



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Beirut Office  
مكتب بيروت

# UNESCO

## Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and Cluster Office for Jordan, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon

Presentation on 37 C/5 Activities





# EDUCATION

# Regional Activities

## Sector-wide policy and planning

- **Capacity Development of and cooperation with UNESCO Cat II centres:** In collaboration with *Amman, Doha, Rabat and IIEP*, three centres (NCHRD, COPE, RCEP) have received technical support from UNESCO's expertise and UNESCO-identified trainers to build capacity for Educational Planning and Management. Three more regional UNESCO supported centres in the region (RCQE of Saudi Arabia, RCAE of Egypt, and RCECCE of Syrian Arab Republic) may be involved in future plans for the region so that their expertise may be utilized for achieving excellence in education, in adult education and in early childhood care and education in the beneficiary countries
- **Framework for Recognizing Non-formal Education:** to help developing Regional and National Policy frameworks (in Lebanon – Jordan – and Iraq) that contribute to regularizing and recognizing Non-Formal Education, especially in light of the Syrian Crisis
- **Framework for Global Citizenship Education** in the Arab States: provides a road map for high national authorities (such as policy makers and curriculum developers) for the implementation of GCED in the region. UNESCO Beirut has contributed actively to the development, review and finalization of the GCE Guide, as well as to its customization to the Arab Region
- **Capacity Development in the Delivery of Inclusive Education:** Arabic training kit "Embracing Diversity" produced and piloted in selected countries. Advocacy efforts and capacity development workshops and training events are planned to continue in the coming years

# Regional Activities

## Sector-wide policy and planning (Cont'd)

- Regional Policy Frameworks and Resource Packs for Higher Education and Teachers. The two Frameworks have been developed in partnership with UNESCO Doha, Amman and Khartoum, with a view to support countries in the Arab Region improve their policy making/shaping and implementation based on sound research outcomes and effective/promising practices from the Region and internationally. Following several regional workshops (Teachers: Amman, Dec. 2012; Doha, Oct. 2013; and Beirut, Dec. 2014 – and Higher Education: Beirut, May 2013; Khartoum, Nov. 2013), this year validation expert meetings will take place in Beirut (Teachers: Oct. 2015; and higher Education: November , 2015)
- **Global Action Programme on ESD (Regional):** Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Priority Areas of GAP-ESD were organized before the World Conference on ESD (Beirut, September 2014) in order to review DESD Final Assessment Report in the Arab region. UNESCO-Beirut and the ESD Section organized the Regional Expert Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (Beirut, May 2015). Four Sub-Regional Studies were reviewed and presented to guide Country, Cluster, and Regional Actions on CCESD in the Arab region
- Revisiting the **Education and fundraising strategies** in the region

# Regional Activities

## Literacy

- **Adult education:** regional meeting for experts and policy makers as a follow-up to COFINTEA VI to identify challenges and progress on Adult Education in the region and build a way forward for Adult Learning in the context of LIFELONG Learning Approaches
- **Support to Cat II center in Sirs Layaan:** capacity development is being provided to the center to strengthen its capacity in performing its regional functions as a resource center serving the Arab States

## TVET

- **Policy advice and technical support on transforming TVET:** *Building Skills for Work and Life* were provided to several Arab countries and UNEVOC Centres in Bahrain, Kuwait , Lebanon, Qatar, Sudan and Tunisia as a follow-up on Shanghai Consensus (3TVET Congress, May 2012). The policy issues included enhancing of TVET; expanding access and improving quality and equity; entrepreneurship education and the use of ICTs in TVET. The joint activities in this area were the TVET and Youth Employment-Kuwait (PAAET, April 2014) and Entrepreneurship Education and ICTs (Tunis, Feb. 2015)

# Regional Activities

## Teachers

- **Regional Teacher Policy Framework:** to be developed following the outcomes of the three regional meetings on Enhancing Teacher Policy and practice in the Arab states that have taken place in the recent past
- **UNESCO guide on gender equality in teacher education:** Arabic version is being prepared and will contain a comprehensive Appendix to discuss conceptual issues related to Gender Equality in the Arab region, Gender Equality issues and cases in teacher training and professional development.
- **Development of training materials and programmes** for teachers and trainers on entrepreneurship education in the Arab region – development of training materials based on the use of ICTs and innovating learning models

## Post-2015 – Education 2030

- National EFA 2015 Reviews and Regional Synthesis
- Arab States Regional Conference on Education Post-2015
- Regional Information and Advocacy Meeting on Education 2030 Agenda

