A unique year is coming to a close for the UNESCO education sector. It is the first full year carried out in the context of the Global Education 2030 Agenda which informed the many different strands of our work from girls’ education to global citizenship.

UNESCO is entrusted to lead this Agenda which is captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 and which can only be achieved by huge global participation at all levels.

Highlights of the Education Sector began in January with the launch of a new study, *Every Child Should Have a Textbook* by UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring Report which proposed an economic model to reduce the cost and increase the availability of textbooks to students around the world.

Still in January UNESCO marked the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust with a round-table on the theme From Words to Genocide and an interview with Holocaust survivor Roman Kent.

International Mother Language Day was celebrated in February and March was a busy month with participants from all over the world gathering for Mobile Learning Week 2016 where they exchanged ideas about how mobile technology can foster innovation and ensure quality in the education sector.

Also in March, in the run-up to International Women’s Day, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics launched the gender eAtlas showing twice as many girls as boys will never start school.

May also saw the first ever awards given out under the new UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education which went to projects in Indonesia and Zimbabwe.

In July new data released by UIS showed that 263 million children and youth were out of school from primary to upper secondary level and a meeting was held of the Partner Networks of the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development.
**September** was the Education Sector’s busiest month with the launch of the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report: Education for people and planet: creating sustainable future for all.

This was followed closely also in **September** by the awarding of the **UNESCO International Literacy Prizes** which went to ground-breaking programmes in India, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam.

**September** also saw the launch of the **UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning** 3rd Global Report on Adult Learning and Education and the awarding of the **UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development** which went to projects in Cameroon, Japan and the United Kingdom.

And finally in **September** the **International conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education: taking action**, co-organized by UNESCO and the **Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development** took place in New Delhi.

Following up on this theme, the **Quebec-UNESCO conference Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting and Living Together** was held in **October**.

The future of skills for work and life was at the heart of the **global UNESCO-Cedefop conference** held in **October**.

Also in **October** UNESCO launched a new **Strategy on Education for Health and Well-Being**.

This year’s climate change conference **COP22** took place in **November** in Morocco with a whole day devoted to **education**.

UNESCO’s vital work in restoring **education after emergencies** was highlighted in **November** following the devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

In **December** the **International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030** held the 9th **International Policy Dialogue Forum** in Cambodia on the subject of motivating teachers. And following a series of Education 2030 Agenda **regional meetings**, the year culminated with a meeting of the Steering Committee who drew up a **roadmap for coordination and implementation for 2017-2019**.

In order to better communicate its wide range of education activities, the Sector’s achievements included the launch of a series of **Real-Life stories** and a **podcast**.

---

**Stay in touch**

[www.unesco.org/education](http://www.unesco.org/education)  [www.facebook.com/unesco](http://www.facebook.com/unesco)  @education2030UN  @UNESCO