



Regional Bureau for
Sciences in the
Arab States - Cairo

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

المكتب الإقليمي
للعلوم في الدول
العربية - القاهرة



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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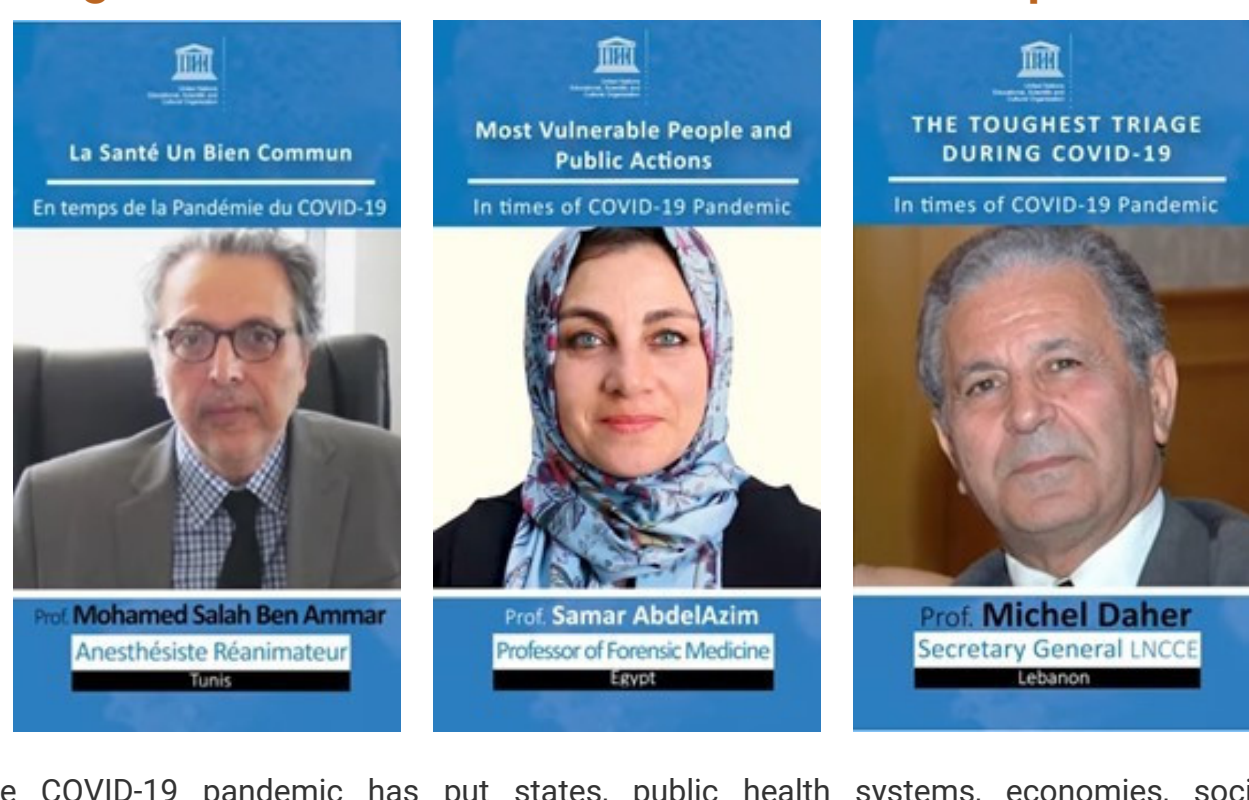
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Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Response in the Arab region: Views and Recommendations From Experts



The COVID-19 pandemic has put states, public health systems, economies, societies, communities, and individuals under utmost pressure. Many questions have arisen about the norms and criteria that could guide sound decision-making process in response to this global health emergency. Indeed, COVID-19 responses raise fundamental and difficult questions pertaining to human rights, social justice, codes of ethics, and environmental ethics. The Arab States region is no exception to this challenge. [Read More.](#)

مقاومة ضد الوصم والتمييز!!
لنجد أفضل



Arab youth combat stigma and discrimination amid COVID-19

Around 75 young persons and adolescents from 12 Arab countries participated in an online training program entitled "Towards cohesive societies: Arab youth combating stigma and discrimination amid COVID-19", which was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States – Cairo Office in August and September 2020. The program helped participants to develop an in-depth understanding of the causes and consequences of stigma and discrimination, and to develop project ideas for combating discriminatory practices in their societies. [Read More.](#)

Egyptian Youth Rethink the Future of Wellbeing in 2050 in Light of COVID-19



On 21 July 2020, and with the support of UNESCO, 27 visionary young Egyptians sought to develop their capacity to imagine the future, and to reassess the assumptions driving their fears, expectations, plans and willingness to invest in change. The disruptive shocks generated by the COVID-19 pandemic have already affected most of the population in Egypt, producing a great deal of anxiety, reflection, and (re)action. The uncertainty forced many to feel as if they are trapped in the present; placing their hope on scientists to find a cure to the virus to get their lives back on track. On the other hand, the pandemic has also presented many with an opportunity to use a different logic to inform their everyday perceptions and choices, one that is more humble, welcoming difference and uncertainty, shaping humanity's resilience through diversification, improvisation and fluidity. [Read More.](#)

Arab Youth Explore the Impact of COVID-19 on Youth



The Youth As Researchers (YAR) global UNESCO initiative on COVID-19 connects and engages with young people to conduct research on the impacts of COVID-19 on young people and the responses young people have implemented to tackle these. In May 2020, a global survey was launched that allowed youth to contribute in identifying the research questions for each of the five umbrella thematic areas of the initiative, namely: well-being; civic engagement; role of technology; learning; and rights. [Read More.](#)

