight to the unique and far-reaching impact of our organisation.

UNESCO does not work alone in these sixty five areas. We collaborate with a family of partners, including stakeholders and organizations across the globe, with the private and the public sectors. It is a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to thank all those, all over the world, who work with UNESCO. This brochure celebrates your efforts and our shared achievements.

Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO

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20

Documentary Heritage

The Memory of the World programme plays a lead role in protecting the memory of humanity by providing access to and encouraging the preservation of priceless heritage in the form of audio, visual and anecdotal memory from all over the world. Its register currently comprises 193 items in 84 countries.



5

Combating Illicit Art Trafficking

The fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property involves collaboration with museums, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and law-enforcement bodies including police forces, customs services and INTERPOL. The main framework for cooperation is the 1970 Convention and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation.



63

World Heritage

Currently, 911 natural and cultural properties of outstanding universal value in 151 countries are inscribed on the World Heritage List. International cooperation to protect heritage encourages community-based policies and conservation practices that foster local development while preserving sites. The List of World Heritage in Danger provides special attention to 34 sites in 27 countries.



SAFEGUARDING AND SHARING OUR CULTURE

The World Digital Library

62

Launched in cooperation with the Library of Congress of the United States, the World Digital Library has over 100 partner institutions and offers publications from libraries and archives around the world. It can be freely accessed in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish and provides content in over 40 languages.



Endangered Languages

26

The Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger monitors some 2,500 endangered languages and has become the foremost reference in this field. The Atlas is available in print (2010 edition) and via an interactive online version. UNESCO's effort to safeguard humanity's linguistic diversity links communities, experts and governments and provides them with state-of-the-art services, tools, and policy advice.

Index Translationum

39

This unique international bibliography of translations lists some four million works in a wide range of disciplines, translated in over 1,000 languages. First begun in 1932, this remarkable reference tool has been developed through ongoing international cooperation with 100 UNESCO Member States. The online version provides national and international data and statistics on works published since 1979.

Intangible Heritage

41

Raising awareness of their value helps to safeguard oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, traditional craft skills and other expressions handed down over generations. Currently, 213 practices and expressions of living heritage in over 80 countries are inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The Urgent Safeguarding List comprises 16 elements in nine countries.



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Freshwater

30

The Institute for Water Education in Delft in the Netherlands, the largest international postgraduate water education institute in the world, has trained around 14,000 professionals from 162, mostly developing, countries. The International Hydrological Programme facilitates and fosters actions worldwide for the sound management of surface and groundwater.

Geoparks

34

The Global Network of National Geoparks currently counts 77 Geoparks in 24 countries. Sites are selected for their outstanding geological interest. Joining the Geopark network helps national and local authorities support sustainable local economic development, mainly through tourism. The sites also provide significant educational value in illustrating and explaining the history of the Earth and its natural resources.



Sandwatch

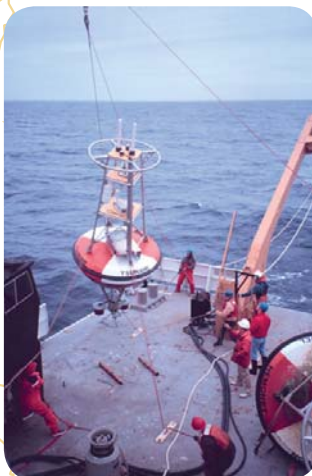
53

Sandwatch, started in the Caribbean in 1999, is a volunteer network of schools working together to monitor and enhance local beach environments. It is just one initiative to assist small island developing states in their efforts to address their specific sustainable development challenges, such as climate change, environmental conservation, the education of youth, cultural preservation and information and knowledge management.

Tsunami Early Warning Systems

55

These warning systems in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the Caribbean, the North-East Atlantic and the Mediterranean have already greatly improved tsunami risk assessment and alerts. These systems will continue to be reinforced and an ongoing global coordination effort involving national governments, other UN agencies and NGOs is helping communities at risk to be better prepared for tsunamis.



