

'Towards a strategic framework on reopening adult learning and education programme for the Arab States'

Wednesday, 29 July 2020, 12:00-2:00 (Beirut time)

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZQ5BKdvRR1m6KdW3b7vKNA

Password: 670076

YouTube Live Streaming: <https://www.youtube.com/unescobeirutoffice>

Background

Given the constant changes on the political, social and economic levels, in the Arab States, adult learning and education programme (ALE) has become a driving force for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation. There is evidence that adult education can lead to positive change in social, economic, and political spheres, as well as in the health sphere, which in turn leads to building more sustainable societies. In this regard, over the past 5 decades, the Arab region has made significant progress in the field of literacy owing to the salient increase in school enrolment rates, political commitment and financial support to promote access to education. Despite the progress achieved, an estimated number of 50 million adults are still illiterate in the region and the ALE programme was not exempted from the massive education disruption caused by current COVID-19 pandemic since this March. When it comes to emergencies, UNESCO Institute for Lifelong learning (UIL) highlighted in their recent international review of education – Journal of Lifelong Learning that ALE can play a pivotal role as the promotion of health literacy is one of its part and the importance of populations having at least a basic level of literacy and numeracy will enable them to receive and act on vital information during crisis¹.

Against this backdrop, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States aims to identify the ALE status in the region and the needs to reopen ALE programme at policy level, school level and local community level. Aligned with SDG 4, this webinar will contribute to securing literacy and adult learning and education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all during COVID-19 and beyond.

Objective

The main goal of this webinar is to **facilitate the development of strategic framework on reopening ALE programme** by assessing multi-dimensional needs from diverse stakeholders such as ALE teachers and educators, Institutes and local communities running ALE programmes, and policy makers.

The specific objectives of the seminar will be:

1. Present the current state of ALE programmes during COVID-19 outbreak and identify challenges and lesson learned from policy level to practice.
2. Prioritize areas to effectively resume ALE programme in the region and assess the urgent need to elevate them to the national level, local community level and school level.
3. Highlight the roles and responsibilities of education stakeholders and partners in supporting ALE programmes in the region

4. Advocate the importance of ALE in the region with special focus on correlation between health awareness and literacy

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of strategies and key elements necessary to resume ALE programmes
- Raised awareness on the importance of ALE relevant to health literacy for national emergency strategies and preparedness to future possible crisis.
- Strengthened platform for regional ALE networks, partnerships and cooperation on ALE programme
- Drew a set of recommendations touching upon policies, teaching and learning strategies, partnerships and advocacy for reopening ALE programmes

Target audience and Panelists

The target audience will include ALE education officials and managers, ALE programme teachers at local communities, academia in lifelong learning and ALE

The panelists will be government officials, educators and professionals in field of ALE and lifelong learning, with wide experience in design and implementation of adult literacy programmes.

Registration

- [Registration](#) is free and required in advance. **Password: 670076**
- Once you register, a unique join URL will be sent to your email.

Live transmissoin via Youtube

[Live streaming](#) will be provided for those who might not be able to register in advance or to join due to limited capacity of the platform.

Languages

The webinar will mainly be conducted in Arabic. English and Arabic closed captioning services will be provided. Once participants have entered the Zoom platform, they will be able to select CC button at the bottom of the platform. Those accessing via YouTube live transmission will have access to the webinar in the spoken language.

ⁱ UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning. (2020). International Review of Education – Journal of Lifelong Learning (IRE). Article on Crucial role of adult learning and education (ALE) in combatting pandemics. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11159-020-09843-0>