Arab Cities Leave No One Behind Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak



In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, cities members of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance stood in solidarity with the most vulnerable. UNESCO Cairo Office supported these endeavours by producing a pamphlet on "the role of local authorities in responding to COVID 19 outbreak: leaving no one behind". The pamphlet was inspired by the Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities, published in 2019 by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States and the European Training and Research Center for Human Rights and Democracy in cooperation with cities members of the Coalition. [Read More.](#)

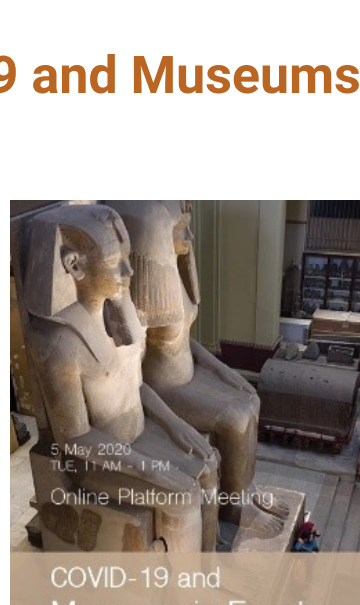
#ShareOurHeritage in the Face the COVID-19 Crisis



The COVID-19 made a significant impact on the culture sector with heritage and creativity as its main pillars. UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States provided assistance to support the participation of the member states in the Culture Ministers Forum (22 April 2020) and strengthened monitoring of the impact of the pandemic and of response measures taken at regional and country levels. [Read More.](#)

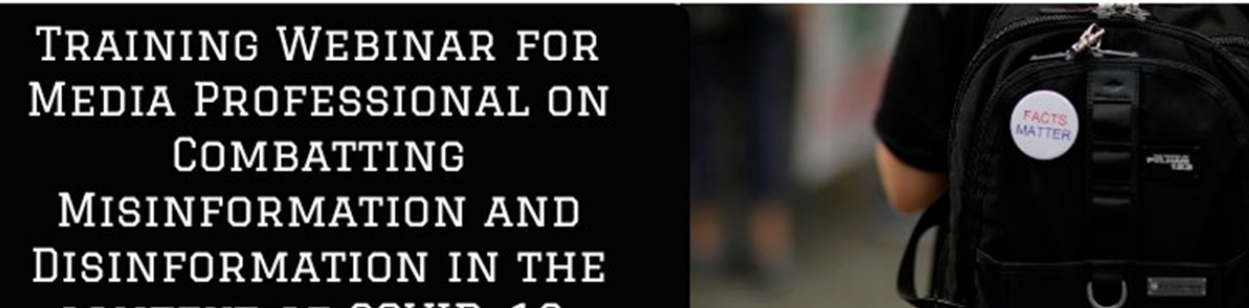
Online Platform Meeting on the COVID-19 and Museums in Egypt

An Online Platform Meeting on the COVID-19 Crisis and Museums in Egypt was held in Cairo on 5 May 2020 to develop action-oriented recommendations for strategies and measures to be taken during and post the COVID-19 crisis. This online meeting was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA). This online meeting was organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA). The meeting brought together thirteen senior officials representing the museum sector of MoTA, together with representatives of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC), the Egyptian Museum in Cairo (EMC), and the Museum of Islamic Arts (MIA). [Read More.](#)



UNESCO-AUC-WHO-UNIC Webinar Series on Misinformation and Disinformation in the context of COVID-19 in the Arab Region

TRAINING WEBINAR FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONAL ON COMBATTING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19



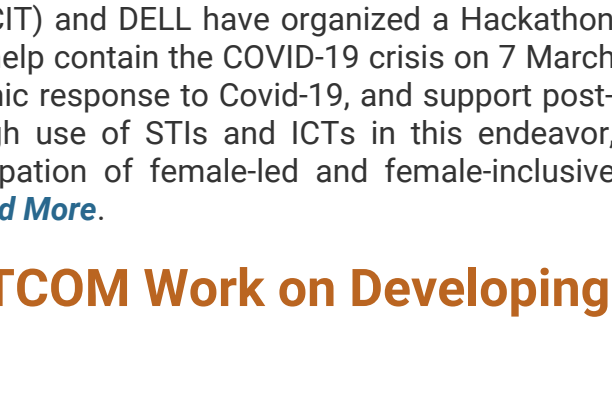
This 9-part webinar series was organized on Wednesday 16 September 2020, Wednesday 23 September 2020, Wednesday 30 September 2020, based on the UNESCO Handbook and policy resources and materials produced by other authorities in this field. This is a fast-moving area so engagement with frontline experts – by way of example the World Health Organization, the United Nations information Center – is crucial. Effectively combatting the pandemic and disinformation is a whole of society endeavor and the low-cost and reach of various platforms has provided private users and certain functional roles in organization with extensive outreach. [Read More.](#)

UN in Egypt, DELL and TIEC Organize Virtual Hackathon "Hack the Virus" for COVID-19 Solutions



The UN in Egypt (UNTIL, UNESCO, ITU, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO) in concert with Egypt's Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC) operated by the Ministry of Communication & Information Technologies (MCIT) and DELL have organized a Hackathon <https://hackthevirus.me> to develop solutions to help contain the COVID-19 crisis on 7 March 2020, UN aiming to support GOE's Socio-economic response to Covid-19, and support post-COVID-19 social and economic recovery through use of STIs and ICTs in this endeavor, incentives were given to encourage the participation of female-led and female-inclusive teams to addresses the gender digital divide. [Read More.](#)