Education for Sustainable Development

23

Over 85 countries have established national Education for Sustainable Development coordination bodies to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. The International Network of Teacher Education Institutions brings together 75 institutions from 60 countries to offer teacher-training and exchange of best practice in sustainable development education.

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SAFEGUARDING OUR PLANET

The International Geosciences Programme

Around 400 international cooperation projects on sub-surface Earth processes and the Earth's geology have contributed to the knowledge of mineral and groundwater resources and to geological factors influencing human health and safety. The programme is also improving our understanding of the evolution of biodiversity and climate change processes essential to understanding today's global environmental challenges.

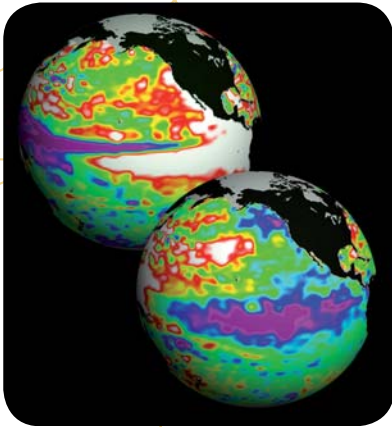
44



Biosphere Reserves

The global network of 564 biosphere reserves covers 109 countries. Sites that are representative of major ecosystems are designated by UNESCO Member States, through the Man and the Biosphere programme, as biosphere reserves in order to support initiatives to improve the ways humans interact with nature in a given environment. The network helps to increase knowledge of ecosystems and biodiversity and also exchange best practice on ways to foster sustainable development.

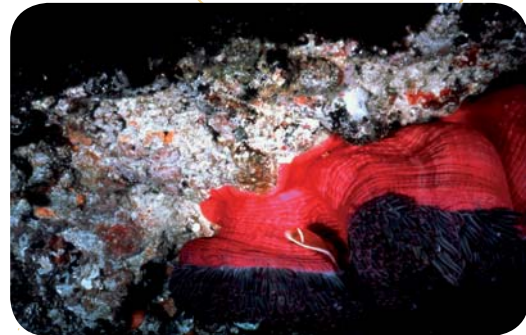
2



Global Ocean Observing System

This permanent global system monitors in real time the state of the oceans, including sea level, sea temperature, and living resources. It provides essential information enabling climate services worldwide to help forecast future sea conditions and regional climatic projections such as drought and El Niño.

37



Education for All Global Monitoring Report

The annual EFA Global Monitoring Report remains the leading international reference for all partners working to achieve the goals of Education for All, to which over 160 countries committed themselves in 2000. The report tracks progress world-wide, identifies effective policy reforms and best practice, draws attention to emerging challenges and seeks to promote international cooperation in favour of Education for All.



36

Global Ethics Observatory

The world's only global system of databases in bioethics and other areas of applied ethics in science and technology is freely accessible online. It provides an invaluable source of reference, enabling collaborative, consultative, and comparative use of resources on ethics activities around the world.



UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks

Today, 675 university chairs and 68 UNITWIN Networks in 127 countries provide multiple channels for international academic cooperation, particularly North-South and North-South-South cooperation. They act as think-tanks and bridge builders between research and policy-making, and between academia, civil society, local communities and the productive sector.

56



46

Management of Social Transformations

The Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme transfers relevant social sciences research findings and data to decision-makers and other stakeholders. It promotes a culture of evidence-based policy-making – nationally, regionally and internationally, and focuses on building efficient bridges between research, policy and practice.

52

Portal on Higher Education Institutions

Users can access online information on higher education institutions recognized or otherwise sanctioned by the authorities of 38 participating countries. Students, employers and other interested parties can obtain accurate and up-to-date information on quality assurance and the status of institutions.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

25

Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems

The Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems is an integrated knowledge online database dedicated to the health, maintenance and future of life on planet Earth. It focuses on all aspects of sustainable development from ecological issues to human security. This Internet-based archive is regularly updated, with contributions from thousands of scholars in over 100 countries, and edited by nearly 300 subject experts.

