Second Regional Partners Meeting on SDG 4 – Education 2030

Concept and Agenda

Introduction

At the First Arab Regional Meeting on SDG 4 – Education 2030 held in Cairo, in December 2015, Arab Member States and partners adopted ‘Arab Regional Roadmap for Education 2030’ in order to commence implementation of the Agenda. While reiterating the lead role played by Member States to integrate the Agenda at national level, partners made unanimous commitment to supporting Member States in a coordinated, coherent and transparent manner through the Roadmap.

To this end, in its capacity as the regional coordinator, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States convened a first meeting of regional partners in March 2016 in order to brainstorm on how best to work towards a coordinated approach to supporting the countries. The two-day meeting centered around four themes of the Roadmap, namely advocacy and communication, financing countries in need, technical country support and monitoring SDG 4. While agreeing that the theme of financing countries in need was beyond the scope of the meeting¹, the group had a wide range of discussions around the three other themes.

While unanimously agreeing that such a platform of consultation and coordinated approach would be needed, the group discussed the need to further deliberate as more information and guidance from the global coordination mechanism and ongoing initiatives, such as finalization of indicators, mapping of data and data sources by UIS and elaboration of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report, become available. This would inform formation of a Regional Support Group and elaboration of joint activities.

As such, UNESCO is organizing Second Regional Partners Meeting on 19 – 20 July 2016 in Amman.

Objective:

The overall objective of this 2nd meeting is to ensure a continued shared understanding of SDG 4 based on strategic information sharing and updates on SDG-wide and SDG 4 – Education 2030 specific developments at both global and country levels. In addition, this meeting aims to agree on a Terms of Reference of Regional Support Group and define possibilities for joint action in communication/advocacy, financing and monitoring

Specific objectives

Global SDG and SDG4-Education 2030 developments

¹ The Education Cannot Wait Fund was launched at World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 to address global education crisis. Further discussion is expected at regional level in different forum.
1. Update on global and regional SDG-wide developments including initiatives taken by the Regional UNDG Group led by UNDP and Regional Coordination Mechanism led by ESCWA (UNESCO)

2. Inform the outcomes of the Global Steering Committee Meeting in May 2016 especially as regards regional representation of the Arab Region in the Steering Committee and on the initial actions/support for SDG 4 implementation (Arab Regional Representatives and UNESCO)

Global monitoring framework

3. Learn about preliminary findings of the 2016 GEM report and the 2017 GEM Report on Accountability (GEM Team)

4. Update on global monitoring framework and indicator development (UIS)

5. Update on global monitoring of Target 4.7 (UNESCO)

Regional and National implementation within the Arab region

6. Share the results of UIS mapping of data availability and needs in Arab States (UIS)

7. Update on SDG 4 developments at country level within the Arab States region (UNESCO)

8. Update from partners on their support activities (Partners)

Communication and advocacy:

9. Present the web knowledge sharing platform

Regional Support Group

10. Discuss and agree on Regional Technical Support Group based on proposed TOR prepared by UNESCO

11. Define possible joint actions around communication/advocacy, financing and monitoring

Expected outputs

• TOR of the Arab Regional Support Group
• An indicative list of possible joint activities for the remainder of 2016
• Meeting Report with Action points

Participation

• Regional Offices of UN agencies (UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, WFP)
• GPE
• Regional organizations (League of Arab States, ABEGS, ISESCO, ALECSO)
• Private foundations (Qatar Foundation, Education Above All?)
• Arab regional representatives at the SC meeting (Oman, Saudi Arabia and Morocco)
• UNESCO Category II Institutes (RCEP, RCQE)
• UNESCO (Beirut, Doha, HQ and UIS)