# Regional Activities

## Learning and competency development

- UNESCO Beirut last December conducted a first Regional Expert meeting in Beirut that focused on trends in learning, curriculum and competency development in the Arab States. As a follow up, UNESCO Beirut is pulling together a booklet that synthesizes the expert meeting deliberations
- UNESCO Beirut has been called upon to provide technical assistance to the State of Qatar (2013-2014) in the context of the supreme Education Council's (SEC) curriculum review programme. A new Qatari National Curriculum Framework was finalized in August 2014 that will serve as a main reference document to the ongoing review of Qatari curriculum standards developed and implemented since 2004
- UNESCO BEI has also contributed to UNESCO HQ activities on Learning and Assessment (Expert Meeting of March 2015), as well as to the development, review and finalization of the Guide for Global Citizenship Education







# Cluster Activities in MP I

## Sector wide policy and planning

### Amman:

- Jordan Education Sector governance and institution capacities enhanced to facilitate the better evidence-based policy formulation, decision-making, planning and management
- Government of Jordan empowered with rapid surveys tools via mobile phone technology and web-portals to collect key refugees data to assess educational needs

### Iraq:

- Capacity development in policies for lifelong learning frameworks
- Strengthening capacity to develop an inclusive curriculum to reach the learning goals
- Capacity development to improve government strategies and policies to tackle the issue of out-of-school children

### Lebanon:

- Technical support to the Higher Council for Childhood in Lebanon continues to advance its efforts in the development of the Early Childhood National Strategy
- Capacity building to NGOs working on the education of the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon continues in terms of training workshops and production of needed resources
- Capacity development of education planners, statisticians and finance officers in cost and financing of education in preparation for the implementation of Education 2030 agenda

### Syria:

- Capacity development to the Early Childhood Category II Center in Syria continues through providing workshops and resources

# Cluster Activities in MP I

## Literacy

### Iraq:

- National capacity development to reduce illiteracy through implementation of the National Literacy Strategy

### Lebanon:

National capacity development to reduce illiteracy in Lebanon continues. Efforts are concentrated on training trainers, building the capacity of the National Program for Adult Education, and the production of Resources

## TVET

### Amman:

- Non Formal, Informal Education and skills development programmes targeting Syrians in the Za'atari refugee camp and in host communities(including vulnerable Jordanians) via 3 projects funded by the EU, Saudi Arabia and the Walton Foundation

### Iraq:

- EU-funded project to reform TVET started in 2015 to make TVET a key driver for Iraq's economic development

### Lebanon:

Several Training Workshops on Work and Life Skills for Youth were arranged in cooperation with NGOs in Lebanon and Syria. More than 100 teachers and youth programmes coordinators participated in 6 workshops in Beirut, Damascus, Bekaa, and Tripoli

# Cluster Activities in MP I

## Teachers

### Amman:

- Training of teachers on the psychological pedagogy with focus in maths and sciences (Saudi Fund)

### Iraq:

- Continues to reform the teacher preparation and training system – a new teacher training strategy and competency standards for teachers are being developed – hundreds of teachers trainers are trained on o active learning approaches

### Lebanon:

A Resource Kit on Climate Change Education at the Secondary Classroom is under translation into Arabic, in cooperation with Hariri Foundation for HSD-Lebanon. Training Workshops on the use of the Resource Kit by Teachers and Students are planned during 2016-2017

## Post-2015 – Education 2030

### Lebanon and Syria:

- Support to participation in regional policy and technical dialogue and consensus building forum

### Ramallah:

- Accelerate progress towards EFA goals focusing on inclusive education
- Key role of Technical Advisor of the Education Sector Working Group –on drafting a new comprehensive and state-of-the-art law on General Education





# Natural Sciences

# Cluster Activities in MP II

## Iraq:

- Iraq office efforts in Natural Sciences focus on management of Iraq's natural resources.
- UNESCO engagement scaled up with the EU funded project "Advanced Survey of Hydro geological Resources in Iraq" (5 million euros)
- Data sets have been collected for identifying potential groundwater resources and hydro geological modelling
- UNESCO also assisted in the preparation of "A master Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation"

## Lebanon:

- Initiation of a Research project that will utilize the natural reserves as a laboratory for studies towards sustainable development. 7 research studies are being conducted by 7 master students from 7 universities. Those studies reflect the priority of the reserves in terms of research and better management. The final report with the 7 studies will be ready end of November 2015
- National Action Plan for Water Scarcity: organization of a national conference on water scarcity bringing all national stakeholders to the table to come up with recommendations towards a national action plan for water scarcity in Lebanon









# Human and Social Sciences

# Cluster Activities in MP III

**Amman:** activities implemented under the NetMed intersectoral project

- Engages emergent youth organizations that also contribute to the project
- Supports youth coordination mechanisms
- Involves private sector
- Engages in the Post2015 process
- Mainstreams the Unite4Heritage campaign through a network of university students

