



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

History of Agency in the World and Iran

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded on 16 November 1945. It was established as an international laboratory of ideas and a standard-setter with the aim “To Build Peace in the Minds of Men”. UNESCO places emphasis on policy improvement, capacity building and provision of technical assistance in the fields of Education, Sciences, Culture, and Communication & Information. The UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office was established in Tehran in January 2003 servicing four countries: Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.



Priorities Globally and in Iran

Education:

Education for All (EFA), Education Planning, Statistics, Curriculum and Textbooks, Literacy, Lifelong Learning, UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD), Technical & Vocational Education, School Health, Physical Education and Sports, Early Childhood Education (ECE), General and Higher Education, Languages, Arts in Education, HIV/AIDS and Drugs Prevention Education, Human Rights Education, Disaster Management Education.

Science:

Sustainable Water Management, Biodiversity and Ecological and Earth Sciences, Biosphere Reserves, Basic Sciences and Engineering Sciences, Science Policy for Development, Oceanography and Marine Hazards, Natural Disaster Preparedness, Renewable Energy.

Culture:

Cultural Diversity, World Heritage, Tangible and Intangible Heritage, Inter-cultural and Inter-faith Dialogues, Handicrafts, Traditional Arts and Cultural Industries, Arts & Creativity, Copyright, Museums and Cultural Tourism.

Communication/Information:

Access to Information, Content Development, Freedom of Expression, Media Development, International Programmes for Development of Communication (IPDC), Information for All and Narrowing the Digital Divide.

Social and Human Sciences:

Ethics of Sciences, Human Rights, Poverty Alleviation, Social Transformation and Philosophy.

Cross-cutting Themes:

Gender, Youth, HIV/AIDS, Culture of Peace, Dialogue among Civilizations.



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Main projects/activities in Iran

Education:

National Education for All (EFA) Programme, with EFA Policy Document prepared and EFA Bureau established, and EFA Mid-Decade Assessment carried out; Contribution, translation, publication and distribution of EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR) in Farsi in 2008, 2009 and 2010; Development of Iran UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) Document; National and Provincial Education Planning Model (ANPRO-Iran) established and Training of Education Planners at national level; Initiating and equipping Bam Teachers' Research Centre (BTRC) and establishment of Bam Model School Complex (BMSC) through national and international partnership and Inclusive Education emphasized; Establishment of Education Disaster Management Bureau in Iran Ministry of Education at National and Provincial levels; Support to policy enhancement and continuous capacity-building for Education for Sustainable Development; School Wall Journalism project implemented in the schools and the Guidelines produced in Farsi; Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) study on HIV/AIDS and Drugs in schools carried out in Tehran Province; Support to Afghan Education System reconstruction including Technical and Vocational Education in co-operation with Iran MoE.

Sciences:

Enhanced management of water resources, particularly shared waters with neighboring countries in arid and semi-arid zones; Support to three centers established under the auspices of UNESCO: the Regional Centres on Urban Water Management [Tehran], the International Centre on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures [Yazd] and Isfahan Regional Centre for Technology Incubators and Science Parks Development [Isfahan]; Establishment of UNESCO Sheikh Bahai International Prize on Techno-preneurship and technical assistance and capacity building for science parks; Better understanding of the Climate Change impacts on the river basin and climate change adaptation; Documentation of historic hydraulic systems and their application in addressing today's emerging global needs; Improvement of management of 9 Biosphere Reserves and nomination of new areas for Biosphere Reserve cooperation; Capacity building toward enhanced early warning for natural disasters; Promotion of Geo-parks; Development of a Chair on Bioethics; Research on human rights related subjects via UNESCO Chair; Participation of Iran research communities in Asian forum on gender and youth.

Culture:

Support to the ten UNESCO World Cultural Heritage and Tentative Listed Natural and Cultural Heritage in Iran; Comprehensive Management Planning for World Heritage or Tentative List Properties; Capacity-building for national consultants, professionals and policy makers for cultural heritage management; Capacity-building for safeguarding tangible and intangible heritage; training for strengthened museum management and curbing illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects; Promotion of inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue in the region; Support for development of handicraft, traditional arts and cultural industries, marketing and design protection; Advocacy and training for integrated approach to heritage conservation, disaster management, and sustainable urban development.

Communication & Information:

The use of media to address development issues and to support the UNESCO mandates; Supporting key media institutions participating in regional and international dialogues and forums; Commemorating the annual World Press Freedom Day; Promoting the use of ICTs for new initiatives on youth, science and technology and environmental protection; Promotion of the “Memory of the World” programme; Trainings journalists and media workers on journalism and technical aspects on global issues such as climate change, HIV/AIDS, environmental concerns, earthquake and other natural hazards and UNESCO Conventions.