UNESCO, UN in Egypt and NATCOM Work on Developing Public Messages



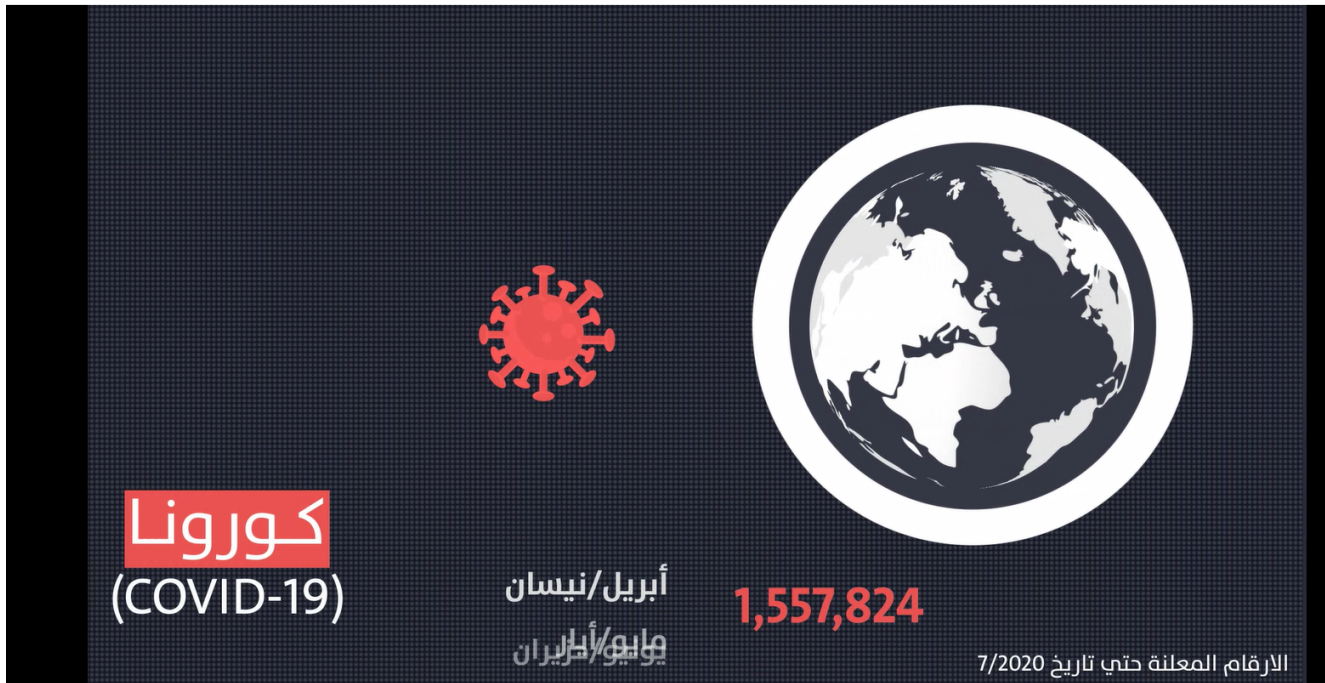
UNESCO Cairo in close collaboration with WHO, UNIC, the Egyptian UNESCO NATCOM and other UNESCO Offices in the Arab Region has been developing public service messages in response to COVID-19 across all of UNESCO's fields of competence. The messages seek to counter misinformation and disinformation, support students and parents during learning from home promote tolerance and social solidarity amongst others. [Read More.](#)

Communicating Effective Messaging as We Reopen our African Economies During COVID-19



UNESCO Cairo with UNESCO Harare in close collaboration with the Naledi3D Factory organized a webinar that sought to engage stakeholders to mobilize support for proactive COVID-19 communications. More than 80 participants attended this webinar. [Read More.](#)

The Development of a Short Animated Video and Posters Towards Combating COVID-19



[Watch It Now](#)

Following the COVID-19 Pandemic, UCO/IHP developed a short (2 minutes) animated video in Arabic and 3 posters: highlighting the role of clean freshwater in combating COVID-19 and promoting water conservation, especially at the household level. Up to date, the video clip was viewed more than 8000 times on UNESCO Cairo Facebook page and nearly 3000 times on UNESCO Arabic Facebook page. The main message delivered through the video were conserving water is essential to protect us from the COVID-19 pandemic, conservation and saving of water help your life and the lives of other and water is a blessing, please conserve it. [Read More](#).

Development of Interactive Informal COVID-19 Related Water Education Activities

UNESCO Cairo supported the development of interactive informal activities for enhancing awareness on combating COVID-19 and water conservation targeting school students in the Arab Region with in age groups 8-12 years and 13-18 years to be implemented in cooperation with National commissions' officials and school teachers. As a customization for Egypt case, the Egyptian Knowledge Bank materials and modules selected. A webinar was successfully organized to introduce the activities to more than 40 Egyptian educators representing national ad associated schools. The activities focused on promoting the value of water and its significant role in combating COVID-19. [Read More](#).