Dates and venue

19-20 July
Marriott Hotel, Amman

Working languages

Arabic and English with simultaneous interpretation
Agenda

Day 1: 19 July

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30 – 09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:30</td>
<td><strong>Opening</strong></td>
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<td>Welcome remarks and introduction to the Second Partners Meeting by Dr Hamed Alhamami, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States</td>
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<td><strong>Self introductions</strong></td>
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<td>09:30 – 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 1: Setting the Scene: Recap of the First Partners Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Mr Vick Ikobwa, Senior Regional Education Officer, UNHCR</td>
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<td>• Presentation on the outcomes of the First Partners Meeting and detailed introduction to the Second Partners Meeting by Yayoi Segi-Vltchek, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Bureau</td>
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<td><em>This session is designed to recap what was discussed and agreed to during the First Partners Meeting held in March 2016 in order to bring all participants up to speed and on the same page for informed discussions during the present meeting.</em></td>
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<td>10:00 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 2: Enhancing the National – Regional – Global Nexus for effective coordination and implementation of SDG 4</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Dr Caroline Pontefract, Director, Education Department, UNRWA</td>
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<td>• Presentation on the outcome of the First Global Steering Committee Meeting by Mr Matthias Eck, Programme Specialist, Division of Education 2030 Support and Coordination, UNESCO HQ (15 minutes)</td>
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<td>• Presentation on the Arab regional representation at and participation in the Global Steering Committee Meeting by Mr Abdelhaq El Hayani, Director, Strategy, Statistics and Planning, Ministry of Education, Morocco, and Dr Suad Murabak Said Al Fori, Director, Technical Office for Studies and Development, Ministry of Education, Oman (10 minutes each)</td>
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<td>• Mainstreaming the SDG agenda at national level by Mrs Costanza Farina, UNESCO Representative in Jordan / Chair of the Jordan United Nations Country Team’s SDG Group (15 minutes)</td>
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<td>• Discussion and Q&amp;A</td>
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<td><em>This session is designed to ensure coherent national – regional – global nexus by way of knowing how the global coordination mechanism functions, what happened at its First Meeting held in May, what Arab region’s perspectives were through three representatives and how the linkage could be enhanced. Also presented will be an example of national SDG work in Jordan to understand SDG-wide initiative at national level.</em></td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:15 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>Session 3: Implementing the Roadmap: Updates by Member States</strong></td>
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<td>Chair: Dr Abdelsalam Aljoufi, Education Advisor, ABEGS</td>
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<td>• Presentation on country updates by Mr Abdelhaq El Hayani of Morocco, and</td>
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Dr Suad Murabak Said Al Fori of Oman (two of the three Arab regional representatives at the Global Steering Committee Meeting) (15 minutes each)
• Feedback received from Member States by Rana Abdel-Latif, Project Officer, UNESCO Regional Bureau (20 minutes)
• Sub-regional approach and updates by Dr Faryal Khan, Education Programme Specialist, UNESCO Sub-regional Office for GCC and Yemen, Doha (15 minutes)

This session concerns sharing national/sub-regional updates on the implementation of the Arab Regional Roadmap for Education 2030 as adopted at the First Regional Meeting on Education 2030 held in December 2015 in Cairo. The national updates will be made on the basis of survey returns from the Member States. A sub-regional update will be shared by UNESCO Doha.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:30 Session 4: Supporting SDG 4 through Partner Initiatives

Chair: Mr Abdelhaq El Hayani, Director, Strategy, Statistics, Planning, Ministry of Education, Morocco

• Presentation by Dr Aaron Benavot, Director, UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, on the preliminary findings of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report ‘Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All’ and ‘sneak preview’ of the 2017 Report on Accountability (1 hour)
• Partner presentation on ongoing/new initiatives related to SDG 4 (7 minutes each)
• Discussion

This session is about learning from preliminary findings of the 2016 Global Monitoring Report on sharing of initiatives by partners as directly relevant to SDG 4. Each partner will have no more than 7 minutes on what such initiative(s) is(are) and how they directly support Member States and suggest for partnership.

15:30 – 17:30 Session 5: Monitoring the Agenda

Chair: Dr Dina Craissati, Regional Education Advisor, UNICEF

• Presentation by Mr Talal El Hourani, Statistician, Education Indicators and Data Analysis, UIS, on the latest developments regarding the global and thematic indicator frameworks to monitor SDG 4; results of the global survey of country readiness to monitor the SDGs in the Arab States; and review of new global platforms for indicator development and support for national statistical capacity to help close the gaps in data and information (1 hour)
• Presentation by Ms Lydia Ruprecht, Team Leader, GCED/Programme Specialist and Mr Juan Pablo Ramirez-Miranda, UNESCO on global monitoring Target 4.7 (20 minutes)
• Discussion

This session is about monitoring the Agenda and will have UIS and UNESCO HQ present on the latest as regards monitoring the SDG 4 and Target 4.7, respectively.
### Day 2: 20 July

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<tr>
<td>09:00 – 09:10</td>
<td>Recap of Day 1</td>
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| 09:10 – 10:00 | **Session 6: Advocating for the Agenda through knowledge and experience sharing**  
Chair: Dr Suad Murabak Said Al Fori, Director, Technical Office for Studies and Development, Ministry of Education, Oman  
- Presentation on a draft web portal and SDG 4 Resource Kit by Ms Amita Vohra, Regional Programme Coordinator, UNESCO Regional Bureau  
In this session, as agreed to at the first meeting of partners, UNESCO will present to partners a draft web knowledge sharing platform and SDG 4 Resource Kit and discuss how to make use of them jointly. |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | **Session 7: Discussing and agreeing on regional coordinated approach**  
Chair: Dr Hamed Alhamami, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau  
- Presentation and agreement on the draft TOR of the Regional Support Group |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | Break                                                                |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 7: Discussing and agreeing on regional coordinated approach, cont’d**  
Chair: Dr Hamed Alhamami, Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau  
- Presentation and agreement on the draft TOR of the Regional Support Group |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Way forward: Action Points                                           |
|               | Closing                                                              |