**Lebanon:** Series of Youth projects under the NetMed intersectoral project

- Gender mainstreaming in youth related activities in Lebanon
- First workshop to advance ethics education in the Arab region
- Regional workshop on youth participation in policy process
- Introducing youth in Syria and Lebanon to successful volunteerism

# Cluster Activities in MP III

## Social Inclusion:

### Lebanon and Syria:

- Support to policy research and dialogue to promote social inclusiveness in a participatory manner and to promote policy dialogue in Lebanon and Syria. A series of workshops were held which aimed to provide legal and policy framework on promotion of rights of PWD, refugees setting and practical tools and skills in mainstreaming disability in the humanitarian and development project management and support the preparation of “action plan” in implementing the policy recommendations in their region. *A manual was developed on “disability mainstreaming in humanitarian response”*

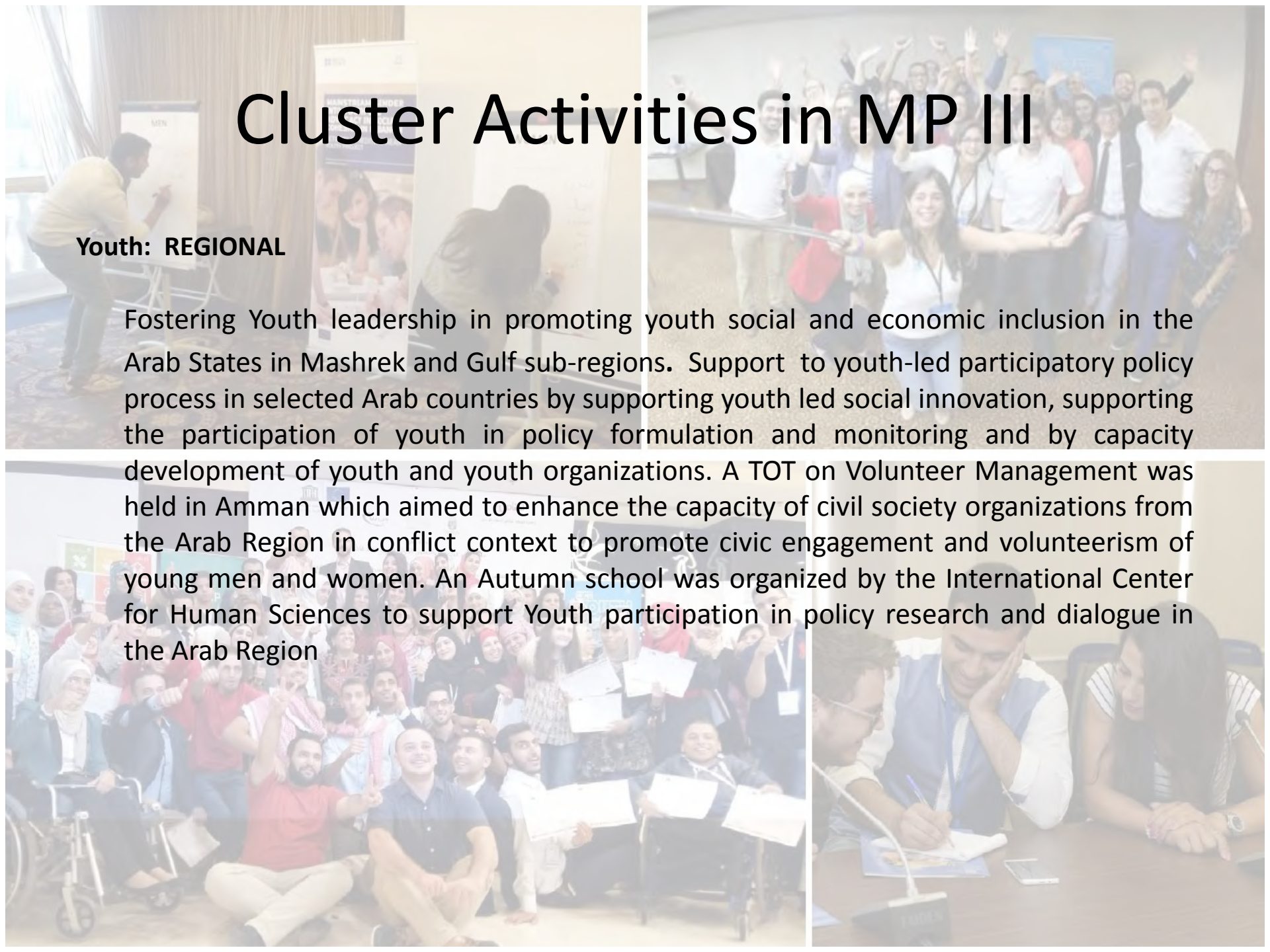
## Bioethics: REGIONAL

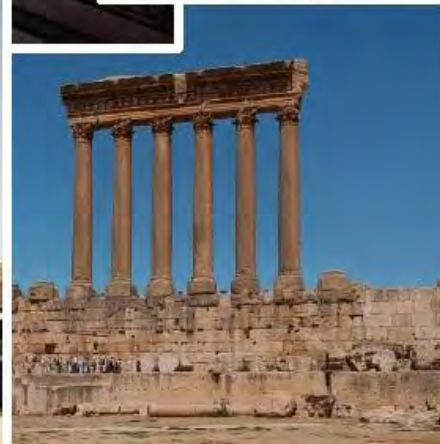
- Develop capacity of Arab Member States in addressing the Bioethical Issues through Ethics Education taking into account gender and Human Rights Perspectives. Member States will be supported to strengthen capacity to address emerging issues in the field of bioethics and establish appropriate guidelines through promotion of ethical dialogues, examining the universal principles on bioethics through Ethics Education. *A series of Regional Workshops were held on Ethics Teachers Training Course to introduce the participants to UNESCO’s Bioethics Core Curriculum, Universal Declaration on Human Rights and different tools and networks*

# Cluster Activities in MP III

## Youth: REGIONAL

Fostering Youth leadership in promoting youth social and economic inclusion in the Arab States in Mashrek and Gulf sub-regions. Support to youth-led participatory policy process in selected Arab countries by supporting youth led social innovation, supporting the participation of youth in policy formulation and monitoring and by capacity development of youth and youth organizations. A TOT on Volunteer Management was held in Amman which aimed to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations from the Arab Region in conflict context to promote civic engagement and volunteerism of young men and women. An Autumn school was organized by the International Center for Human Sciences to support Youth participation in policy research and dialogue in the Arab Region





# Culture



# Cluster Activities in MP IV

## #Unite4ritage campaign

### Amman:

- Capitalizing on cultural assets as a source of resilience and as a response to the Syria Crisis
- Investing in youth and protecting culture through the campaign #Unite4Heritage to promote culture as a key trigger for economic and social change