Regional Arab Virtual Meeting for Open Science and Research

24 August 2019, Cairo- The main objective of this activity was to establish the main strategic directions and approaches with prospects for enhancing regional and global cooperation in sciences, 108 participants have participated in this activity among which 40 were women, the main outcomes of this activity aimed at better regional participation of the science community and raising awareness and communication to build a regional culture on Open Science, more relevant institutes to adopt scientific research and innovation policies, strategies and legal frameworks that will foster scientific collaboration at the national and regional levels and to build the required infrastructures. [Read More.](#)



A virtual tour in the Global Geopark Network and their designation process

3 November 2020, Cairo- The second webinar entitled “UNESCO Geoparks: Programmes & Ways to Preserve and Manage the Geological Heritage” was organized by UNESCO Regional Office for Science in the Arab States. The webinar focused on the global aspects of geological heritage conservation while tapping on the foundation of the Global Geopark Network and its history presented by Prof. Nikolas ZOUROS – Global Geoparks Network President. [Read More.](#)

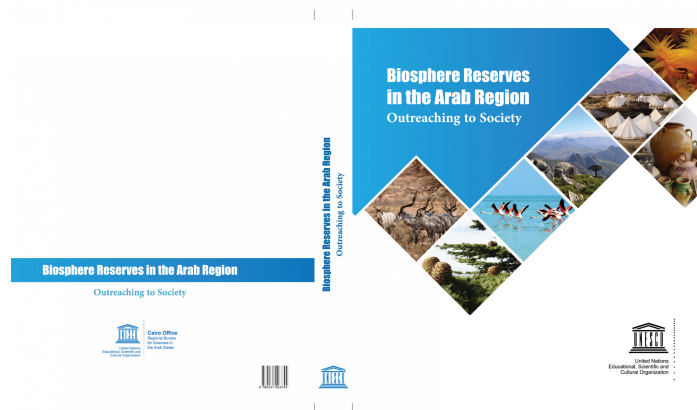
Series of ArabMAB virtual meetings

May-October 2020, Cairo- A Series of virtual meetings organized from May until October brought together Biosphere Reserves Managers from the Arab Region with the ArabMAB steering committee members to discuss the plan of the 50th anniversary of the Man and Biosphere Programme. [Read More.](#)

ArabMAB Educational toolkit: communities as the ‘makers’ of characters

December 2020, Cairo- An Illustration competition were launched in inviting people from all ages to be the ‘Makers’ of the identity, profile and character of a boy and a girl who will be exploring UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region (for details see attached document) and connect with the wildlife and local communities living within and beyond them. The educational toolkit will be used in schools, clubs among other entities and biosphere reserves in the Mashreq countries, Maghreb (North Africa), and Gulf countries. [Read More.](#)

A new webinars edition on UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region



October 27 2020, Cairo- The first webinar entitled “UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks: Policies, Programme & Designation Process” held on October 27 2020, falls within the 2020 plan of activities to strengthen the Arab MAB Network. The webinar organized by the UNESCO Regional Office for Science in the Arab States in Cairo, addressed the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the concept of UNESCO Biosphere Reserves and the designation process and nomination dossier. [Read More.](#)

Webinar on Effective Management of ArabMAB network in the Arab Region

December 8 2020, Cairo- The official work on the development of tools to guide managers to foster the role of Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development was launched. The webinar brought together around 30 participants from the region to discuss an index toolkit on effective management of the ArabMAB network and to launch a data mining and gathering exercise. [Read More.](#)

Series of ArabMAB Youth virtual meetings (May until October 2020)

May-October 2020, Cairo- ArabMAB Youth got together to discuss ways of Youth involvement of the educational toolkit on ArabMAB network and development of the publication on traditional knowledge in Biosphere Reserves in the Arab Region. The last meeting held addressed youth leadership and involvement in the planned 50th MAB anniversary initiatives and activities. [Read More.](#)

E-Dialogue on urgent interventions to build socio-ecological systems resilience in Egypt and Jordan

13 August 2020, Cairo- The first E-Dialogue was held to launch the activities of the project entitled ‘Urgent Interventions to Build Socio-Ecological Systems Resilience to Natural Hazards in MENA region’. The meeting brought together representatives of national competent authorities managing disaster risks in Egypt and Jordan to introduce the project and set the criteria for the selection of prone areas to multiple hazards in each of Jordan and Egypt. [Read More.](#)

A comprehensive technical report on the impact of increased flash floods frequency and their correspondent sedimentation problems on the water supply intakes (clogging) along the Nile in Egypt

August 2020, Cairo-The report started August 2020 and shall include a review of the flash floods of the wadi system of both eastern and western desert, as a main source of sediments. The main focus will be given to the main flash flood events that affected the water intakes. Mitigation techniques commonly used inside the wadi system and its effect on decreasing sediment yield will be illustrated in the addition to the recommended actions to mitigate the effect of sedimentation at the intake location will be summarized based on stakeholders' feedback and interviews conducted by the study. [Read More.](#)

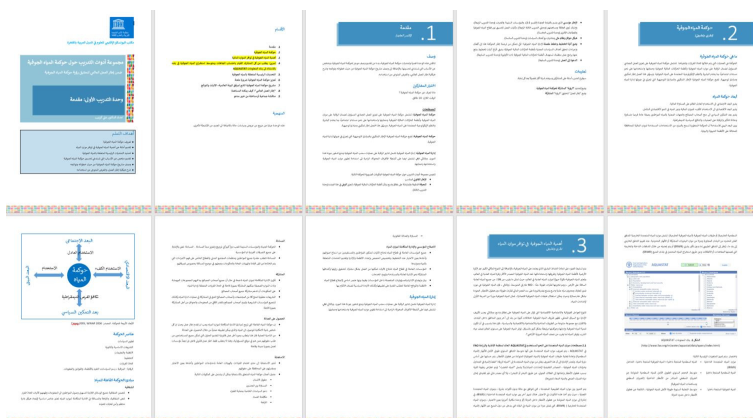
Development of Training Material on Incorporating Water into the Arab National Determined Contributions