65

World Water Development Report

The most authoritative view of the state of the world's freshwater resources is provided by the World Water Development Report, published every three years. UNESCO leads 26 UN agencies in producing and publishing this report. Each report addresses specific issues that are of critical importance and provides data to support policy responses.



17

Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws

Launched in 2005, this free and user-friendly online database contains over 2,000 laws from over 170 countries in 42 languages. It aims to protect cultural heritage by sharing knowledge and best practice in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property and other threats to cultural heritage.

15

Cultural Development Indicators

Cultural statistics, data and indicators are vital advocacy and policy tools. Countries around the world are supported in implementing standardized data-collection methodology. This effort to develop data, map out countries' cultural and creative sectors and build indicators, informs public policies and demonstrates how culture contributes to development.



54

The Teacher Training Initiative for Sub-Saharan Africa

This initiative supports the region in addressing teacher-related challenges, in particular to improve the quantity and quality of the teaching force. It is currently operating in 17 pilot countries, and is open to all 46 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.



60

Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights

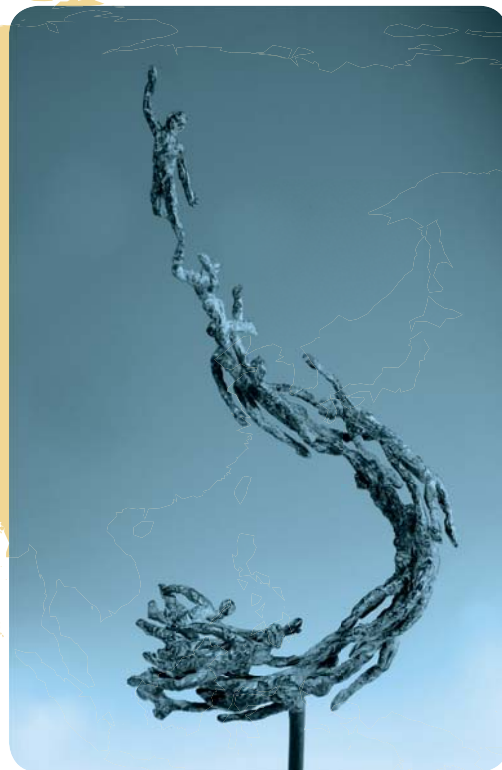
Some 190 countries have committed themselves and the international community to respect and apply fundamental ethical principles related to medicine, the life sciences and associated technologies. By enshrining bioethics in international human rights and by ensuring respect for the life of human beings, the Declaration sets standards to protect people everywhere.



58

UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights

Awarded every two years, this prize rewards exceptional and innovative initiatives. The award helps to raise awareness of the importance of fostering a culture of human rights within societies. This year's winner, Asma Jahangir, won the award for her excellent record as a human rights defender, a renowned lawyer and advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and founding member of the Women's Action Forum, as well as for services to the United Nations system.



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FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Freedom of Information

Freedom of information is currently facilitated in over 40 countries, through support for the enactment and implementation of freedom of information laws and policies. Activities include country-level technical assistance, workshops, awareness-raising and standard setting through the dissemination of comparative legal surveys. This strengthening of freedom of information contributes to empowerment, transparency and accountability, governance and development.



29

World Press Freedom

World Press Freedom Day, celebrated on May 3 since 1997, promotes freedom of expression as a basic human right, and honours outstanding commitment to press freedom with the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. Underlining the contribution of freedom of expression to democracy, UNESCO seeks to ensure the safety of journalists. The killing of media professionals and other attacks against the press are publicly condemned by the Director-General.