### Iraq:

- Enhancing awareness about the importance of protecting Iraq's cultural heritage
- Addressing threats to the cultural diversity by implementing protection and promotion plans
- As part of the Office's response to attacks on heritage, the office has initiated the process for acquiring maps and satellite images for sites under threat. It is also collaborating with other partners to assess the damages inflicted in sites that have been recently liberated

### Lebanon:

- Awareness-raising programmes for students on how conflict endangers cultural heritage. The students will be introduced to the risks through a theatre-based workshop and will be introduced to the importance of the UNESCO Culture Conventions for the protection of cultural heritage, in particular the 1954, 1970 and 1972 Conventions



# Cluster Activities in MP IV

## 1972 World Heritage Convention

### Amman:

- Appropriate management frameworks developed in coordination with national stakeholders for two world heritage sites (Umm er-Rasas and Petra)
- Specialized guidance provided for the elaboration of roadmaps for the preparation of WH nomination files
- Disaster Risk Reduction approaches applied in the 'Siq' of Petra through an Italian Funded extra budgetary project

### Iraq:

- Ongoing conservation , management and promotion of Iraq's cultural heritage(Mosul and Samara)
- Conservation of Erbil Citadel
- Signature of an agreement with Iraq for the conservation and management of the WH site of Samara Archaeological City

### Lebanon:

- Preparation of an action plan for the Qadisha World heritage Site , to be adopted within a Workshop involving all stakeholders
- Providing advisory services and high level technical assistance to the Ministry of Culture/ Directorate General of Antiquities with respect to the two World Heritage sites of Tyre and Baalbek

# Cluster Activities in MP IV

## Other areas of interventions

### Amman:

- Creating **culture-based job opportunities for rural women** in 2 major poverty pockets in Jordan severely impacted by the Syria Crisis. Investments focused in the uniqueness of Jordanian handicrafts, especially natural dyed fabrics and basalt stone objects

### Lebanon:

- National seminar "**preventing illicit traffic in cultural property**" involving all Lebanese stakeholders will be organized including Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Tourism, INTERPOL, Police at borders, Customs, Museums, Order of lawyers as well as one component will be dedicated to raising awareness of Media (TVs and press)
- Training seminar for the UNIFIL high level Officers on **the Implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property** in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two (1954 and 1999) Protocols