To enhance national adaptation plans with special focus on water resources issues in National Determined Contributions (NDC's) and related socio-economic aspects, UNESCO Cairo supports the development of regional training material that will benefit Egypt as well, including:

- An analysis of NDCs/NDCs related policies and plans in order to identify potential interventions for enhancing or incorporating water components: Water aware climate policies
- Alignment of water and climate strategies and action plans with other selected sectors strategies: Water and climate centric development policies
- Develop a regional training package that enables countries to set their water-climate action outlook

Development of Regional Groundwater Governance Training Material

Following the recommendation of the Expert Group Meeting on Groundwater Governance, which was organized by UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, FAO, and the Arabian Gulf University, UCO undertook the task of translating the Groundwater Governance Global Framework document into the Arabic language in 2018. In 2020, UNESCO Cairo Office developed an Arabic Language training tool-kit based on "Shared Global Vision for Groundwater." [Read More.](#)



Promoting International Cooperation at Egyptian Universities

24-27 September 2020, Cairo-In line with Egypt's Strategy on Higher Education within the Egypt 2030 vision, and In cooperation with the National Commission for UNESCO and the Supreme Council for Universities, UCO/IHP organized a consultative meeting with members of the Academia in Egyptian Government Universities on the UNESCO UNITWIN network. The workshop, which was held virtually over two days (), informed Egyptian academics on the requirements and procedures relevant to submitting an application to the UNESCO University Chairs network. Through international scientific cooperation, members of the UNESCO UNITWIN network serve as think tanks and bridge builders between science, policy-making, and the public. 32 Academics participated in the virtual consultation meeting.



Community Awareness and Capacity Building Campaign on Sustainable Water Management at Rural Areas



In cooperation with the Central Directorate of Irrigation Improvement at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, UCO/IHP is supporting the implementation of a Community Awareness and Capacity Building Campaign on sustainable water management for Water Associations in at least 3-4 governorates in Egypt. The project aims to raise awareness among Water Associations and individual farmers of the benefits of modernizing their irrigation systems and on the financially efficient mechanisms to achieve such modernization. [Read More.](#)

Regional Launching of the World Water Assessment Report 2020

17 June 2020, Cairo- UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science for the Arab States, in coordination with UNESCO Field Offices in the Arab Region and in partnership with the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), held an online webinar to launch the World Water Development Report 2020, Water and Climate Change in the Arab Region. The event coincided with World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which are important challenges in the water-scarce Arab region that are being exacerbated by climate change. [Read More.](#)

Digitalization of Higher Education Project

Blue In the framework of implementing UNESCO Mid-term Strategic Objectives mainline of action on education (MLA1- Support Member States in the implementation of SDG 4) and in particular ER4 (Improved national policies and capacities to increase access for all women and men to equitable, affordable and quality-assured higher education and to advance the recognition of studies), and in the framework of UNESCO Support to member states in addressing challenges brought up by the COVID19 pandemic, UNESCO Regional Bureau for science for the Arab States (Cairo Office) is undertaking a project to support the building of Egypt's University Faculty members' capacities to develop and deliver distance education curricula. [Read More.](#)

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Fifteen Arab Cities renew their Commitment to Combat Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance



On 8 September 2020, 15 Arab cities from Egypt (Alexandria, Cairo, Sharm El Sheikh), Iraq (Bagdad), Jordan (Amman), Lebanon (Baalbeck, Byblos, Ras Al Matn, Tripoli), Mauritania (Nouakchott) and Morocco (Essaouira, Marrakech, Rabat, Tangier), renewed their call for a common front against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in the Arab region. Representatives of the cities members of the UNESCO supported Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance convened in an online consultation organized by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science in the Arab States, based in Cairo, to review and update the Coalition's Ten-Point Plan of Action, originally adopted in June 2008. [Read More.](#)

Online consultation with Arab Youth Climate Actors



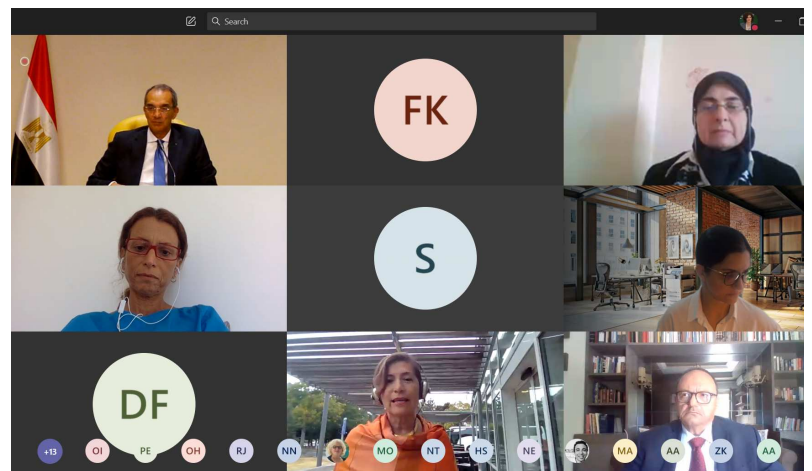
In line with UNESCO's firm belief in youth capacities and in meaningfully engaging youth in its work, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States/Cairo Office held a virtual consultation with Arab Youth Climate Actors in the Arab region on Monday 22 June 2020. The consultation aimed to discuss youth's knowledge needs in the area of climate change, and to co-design an upcoming UNESCO knowledge product that aims to highlight and promote youth action in the field of climate change in the Arab region, and encourage research and innovation led by young people in this area. More than 40 young women and men participated in the consultation. [Read More.](#)

Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities launched at the 10th World Urban Forum



UNESCO Cairo Office launched its "Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities" during a special session of the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. Co-published with the European Training Centre for Democracy and Human Rights (ETC-Graz) with inputs from members of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, the Toolkit presents policy models and hands-on guidance on four topics of high relevance to the Arab cities, namely: public participation, access to information, sport for youth inclusion, and citizenship and human rights education. [Read More.](#)

The draft text of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence discussed at the Arab Level



Within the framework of the elaboration of a global UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt in collaboration with UNESCO hosted an Arab regional multi-stakeholder consultation on the draft text of the recommendation. The consultation was held virtually on 10 and 11 August 2020, and brought together more than 30 experts from across the Arab region, representing different disciplines. [Read More.](#)

Open Science and the Decolonization of Knowledge

In support of the UNESCO global consultations on the development of a Recommendation on Open Science, an international normative document to be submitted to the UNESCO General Conference in November of 2021, UNESCO Cairo and Rabat offices organized a webinar on Open Science and the Decolonization of Knowledge. The webinar was held online on 28 October 2020 in cooperation with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education as part of an international series, and was informed by a brief entitled "Open Science beyond Open Access: For and with Communities a Step towards the Decolonization of Knowledge". [Read More](#).



Promoting Human Rights, Equality and Diversity at the Local Level: Local approaches for guaranteeing women's rights



The Agenda 2030 calls for people-centred transformation, which can best be achieved through a greater awareness of the relevance of human rights implementation at the local level. Moreover, by advancing equality of women in cities, we unlock more inclusive economic and social development and ultimately contribute to leaving no one behind.

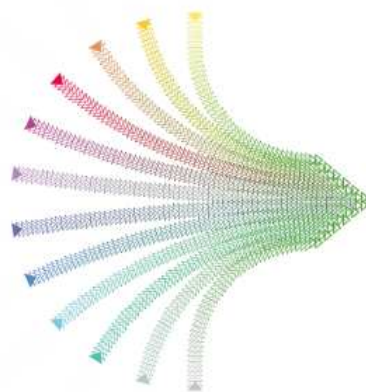
Within this context, UNESCO Cairo partnered with the International Centre for the promotion of human rights at the local and regional levels (UNESCO Category II center) and the African

Local Governments Academy of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG) in organizing a training workshop entitled "Promoting Human Rights, Equality and Diversity at the Local Level: Local approaches for guaranteeing women's rights". [Read More](#).

UNESCO Cairo joins the Regional Health Alliance

UNESCO Cairo joined 11 other multilateral health, development and humanitarian agencies active in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East and North African regions to form a Regional Health Alliance. Launched on 15 December 2020, the Regional Health Alliance is a partnership that aims to support countries accelerate progress towards the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and facilitate implementation of "The Global Action Plan on Healthy Lives and Well-being for All". UNESCO Cairo will be contributing to the Alliance through its work on open science, bioethics and the ethics of science and technology, as well as innovation and digital health.

Regional Health Alliance
Stronger Collaboration, Better Health



UCO Celebrates World Arabic Language Day



UNESCO Cairo collaborated with the League of Arab States in organizing a regional celebration of the World Arabic Language Day on 16 December. The virtual event brought together language experts and advocates including Dr. Ali Moussa, Secretary General of the International Council for the Arabic Language, Dr. Abdelhameed Madkour, Secretary General of the union of Arabic Language Academies, and H.E. Ms. Nabila Makram, Minister of Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates Affairs, who highlighted the recent presidential initiative "Etkallem Arabi" (speak Arabic) which seeks to safeguard the identity of Egyptians abroad (notably the youth).

Safeguarding Hassan Fathy's Legacy in New Gournia



Cairo, February 2020- New Gournia Village is located on the West Bank of the River Nile in Luxor within the World Heritage site of Ancient Thebes with its Necropolis in Egypt. New Gournia village was designed and built from 1946 to 1952 by Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy (1900-1989). New Gournia Village represents Hassan Fathy's most renowned community-centered project presenting his vision for architecture that is sensitive to the environment and culture. Some 80 years after, however, this pioneering architecture is in urgent need of safeguarding. In response to the appeal by the architectural community, UNESCO has been assisting the Government of Egypt in its efforts to safeguard the legacy of Hassan Fathy at New Gournia. [Read More.](#)

A celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the completion of the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia



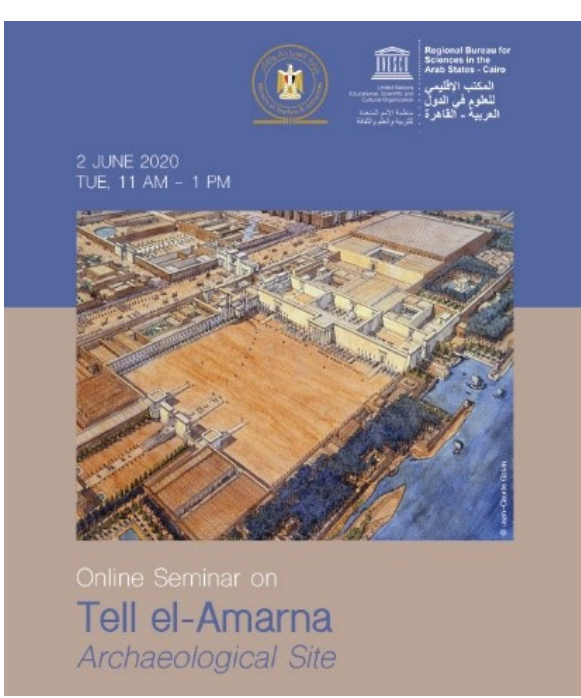
Cairo, 10 March 2020-The International Campaign was launched in 1960 to relocate and reassemble six groups of monuments in Nubia threatened by the artificial lake created by the Aswan High Dam in the new location. The Campaign lasted twenty years and was completed on 10 March 1980. A celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the completion of the Campaign took place at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Fustat on 10 March 2020. In his welcoming statement, Dr Ghaith Fariz, Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Sciences in the Arab States, drew attention to the impact of the Campaign that was far beyond Egypt, inspiring the preparation and adoption of the World Heritage Convention. He reiterated that the Campaign continued to be a beacon of international solidarity in protecting heritage and an outstanding example of successful international cooperation among UNESCO, the Government of Egypt (one of the founding members of UNESCO), and humanity at large. [Read More.](#)

Online Celebration of the World Heritage Day in Egypt



Cairo, 18 April 2020, International Day for Monuments and Sites (Known as the World Heritage Day) on 18 April celebrated ONLINE in partnership with the National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH) as a contribution to UNESCO's social media campaign #ShareCulture. Over the years, the National Organization for Urban Harmony (NOUH) under the Egyptian Ministry of Culture has been celebrating International Day for Monuments and Sites (Known as the World Heritage Day) on 18 April in cooperation with UNESCO Office in cooperation with UNESCO Office in Cairo. [Read More.](#)

Online Seminar on the Amarna Archaeological Site in Egypt



Cairo, 2 June 2020-Within the framework of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme in Egypt, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), hold an online seminar on 2 June 2020 using the Amarna archaeological site as a case study. The seminar resulted in the establishment of a network for information sharing and collaboration towards inscription of the site on the World Heritage List. Tell el-Amarna is an extensive archaeological site in the south of the city of Minya in Egypt. The Amarna site represents the remains of the capital city newly established in 1346 BC and built by the Pharaoh Akhenaten. This ancient city is also known as the place where Nefertiti lived and Tutankhamun spent his childhood. [Read More.](#)

UNESCO/E-JUST Webinar on Heritage Science and Africa



Alexandria, 27 June 2020-UNESCO/E-JUST Webinar was held to provide the opportunity for reflecting the past, present, and future of the ethnography museums in Egypt by using the project on the ethnography museum development at Cairo University. The ethnography museums can play an important role not only in preserving cultural objects but also in contextualizing them with the participation of the community to tell more comprehensive stories. The Webinar attendees (36 men and 54 women) obtained an increased understanding of the concept of the ethnography museums and its evaluation, the museum mission development, and the principles of conservation of ethnographic collections while gaining knowledge about the rich African art and cross-cultural and cross-boundary interactions and exchange. [Read More.](#)

First Coordination Meeting for the Museum of Islamic Arts (MIA) Project

Cairo, 26 July 2020-First Coordination Meeting for the Museum of Islamic Arts (MIA) Project took place in Cairo on 26 July 2020. The overall goals of the project for the Museum of Islamic Arts (MIA) funded under UNESCO/Italian Funds-in-Trust are to support MIA to become a Centre of Excellence for the Islamic Arts and assist the selected museums in Egypt to upgrade its capacity through conservation of artifacts, database development, training, outreach, and promotional activities. [Read More.](#)



UNESCO/E-JUST Second Webinar on Heritage Science and Africa



Alexandria, 5 September 2020-The objective of this meeting was to provide an opportunity to have updates on the museum development in Egypt and Sudan with its focus on the three museums associated with the UNESCO International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia (1960-1980), their progress, achievements as well as challenges and opportunities within the framework of UNESCO Priority Africa and ResiliArt movement. [Read More.](#)

Press Conference on "Forever is Now", 2021 Contemporary Art Exhibition at the Pyramids Field, World Heritage site by Art D'Egypte



Cairo, 29 October 2020- Press conference was hosted at the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO on 29 October 2020 with the support of the UNESCO Office in. Representative for Art D'Egypte presented the outline of 2021 Contemporary Art Exhibition "Forever is Now" to the media. Senior officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) attended the Conference, presenting their support to the project. [Read More.](#)

UNESCO/E-JUST Third Webinar Heritage, ICT and Digital Transformation in Africa

Cairo, 10 December 2020-Within the framework of UNESCO Priority Africa, the third session of UNESCO/E-JUST Webinar on Heritage Science and Africa highlighted that the digital transformation of the heritage and museum sectors in Africa highlighted a key role in the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions in the digital environment and in society. The discussions concluded in emphasizing the importance of advocacy for the full participation of the culture sector in the development of strategy and plan to narrow Digital Divide for sustainable development and with a call for enhanced inter-museum networking and cooperation in Africa. [Read More.](#)

Online Training of Trainers on the Underwater Cultural Heritage Management for Sustainable Development

Cairo, 14 to 16 December 2020 -As a follow up of the decision of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Body (STAB) for the UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) held in Algeria 2019, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States organised the online Training of Trainers (ToT) on the UCH Management and Sustainable Development in the Arab States from . The ToT was held in partnership with the Centre for Maritime Archaeology and Underwater Cultural Heritage (CMAUCH) at Alexandria University in Egypt that hosts UNESCO Chair for Underwater Cultural Heritage. [Read More.](#)



UNESCO and UNWomen Organize Robotics and Coding Workshop on international Women's Day



Cairo, 8 March 2020- This activity as to develop skills for the knowledge societies / economies and overcome existing gender divides in the ICT sector, a robotics and coding program for women was launched. Female beneficiaries in the 13 to 30 age group participated in the workshop organized as part of the International Women's Day celebrations, aiming to support social and economic inclusion of women in Egypt through advocacy, skills and awareness addressed the gender digital divide, and provided hands-on exposure to coding and robotics as well as career opportunities in STEM amongst young Egyptian women; [Read More](#).

