Development Paradoxes and Education 2030
In the Arab World

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Partnerships, Cooperation and Research
UNESCO
Paradox 1

Young population
but
Economically excluded
Population of Arab States 2017
Distribution by age group

- 40% Adults [30+]
- 30% Children [under 15]
- 30% Youth [15-29]
Largest share of youth in the world

Investing in the energy of the youth population now is vital

Share of youth (15–29 years) as a % of population
Highest youth unemployment

28% youth unemployment rate (2017)

16% Global youth unemployment rate [2017]

47% unemployment rate among young Arab women [2017]

Lowest youth participation in labour force

24% 18% for females

1/2

50% 39% for females
Paradox 2

Regional wealth
but
Highest income inequality
Income inequality in the Middle East compared

- **Middle East**
  - Bottom 50%: 10%
  - Middle 40%: 30%
  - Top 10%: 60%

- **Western Europe**
  - Bottom 50%: 10%
  - Middle 40%: 40%
  - Top 10%: 50%

- **US**
  - Bottom 50%: 10%
  - Middle 40%: 30%
  - Top 10%: 60%


In 2012-2016 (latest year available), the Top 10% income share in the Middle East was 61%.
Paradox 3

Demand for freedom and social justice but

Increased conflict and democratic backsliding
Causes of Arab uprisings 2011

- Betterment of the economic situation: 63.55%
- Civil and political freedoms, and emancipation from oppression: 42.40%
- Dignity: 28.77%
- Fighting corruption: 64.26%
- Rule of law: 15.74%
- Social and economic justice: 57.21%
- Weakening the political and economic relations with the West: 7.53%
- Weakening the political and economic relations with Israel: 14.56%

Source: Arab Barometer (2012-14).
Democratic backsliding in the Arab world

Source: Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2018*
Conflict, destruction and displacement

56 mi  In need of humanitarian assistance

58 %  World’s refugees originate from region

45 %  World’s refugees hosted within region

47 %  World’s internally displaced
Paradox 4

Expansion of access to education
but
Exacerbation of learning crisis
High demand for education

- A good education: 193,366
- Better job opportunities: 183,144
- An honest and responsive government: 170,794
- Affordable and nutritious food: 150,620
- Better healthcare: 149,065
- Protection against crime and violence: 137,210
- Access to clean water and sanitation: 124,943
- Support for people who can’t work: 113,128
- Equality between men and women: 102,467
- Phone and internet access: 99,582
- Freedom from discrimination and persecution: 94,097
- Better transport and roads: 90,562
- Political freedoms: 81,808
- Reliable energy at home: 70,857
- Protecting forests, rivers and oceans: 48,197
- Action taken on climate change: 40,614
Changes in pre-primary GER 1999-2012

Source:
Changes in primary NER 1999-2012

Lower and upper secondary GER
Changes 1999-2012
Gender disparities in primary & secondary GER
Changes 1999-2012
Rising numbers of out-of-school children and youth

- Primary education: 5.6 mi
- Lower secondary education: 3.6 mi
- Upper secondary education: 8.0 mi
# Reading Literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>40/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>41/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>43/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>44/45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>45/45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PIRLS 2011: Program for International Reading literacy Survey**

**Arab States**
## TIMSS 2015: Ranking of Arab countries

### Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Grade 4</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>30/49</td>
<td></td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>19/39</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>37/49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>23/39</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>29/39</td>
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<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>31/39</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>34/39</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>35/39</td>
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<td>49/49</td>
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<td>S. Arabia</td>
<td>36/39</td>
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<td>Morocco</td>
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# TIMSS 2015: Ranking of Arab countries

## Science

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<th>Grade 8 Country</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>27/47</td>
<td>UAE</td>
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<td>Oman</td>
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<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>24/39</td>
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What about teachers?

- 50% increase in primary school teachers
- Pupil-teacher ratio generally improved
- Inadequate attention to teacher preparation and professional development
- Devaluation of teaching profession
- Additional challenge of scale of displacement within and across borders
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
Education 2030 Commitments

Policy Focus
- Equity/inclusion and gender equality
- Quality and relevance of learning

Global targets
- Universal pre-primary education (min 1 year)
- Universal primary and secondary education (min 9 years)
- Universal youth literacy

Strengthening public education systems
- System-wide education management
- Inter-sectorial coordination
- Adequate teacher policies
- Improved domestic and international financing
Education 2030 Framework for Action

1. Vision and principles

2. Goal, targets, and strategic approaches

3. Implementation modalities:
   - Governance, accountability and partnerships
   - Effective coordination
   - Monitoring, follow-up and review
   - Financing

Indicator framework to monitor progress

UNESCO Education Sector
Governance, accountability and partnerships

Implementing SDG4-Education 2030 will require national, regional and global mechanisms for governance, accountability, coordination, monitoring, follow-up and review, reporting and evaluation.

Governments
Civil society organizations
Teachers and educators
The private sector, philanthropic organizations and foundations
The research community
Youth
Multilateral organizations
Public financing of education
Arab States 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% GDP</th>
<th>% govt spending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>8.6</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>9.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
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<td>Qatar</td>
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