### Ramallah

- Capacity building activities aiming to **promote a culture of dialogue** among Syrian youth and youth from host communities in Lebanon through Arts. Support to local development and job creation in the field of culture in Palestine through the **rehabilitation and revitalization of historic built environment**. Within its on-going project for the preservation of Palestinian heritage funded by SIDA (2012-2016), **44** sites have been restored in the West Bank and Gaza; **66** architects and engineers have been trained on heritage preservation; and **6692** working days have been generated
- Support to the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities for the improvement of the Palestinian **legal framework** for the protection, management and promotion of both tangible and intangible heritage, through its technical expertise and final revision of the draft **Intangible Cultural Heritage Law** and of the draft **Tangible Cultural Heritage Law**
- After the 2014 war in Gaza, UNESCO Ramallah Office led the preliminary assessment of damages to culture heritage sites and the preparation of the chapter on Culture of the **Detailed Needs Assessment (DNA)**.



The image is a collage of four photographs, all overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The top-left photo shows a man in a light-colored jacket operating a professional video camera on a tripod. The top-right photo features a professional condenser microphone on a stand. The bottom-left photo depicts two young women wearing large headphones, looking intently at a screen. The bottom-right photo shows the cover of a report titled 'Assessment of Media Development in JORDAN', with the word 'JORDAN' in large, bold letters. The report cover also includes the 'SUPPORT TO MEDIA in Jordan' logo and the European Union flag.

# Communication & Information

# Cluster Activities in MP V

## Lebanon:

- Media Campaign with universities and young journalists for press freedom; Launched an internet freedom report for Lebanon

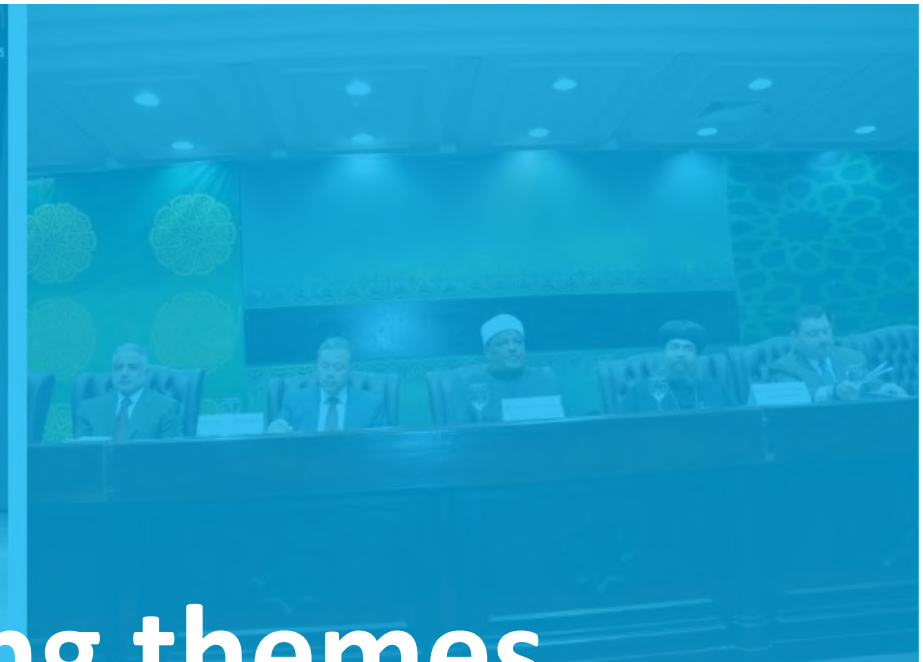
## Syria:

- Support to Syrian refugees and surrounding Lebanese communities through the launch of 2 Youth Information Centers in partnership with World Vision; one in Kfarzabad-Bekaa and one in Khiyam-South of Lebanon to give them a space for empowerment, dialog and cohesion

