



Amman Office
مكتب عمان

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

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UNESCO Amman Office

EDUCATION

Education transforms lives and is at the heart of UNESCO's mission to build peace, eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development. UNESCO is the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education.

UNESCO Amman office is currently operating throughout Jordan, supporting Jordanian institutions and host communities as well as refugees living across the kingdom.



Sustainable
Development
Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that education is essential to the success of all 17 of its goals. Ambitions for education are primarily captured in SDG 4 which is dedicated to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and to promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, has been entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda along with its partners.

The roadmap designed to facilitate the global achievement of the ten targets of SDG 4 has been set forth in the 'Education 2030 Framework for Action' which provides guidance to governments and partners on how to turn commitments into action. 'Education 2030' goes beyond past attempts to ensure access to basic education and the main responsibility for implementing the agenda is shared between the government and UNESCO with partners providing support through coordinated policy advice, technical assistance, capacity development and monitoring of progress at global, regional and national levels.



SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

- **Target 4.3:** Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university. UNESCO provides technical and vocational education and training for Jordanian and Syrian youth, supporting them in transitioning to opportunities in the labor market or continuing their education and training.
- **Target 4.4:** Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. UNESCO supports teacher training, improving the quality of education and fostering an integrated approach to teaching professional development.
- **Target 4.7:** Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. In a cross-sectoral approach, the UNESCO culture team contributes to sustainable development and conservation of environmental, natural and cultural heritage, recognizing that the active engagement of children and youth is essential to this work.

UNESCO Amman office has been taking a leadership role in ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In mid 2017, UNESCO became involved with the Ministry of Education and the National Center for Human Resources Development, working to enhance capacity in a series of workshops surrounding unpacking SDG 4, focusing setting national targets and thematic indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

The Three Pillars



Access and Retention

UNESCO works to enhance access to and retention of students in education across Jordan and supports programmes that encourage and enable girls and women to participate in and contribute to their families, communities and economies more broadly.

- In partnership with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders and in line with the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), UNESCO has supported the provision of alternative learning pathways for out-of-school refugee youth through providing access to TVET and enhancing the quality of teachers by supporting teacher professional development.
- Youth populations are often neglected in instances of crisis and UNESCO is working to provide opportunities for this critical group to continue their education in post-basic education streams, including Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) at community colleges.
- 400 Syrian youth have been involved in a mentoring program in Za'atari Refugee Camp, reducing youth violence in the camp, increasing engagement through life-skills programs and improving social cohesion.
- 500 Syrian refugee women and vulnerable Jordanian women have been supported with life skills and vocational training to create their own businesses.
- 3,000 youth of higher education age have applied to UNESCO's Jami3ti portal, an online portal providing a "one-stop shop" platform designed to link young Syrian and vulnerable Jordanian applicants seeking learning opportunities with higher education providers.





Inclusive, Quality Education for All

Supporting and strengthening teacher training is a top priority, adding strategic value by improving the quality of education and fostering an integrated approach to teaching professional development at the school level.

- In Jordan, 450 Ministry trainers and 2,000 teachers have received intensive in-service teacher training through UNESCO's strategic partnership with Queen Rania Teachers Academy (QRTA). UNESCO and QRTA are engaged in the design, pilot-testing and roll-out of a new, blended learning portal with ICT-enabled training for teachers in interactive pedagogy, psychosocial support, mathematics and sciences. The portal is expected to provide the Ministry of Education (MoE) with rapid response capabilities to address growing demand for continuous professional development;
- Efforts to improve the quality of education have included the training of over 4,000 teachers. School principals and deputies benefitted from quality leadership trainings.

“Teachers are the single most influential and powerful force for equity, access and quality in education.”

- UNESCO



System Strengthening

Education is a basic human right. UNESCO's comparative advantage is found in supporting Ministries through successful collaboration. National capacities are strengthened as UNESCO strives to encourage and facilitate access, quality, relevance and equity in the delivery of educational services to all beneficiaries including Syrian refugees.

- UNESCO has been providing support to the MoE in drafting their Education Strategy drawing from the National Human Development Strategy. In collaboration with the National Center for Human Resource Development, UNESCO is also supporting line ministries to mainstream SDG 4 and the associated indicators within their policies and strategies.
- The MoE has made investments to strengthen the Open Education Management Information System (EMIS) to serve as a centralized source of information for planning and monitoring results, particularly on access to formal education. Through UNESCO's OpenEMIS project, the MoE has improved the overall accuracy and reliability of national education statistics.
- UNESCO assisted the MoE in the development of an education-financing model and implemented a GIS-based school mapping to better inform decision making.

UNESCO's Syria Crisis Response

With a total population approaching 10 million, Jordan currently hosts over 1.3 million Syrians according to government sources, of whom 655,000 are registered with UNHCR. Approximately 80% of Syrians live in host communities across Jordan where the impact of the protracted conflict has affected both Syrian and Jordanian citizens. The UNESCO Amman office is responding to the crisis through the nationally led, resilience-based approach which provides longer-term support to national institutions.

UNESCO has taken a strategic role in shaping the global agenda for education in emergencies anchored in SDG 4 implementation across the Arab States. The 2013-2021 Medium Term Strategy stipulates that UNESCO will advocate for a sector-wide approach for the rehabilitation of education systems in post-crisis situations and the enhancement of resilience. In the context of the Syria crisis, UNESCO will continue to concentrate on critical areas such as TVET and life-skills, secondary education and higher education, including enhancing the quality of education through teacher education and training. UNESCO maintains the position of Secretariat for the Education Task Force of the Jordan Response Plan for the Syria crisis, supporting the Government in developing its response plan.

UNESCO Amman office has intensified efforts to provide an education response to the Syria crisis, particularly through its Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth Strategy. The Education unit mobilizes significant funding as UNESCO assists Jordan in educating Syrian students and maintaining the quality of Jordanian education services to citizens. The prolonged nature of the conflict has overstretched the public sector's ability to sustain quality education.



The Way Forward

Strengthening public education systems requires enhanced national education governance and accountability, planning, costing, data collection and teacher professional development. Stronger investment in communities and civil society organizations is essential to sustain schooling, supporting learning and protecting children and youth. Multi-sectoral approaches and partnerships need to be systematized. In addition, the education response needs to be embedded within a lifelong learning approach that starts from early learning and continues through tertiary and higher education levels. The scattered efforts at reaching the youth population with education must be reinforced to provide and expand post-basic education opportunities, while addressing school-to-work transition. Major efforts also need to be invested in building the skills needed for the reconstruction of Syria. Daunting challenges remain while funding to education continues to fall remarkably short of requirements.



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