64



Cities against Racism

Six regional Coalitions of Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance mobilize close to 5,000 cities all over the world. This initiative helps municipalities to develop and strengthen policies for greater social inclusion. As places where people from a great diversity of backgrounds live and work together, cities can play a major role in building inclusive societies. By networking through these coalitions, cities share best practice in strategies to overcome racism, discrimination and intolerance.

3



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Creative Cities Network

This international partnership promotes creativity as an essential component of socio-economic development. It cultivates urban spaces as creative hubs, stimulating economic growth through creative industries and contemporary approaches to urban regeneration. There are currently over 25 Creative Cities in the fields of literature, film, design, music, crafts, media and gastronomy.

14



Cities for Sustainable Development and Dialogue

This programme addresses the challenge of accommodating modernization and transformation in historic cities without compromising their identity and that of local communities, or their role as drivers of cultural creativity and urban regeneration. The programme provides technical assistance and advice on innovative urban governance approaches to local and national governments with a view to enhancing the quality of the human and urban environment.

4



Intercultural Dialogue

Intercultural dialogue, which encompasses interreligious dialogue, challenges established opinions and provides a lens through which a global environment conducive to mutual understanding can be created. In collaboration with a wide range of partners, namely the Alliance of Civilizations, UNESCO leads the conceptual debate and fosters awareness of the benefits of dialogue. Ongoing initiatives and tools include the Slave Route Project, the Summits of Heads of State of South-East Europe, and the Intercultural Vademecum.

42

Community Learning Centres

Over 25 developing countries now have Community Learning Centres, set up outside the formal education system and managed by local people to provide lifelong learning opportunities, especially for the marginalized and the poor. These centres support empowerment and social transformation and generate grassroots-based interest and participation in literacy and continuing education.

6

Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity

Launched in 2002 to foster partnerships between private, public and civil society, this initiative seeks to strengthen local cultural industries in developing countries. The Global Alliance has so far provided support to 50 project partnerships in over 30 countries.

35

CREATIVITY, DIALOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY

33

General and Regional Histories

This unique collection of 51 volumes has involved some 1,600 eminent scholars over the last 50 years and presents culturally relevant accounts of the histories of Africa, Central Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Islamic culture from the perspective of the populations concerned. Innovative educational tools for use in formal and non-formal education are being elaborated on the basis of the regional histories, starting with the General History of Africa, by mobilizing scientific and political stakeholders.



7

Community Multimedia Centres

Community Multimedia Centres provide an innovative combination of community radio and walk-in telecentre facilities offering internet access to local communities in developing countries. During the last two years, a total of 57 community media/multimedia centre projects were launched in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

51

Network of Young TV Producers on HIV and AIDS

This network has significantly increased the number of quality TV programmes on HIV and AIDS in developing countries. More than 300 young TV producers from 50 countries belong to this network, which supports them in giving well-informed coverage of the complex and multi-faceted problems of HIV and AIDS.



Culture Conventions and Declarations

These international standard-setting instruments in the field of culture inform national policy design and reinforce the crucial link between culture and development.

- 38 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954)
- 11 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970)
- 9 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), widely known as the 'World Heritage Convention'
- 12 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)
- 61 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)
- 10 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
- 13 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)



Convention against Discrimination in Education

The right to education is at the heart of numerous standard-setting instruments – conventions, declarations, recommendations, charters and programmes of action. The most important of these is the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education, ratified by 96 Member States. UNESCO monitors its implementation and that of all its standard-setting instruments for education, in order to bring them into broader use, with support of governments, international organizations, decision-makers, teachers, the intellectual community and all civil society stakeholders.

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

43

International Convention against Doping in Sport

There are areas where governments have to lead the fight against doping in sport. Ratified by over 150 Member States, the Convention provides the legal framework for governments to take action. A fund helps governments to implement preventative education programs, to develop anti-doping legislation and to build the anti-doping capacity of least developed or low income countries. To date, 36 national projects have received financial assistance.