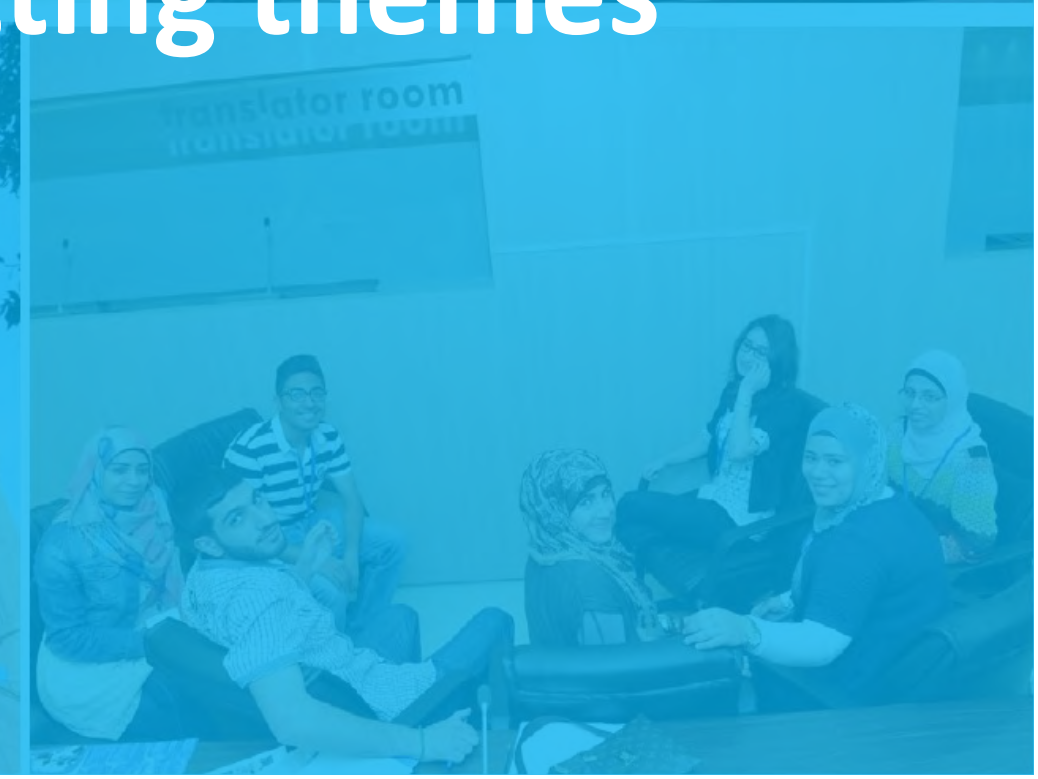
## Ramallah:

- Within its work to promote **freedom of expression** and after the 2014 war in Gaza, UNESCO Ramallah Office provided psychological counselling to and strengthened capacities on gender-sensitive reporting of **265 women journalists** in Gaza