ITU-UNESCO Launch The Third Edition of Regional Digital Inclusion Week for Arab States

Arab States, 25 October to 12 November 2020- 2020 edition of the ITU-UNESCO Regional Digital Inclusion Week for Arab States In joint collaboration with WHO, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO-RCICT and IOM, UNESCO Cairo and the ITU Regional Arab States in coordination with 6 Arab Governments organized the Week under the week to draw attention to the role of digital inclusion in successfully responding to COVID-19 and realizing the 2030SDGs. More than 1200 participants in the online webinars and trainings. Participants of this activities included Ministerial Representatives of the Governments of Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and Chair of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP). [Read More](#).

UCO Organizes Middle East & North Africa Network Readiness Index and Digital Transformation Spotlight

Cairo (Online), 11 November 2020- The main objective was to discuss regional data from the 2020 Network Readiness Index in particular trends from across the MENA's region and understand the implications for socio-economic development, the 2030 SDGs and post-COVID-19 recovery. More than 120 participants attended the online webinars. The main outcomes were building partnerships and "enabling environments" are decisive for digital transformation and building digital talent was key for ensuring lasting change so it was imperative that countries invest in human capital; [Read More](#).

UNESCO Offices in the Arab States Organize "Media and Information Literate Youth - A cornerstone to implementing ATI policies and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Arab region" Webinar Series in Celebration of MILID Week

Arab States (Online), 7-9 November 2020- UNESCO Offices in the Arab Region, in cooperation with the UNESCO Alliance for Media and Information Culture, organized a series of seminars in Arabic with translations in the English and French languages, in celebration of the MILID Week. The webinar was consisted of more than 100 participants and were attended by a journalist, policymaker, teacher, and activists from the Zen civil society. The official opening of a number of ministers and high-ranking personalities, headed by Dr. Ghait Fariz, Director of the UNESCO Regional Office in the Arab States. Over the course of the three days, several topics and issues related to media and information culture and the right to access information were discussed, , and each webinar lasted for one hour in the third afternoon at Cairo time. [Read More](#).

COVID-19 Preparations: UCO's Office Response to the Pandemic

Since March 2020, the Administration team in UNESCO Cairo Office operationalized the COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan (BCP) and established a number of measures to ensure safety and protection of staff and security and cleaning service personnel, minimize exposure and continue delivering services in line with national authorities declared procedures, WHO guidelines, and Security Management Team (SMT) agreements taking into consideration UNESCO HQ announcements and procedures. After checking that staff had notebooks and Skype for Business, Telecommuting started on 19 March 2021 with a few essential staff coming to the premises until having assurance that the full staff could telecommute. The digital signature system, Global Protect and TEAMS online meeting tools were quickly instituted which significantly eased work and every two weeks the COVID-19 situation was evaluated until adopting 50% telecommute since August 2020. The 50% telecommute resulted from extensive SMT and OMT meetings and the refinement of the guideline for the gradual return to work which has been shared with the staff. The guideline stressed the importance of personal and professional responsibility of each staff member to protect herself/himself and her/his dependents at all times and in all places including the office, home, and between home and the office. In parallel, in compliance with the guideline,



- PPE were purchased: for example masks, gloves, sanitizing gel, automatic dispenser of sanitizing gel, face shields, leg-operated waste baskets in bathrooms and kitchenettes, mats where chlorox was applied so that the shoes could be disinfected.
- Plexi barriers in the security guards room and UNESCO Cairo office reception area were installed
- A dedicated isolation area was established in the ground floor to provide rest/assistance area to tired/fatigued staff or those who may develop symptoms during working hours.
- Companies were contracted to disinfect and sanitize the whole office twice a week while sanitizing procedures are maintained in stretch collaboration with the cleaning company.

In addition, wall posters have been placed on corridors to demonstrate social distancing practices, proper hand-washing (while also saving water), and basic hygiene behaviors including the use of masks. Markers were placed in the meeting room table and the Office micro-bus joined the contracted bus for commuting staff to maintain social distance. The drivers were given flyers on social distancing and hygiene rules. UNESCO fully supported the standard operating procedures for UN personnel in Egypt by contributing to the costs for PCR testing, hospitalization and medical treatment in case personnel or their dependents suspected or were infected by the corona virus. The COVID-19 tracer focal point was assigned to have a direct communication with the WHO and RC on behalf of the personnel. UNESCO Cairo is continuously capitalizing on lessons learned from this unprecedented period and seeks staff opinion for improvements in telecommuting, working and hygiene methods.

Publication

French edition of the Charter of Ethics of Science and Technology in the Arab Region (previously published in Arabic and English)

English and French editions of the Toolkit for Urban Inclusion in Arab Cities (previously published in Arabic)