18

Declarations on Bioethics

In the field of the ethics of life, the Organization establishes standards, creates legal instruments, advises governments and coordinates intergovernmental organizations. It created the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights in 1997, and the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data in 2003. The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was adopted on 19 October 2005.

48

Media Standards

Media Development Indicators have been applied by 12 countries in the past 18 months to identify national media development gaps and to support evidence-based solutions. Standards in journalism education are set through the adaptation of the Model Journalism Education Curricula by journalism education institutions in 45 countries. Other initiatives include media self-regulation tools and guidelines for quality broadcasting practices, developed and deployed in collaboration with regional broadcasting associations.



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UNESCO-L'Oréal For Women in Science Award

The prestigious For Women in Science Award distinguishes outstanding women scientists and, by highlighting their achievements, helps to promote the role of women in scientific research. The Award, an annual distinction, goes to five leading international women researchers, one for each region of the world. So far, 59 women have been awarded the Prize. Two award winners have gone on to win Nobel Prizes – both molecular biologists, Ada E. Yonath was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize for Chemistry for her work on the molecular structure of the ribosome, and Elizabeth Blackburn was awarded the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her work on cellular aging.



32

Gender Equality in the Media

Journalist training and other activities encourage gender-balanced media content, gender-sensitive reporting and the development of gender-sensitive media development indicators. Guidelines on gender equality in media organizations have been disseminated in collaboration with the International Federation of Journalists. A global report on the status of women in the news media covering 60 countries has been produced in collaboration with the International Women's Media Foundation.



45

Literacy Initiative for Empowerment

Two thirds of the planet's illiterate people are women and girls. The Literacy Initiative for Empowerment offers a global strategic framework to focus in particular on adult literacy and out-of-school children. It is designed to accelerate literacy in 35 countries that have a literacy rate below 50% or a population of more than 10 million people who cannot read nor write. 85% of the world's non-literate population resides in these countries.



PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY

31

Gender Equality in Textbooks

Textbooks not only help children learn, but also transmit models of social behaviors, norms and values. Some 150 practitioners have been trained in six countries in Africa to produce gender-sensitive textbooks. A guide, used widely in Africa, Asia and the Arab States, helps countries analyse how gender stereotypes are constructed in textbooks, and offers tools to revise textbooks or use existing texts more critically.



27

Fellowships

The UNESCO Fellowships Programme, through the award of fellowships, study and travel grants, benefits hundreds of women across all disciplines. In science, the L'Oréal-UNESCO International and National Fellowships for young women scientists directly help hundreds of young women scientists and also serve to encourage girls to consider a scientific career. The 15 annual International Fellowships encourage international cooperation among young doctorate and post-doctorate women scientists, while the National Fellowships focus on national scientific research priorities.



28

Female Education Planners

Training courses support and strengthen the participation of women in decision-making positions within ministries of education, where the glass ceiling, stereotyping and the difficult balance between work/home duties still play against females. Since 2007, 1,036 female planners from 142 countries have been trained in educational planning and strategic management, decision making and leadership.



19

Digital Inclusion

Efforts to bridge the digital divide take many forms. Linguistic diversity on the Internet is promoted by encouraging content creation in local languages and multilingual access to digital resources. UNESCO works with ICANN, the body which coordinates the domain name system of the internet, to strengthen multilingualism in cyberspace. International standards and guidelines to make digital information accessible for persons with disabilities are promoted to provide an enabling environment at educational, community and workplace levels.



21

The E-9 Initiative

Nine high-population countries work together within the E-9 Initiative on strategies for improving education provision. Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan account for some 54% of the world's population, over two thirds of the world's illiterate adults and over 40% of the world's out-of-school children. The network has also become a powerful lobby for Education for All and South-South cooperation.