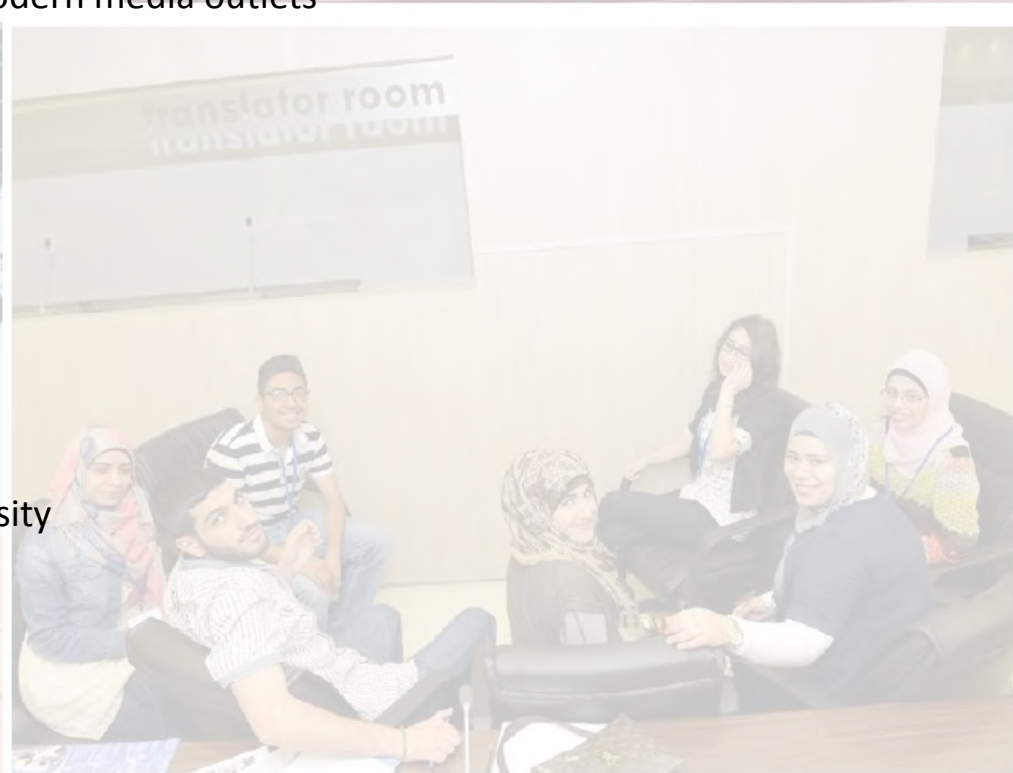
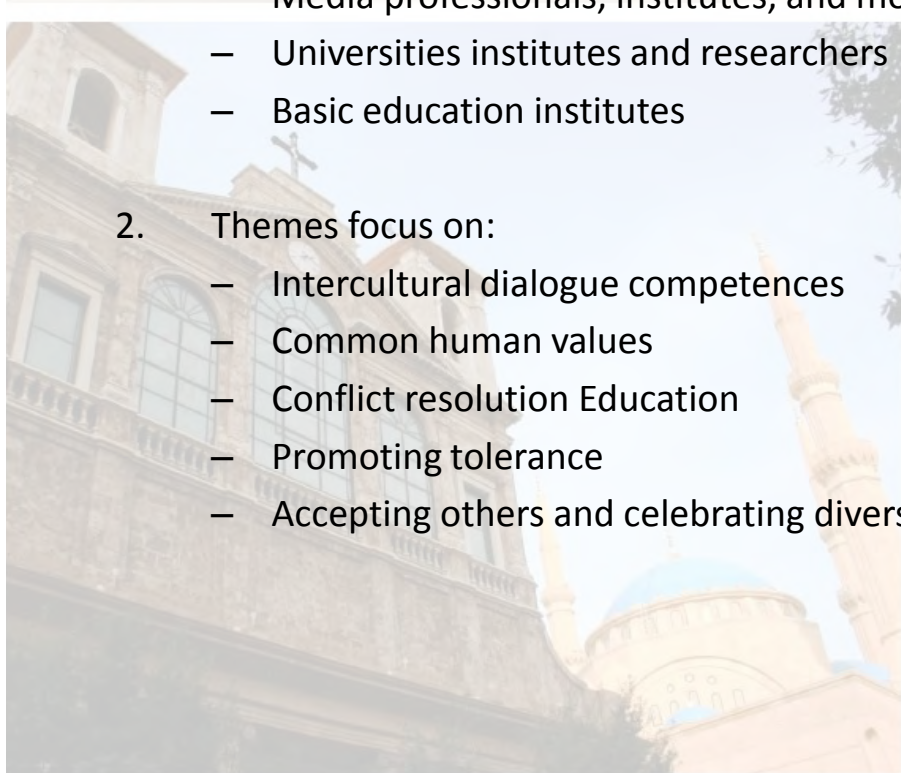
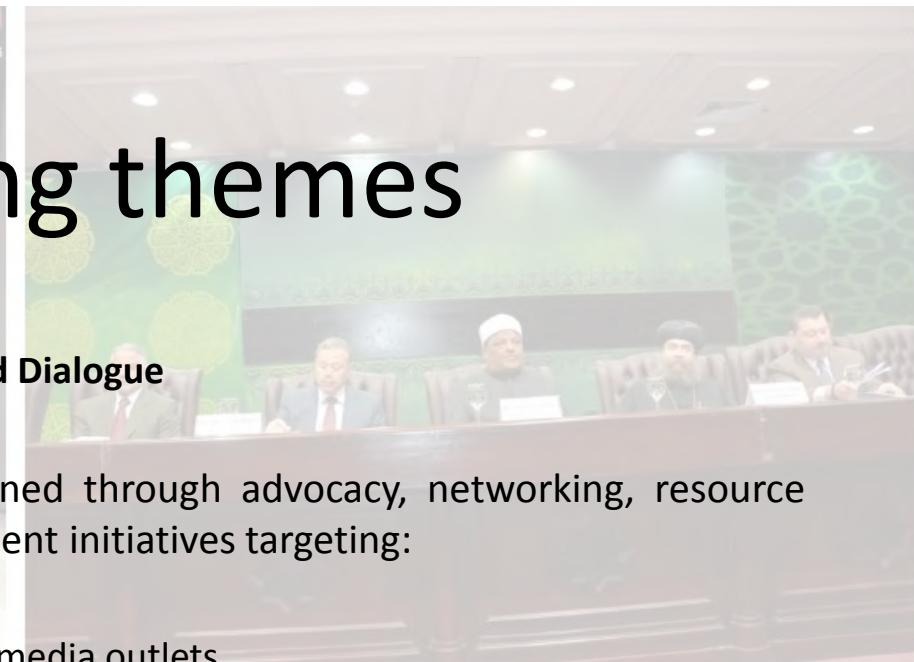
# Cross-cutting themes



# Cross-cutting themes

## King Abdullah International Programme for Peace and Dialogue

1. Promoting intercultural dialogue is strengthened through advocacy, networking, resource production, awareness, and capacity development initiatives targeting:
  - Religious leaders
  - Media professionals, institutes, and modern media outlets
  - Universities institutes and researchers
  - Basic education institutes
2. Themes focus on:
  - Intercultural dialogue competences
  - Common human values
  - Conflict resolution Education
  - Promoting tolerance
  - Accepting others and celebrating diversity








# Cross-cutting themes



## NetMed – Building capacities and enhance networking among youth organizations (Regional Project covering 10 countries )



- Main target : improve the access and effective participation of youth in developing and implementing national strategies and policies affecting young women and men through three pillars: Youth Policy Dialogue, Youth and Media as well as Youth and Employment.
- Increase Youth contribution to the development and revision of public policies on youth
- Foster Youth effective interaction with the media and their use of ICT-enabled platforms
- Strengthen youth organizations' capacities through their active participation in dialogue with national stakeholders around employment and skills development policies
- Support national stakeholders in developing new tools for evidence-based prospective policy planning
- Enhance networking among youth organizations

## Gender Equality



### Lebanon:

- Contributed to different GE programmes carried out by ESCWA, including studies on women employability in the Arab countries
- Studies on GBV in schools are also ongoing, as well as efforts to mainstream gender issues and GE in Teacher education and training (see also Teacher section)

### Ramallah:

- Promotion of Gender Equality in Palestine by supporting the capacities of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in **gender policy research** and in **advocacy campaign** and by fighting **Gender Based Violence**, through community theatre plays on Gender Based Violence, developed with stories collected from the communities all around the West Bank and from women in Shelters and UNRWA collective centres in Gaza
- 



# Response to Syria Crisis

## Four Principal Pillars

1. Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth
2. Safeguarding Syrian cultural heritage
3. Promoting and enhancing social cohesion and inclusiveness
4. Harnessing the Power of Culture as a Source of Resilience



# PILLAR 1:

## Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth

### Access

- Constructing secondary schools in Iraq
- Supporting secondary school enrollment in Lebanon and higher education regionally
- Providing non-formal education, life skills and TVET training for youth in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon
- Providing learning materials in Lebanon

### Quality

- Professional development programme in Iraq and Jordan, and in TVET in Lebanon and Syria
- ICT-enabled pedagogical resources development in Jordan
- Alternative learning programme

development in Lebanon

### Systems Strengthening

- Collecting data using mobile technology and web portals for educational needs
- Institutional capacity development in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon
- Policy development and research in higher education
- Knowledge generation and sharing through national and regional forums



## PILLAR 2: Safeguarding Syrian cultural heritage

1 March 2014 – 28 February 2017

The **Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage** project funded by the EU with the support of the Government of Flanders aims to provide an operational response to **halt the on-going loss** of cultural heritage in Syria and **prepare post-conflict priority actions**.

UNESCO is implementing a three-pronged approach to monitor cultural heritage in Syria through **knowledge and documentation**; mitigate the destruction of Syrian cultural heritage through **communication and awareness-raising efforts**; and protect Syrian cultural heritage through **technical assistance and capacity-building**.



### Activities undertaken:

- International Experts Meeting
- Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage
- First Aid support meetings to protect Syrian cultural heritage
- Meetings to improving inventories of built, movable and intangible cultural heritage
- Trainings of heritage experts and police officers to protect built, movable (including museum collections) and intangible heritage
- Awareness raising efforts in the framework of #UNITE4HERITAGE





# PILLAR 3: Promoting and Enhancing Social Cohesion and Inclusiveness for Youth and Women



## Skills development for youth and CSOs

- Mobilizing and managing youth and **civil society organizations** in volunteerism
- Mainstreaming gender and disability responses

## NET-MED Project:

- Training Syrian refugees and Lebanese youth with knowledge and skills to promote social cohesion



#UNITE4HERITAGE

#متحدون مع التراث

# PILLAR 4:

## Harnessing the Power of Culture as a Source of Resilience

- **Women trained** in cultural tourism services and **others for self employment** in handicrafts production and business management in Jordan



**UNITE4HERITAGE**

*A campaign to build support for the protection of cultural heritage*

# PILLAR 4:

## Harnessing the Power of Culture as a Source of Resilience

- **Women trained** in cultural tourism services and **others for self employment** in handicrafts production and business management in Jordan



**UNITE4HERITAGE**

*A campaign to build support for the protection of cultural heritage*

# The Way Forward

- Scaling up successful interventions and expanding outreach
- Bridging strategic gaps (i.e. youth)
- Linking UNESCO Response with the Post-2015 development agenda
- Harnessing assistance to host countries
- Consolidating partnerships
- Mobilizing resources for increased impact