40

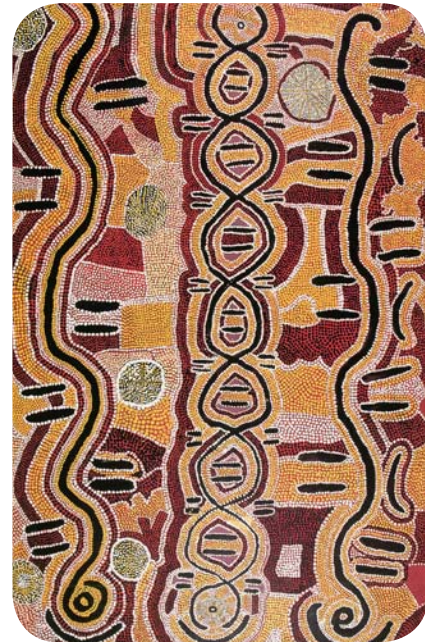
Indigenous Knowledge

The Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme acts to conserve biological diversity, essential to preserving cultural diversity. At the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, a joint CBD-UNESCO plan of action was adopted to advance this work. Guided by the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, UNESCO also engages with indigenous communities on issues such as the enhancement of their knowledge systems and cultural expressions and greater participation in media.

47

Media in Emergency Settings

Local and community media in post-conflict and post-disaster settings have been supported most recently in Haiti and Pakistan for the dissemination of life-saving information. Training on conflict-sensitive and trauma-sensitive reporting has been given to journalists, not only to counter the risk of violence and breakdown of law and order, but also to ensure that local media support the psychological recovery of populations. The Power of Peace Network links 15,000 mainly young people in peace and dialogue activities through the innovative use of media and ICTs.



REACHING THE MARGINALIZED



Cultural Heritage in Emergency Situations

UNESCO leads international campaigns to safeguard cultural heritage in emergency situations such as armed conflict, post conflict and natural disaster. Over the past five decades, large-scale projects have helped save irreplaceable cultural heritage and build local capacities notably in museum renovation, conservation, inventorying and management, as illustrated by the revival of the national museums of Iraq and Afghanistan. Most recently, an emergency response to protect cultural heritage has been mobilized in Haiti and Pakistan.

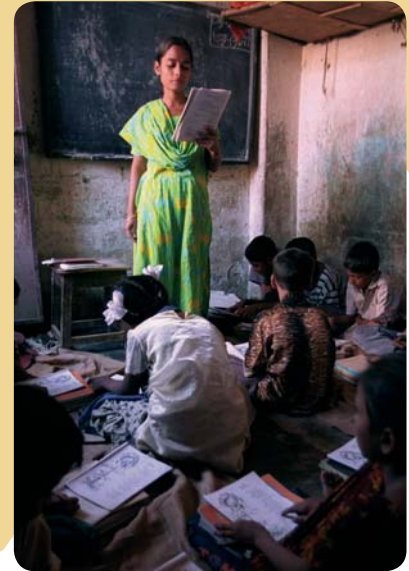


Natural Disaster Reduction

Initiatives in the earth sciences, hydrology, engineering adapted to seismically active regions, and the development of flood forecasting systems are helping countries such as Pakistan and Haiti to prevent future disasters. Introducing disaster risk education into school curricula in countries vulnerable to natural hazards and the safe construction and retrofitting of school buildings is contributing to reducing the impact of disasters.

Education in Emergency Settings

UNESCO helps Ministries of Education to adapt to conditions created by conflict or natural disasters, with strong components on capacity building for educational planners and managers. This work is currently being carried out in Haiti and Pakistan and has also been undertaken in China, Cuba, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nepal, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Sudan, Syria and Zimbabwe.





49

National Commissions for UNESCO

The National Commissions for UNESCO, now operating in 193 Member States and 3 Associate Members, constitute a unique network within the UN System. Although they are different from one another in terms of their status, membership, structure and management capacities, they all work for the same purpose – to associate their governmental and non-governmental bodies in education, sciences, culture and communication with the work of the Organization. As a constituent element of UNESCO, the National Commissions act in advisory and liaison capacities and participate in programme elaboration, delivery and evaluation. They contribute to the increase of UNESCO's visibility and facilitate its outreach to multiple partnerships at the country level.



FOSTERING UNESCO COMMUNITIES



1

Associated Schools Project

This global network of more than 8,500 educational institutions in 180 countries supports UNESCO's work in promoting international understanding, peace, intercultural dialogue, sustainable development and quality education. Founded in 1953, the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), commonly referred to as Associated Schools, includes pre-schools, primary, secondary and vocational schools as well as teacher training institutions. (58)



57

UNESCO Clubs

Today, some 3,800 Clubs, Centres and Associations for UNESCO in almost 100 countries actively reflect and help to disseminate UNESCO's ideals at the local level. Grouped for the most part into national, regional and international networks, these volunteer-based Clubs address global issues that have a local impact, thereby contributing to thinking and discussion on economic, social, political and cultural issues within their own community as well as within the international community by means of the networks.



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1940-1950

16 November 1945:

Representatives of 37 countries meet in London to sign UNESCO's Constitution which comes into force on 4 November 1946 after ratification by 20 signatories (photo above).

1948: UNESCO recommends that Member States make free primary education compulsory and universal.



1950-1960

1952: An intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO adopts the Universal Copyright Convention. In the decades following the Second World War, the Convention served to extend copyright protection to numerous states not then party to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886).

1956: The Republic of South Africa withdraws from UNESCO claiming that some of the Organization's publications amount to 'interference' in the country's 'racial problems'. The state rejoins the Organization in 1994 under the leadership of Nelson Mandela.

1958: Inauguration of UNESCO's permanent Headquarters in Paris designed by Marcel Breuer (United States), Pier- Luigi Nervi (Italy) and Bernard Zehrffuss (France).

1960-1970

1960: Launch of the Nubia Campaign in Egypt to move the Great Temple of Abu Simbel to keep it from being swamped by the Nile after construction of the Aswan Dam (photo below). During the 20-year campaign, 22 monuments and architectural complexes are relocated. This is the first and largest in a series of campaigns including Moenjodaro (Pakistan), Fez (Morocco), Kathmandu (Nepal), Borobudur (Indonesia) and the Acropolis (Greece).

1968: UNESCO organizes the first intergovernmental conference aimed at reconciling the environment and development, now known as 'sustainable development'. This leads to the creation of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme.

1970-1980

1972: The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is adopted. The World Heritage Committee is established in 1976 and the first sites are inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978.

1974: Pope Paul VI awards the John XXIII Peace Prize to UNESCO.

1975: The United Nations University is established in Tokyo under the auspices of the UN and UNESCO.

1978: UNESCO adopts the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice. Subsequent reports on the issue by the Director-General serve to discredit and dismiss the pseudo-scientific foundations of racism.

MILESTONES



1980: The first two volumes of UNESCO's General History of Africa are published. Similar series focus on other regions, notably Central Asia and the Caribbean.

1990-2000

1990: The World Conference on Education for All, in Jomtien (Thailand) launches a global movement to provide basic education for all children, youths and adults. Ten years later in Dakar (Senegal), the World Education Forum commits governments to achieving basic education for all by 2015.

1992: Creation of the Memory of the World Programme to protect irreplaceable library and archive collections. It now also includes sound, film and television archives.

1997: The United Kingdom returns to UNESCO, which it left in 1985.

1998: The Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, developed and adopted by UNESCO in 1997, is endorsed by the UN.



21st century

2001: The General Conference adopts the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity.

2003: The United States returns to UNESCO, which it left in 1984. The General Conference adopts the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

2005: UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission develop and launch an interim tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean.

2008: The 1,700-year-old Aksum Obelisk, transported to Rome by Mussolini's troops in 1937, is reinstalled in its original setting in northern Ethiopia.

2009: The General Conference elects Irina Bokova (Bulgaria) as UNESCO's tenth Director-General. She is the first woman and the first Eastern European to head the Organization since its creation.

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