

Webinar on 'The impact of COVID-19 on literacy efforts in the Arab States'

Monday, 14 September 2020, 4:00 pm-5:30 pm (UAE time)

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm (Beirut time)

Link to join the webinar. <https://undp.zoom.us/j/99547356084#success>

2030 LITERACY CHALLENGE الإحصاء

بمناسبة اليوم الدولي لمحو الأمية
تنظم مؤسسة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للمعرفة
بالتعاون مع
مكتب اليونسكو الإقليمي ببيروت، وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي
ندوة افتراضية بعنوان
جائحة كورونا وأثرها في جهود محو الأمية
الإثنين 14 سبتمبر 2020 / من 4:00 إلى 5:30 مساءً بتوقيت الإمارات

يدير الندوة المتحدثون

 <p>الدكتور هاني تركي رئيس المستشارين التقنيين ببرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي</p>	 <p>الدكتور إدريس حجازي الأخصائي الإقليمي لبرامج التربية الأساسية بالمكتب الإقليمي لليونسكو</p>	 <p>الدكتور أحمد أوزي أستاذ علم النفس وعلوم التربية في جامعة محمد الخامس بالرباط</p>	 <p>الدكتورة نجوى غريس أستاذة جامعية بالمعهد العالي للتربية والتكوين المستمر، جامعة تونس</p>	 <p>سعادة جمال بن حويرب المدير التنفيذي لمؤسسة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للمعرفة</p>
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المشاركة، <https://mbrf.ae/ar/calendar/literacy-covid> * تُمنح شهادات للحضور

Organizers

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF)

UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut

United Nations Development Programme

Context

Literacy is a fundamental right for all children, youth and adults that facilitates the sustainable development of societies and individuals themselves. In the COVID-19 pandemic era, literacy is more important than ever to help cope with the multiple challenges we are facing and rebuild resilience of the world¹, as Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO, mentioned. The pandemic has caused unprecedented education disruptions that impedes the development of literacy across the world, especially in countries and regions lacking technological infrastructure and support as well as stable internet and electricity supplies, such as the Arab States where about 50 million adults remain illiterate. However, the ongoing crisis also reveals the long-standing gap between policy discourse and reality in literacy programmes, adult literacy and education are absent in the initial education response plans, which poses a constant negative impact on learning of youth and adults who have no or low literacy skills and might become more disadvantaged due to less attention paid to them before and during the pandemic². Teachers, as the core of adult education practice, are often lacking skills and knowledge to respond to multi-layer difficulties in the emergency contexts.

On the occasion of the International Literacy Day, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation, in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and the United Nations Development Program, is organizing a webinar on " The impact of COVID-19 on literacy efforts in the Arab States " on September 14, 2020, with the aim of determining the impact of the pandemic on literacy efforts in the Arab region and assessing relevant challenges, risks and opportunities.

Objectives

This webinar will bring together diverse voices of affected stakeholders and partners to hear about the needs and responses on the ground in the literacy and adult education area, by assessing multi-dimensional needs from diverse stakeholders such as teachers and educators, institutes and local communities running literacy and adult education programmes, and policy makers. This webinar will build on a recognition of the role of different stakeholders in leading responses and international/regional/national solidarity in supporting planning for literacy and adult education programmes.

The specific objectives of the webinar will be:

- Highlight the common challenges faced, solutions provided and lessons learnt from policy level to practice during the COVID-19 pandemic in ensuring continuity of literacy and adult education
- Prioritize areas to effectively resume literacy and adult education programmes in the region and assess the urgent need to elevate them to the regional, national, local community and school level

¹ UNESCO. Director-General, 2017-(Azoulay, A.), (September 2020). [Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of International Literacy Day, 8 September 2020.](#)

² UN, (September 2020). [Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.](#)

- Highlight the roles and responsibilities of education stakeholders and partners in supporting literacy and adult education programmes in the region
- Mobilize international, regional and national communities to devise on and develop concrete solutions and actions towards quality literacy and adult education for all

Expected Outcomes

- Assessed impacts on and specified needs of literacy and adult education programmes in the Arab region amid COVID-19 crisis and beyond
- Enhanced understanding of strategies and key elements necessary to resume literacy and adult education programmes
- Raised awareness on the importance of literacy and adult education and the necessity of teachers' capacity building in implementing literacy programmes
- Strengthened platform for regional literacy and adult education networks, partnerships and cooperation on literacy and adult education programmes
- Recommendations touching upon policies, teaching and learning strategies, partnerships and advocacy for reopening literacy and adult education programmes

Target audiences and panelists

The target audience will include a) Literacy and adult education officials and practitioners (managers, policy makers, curriculum developers, education planners and teachers at local communities); b) International/regional/national development partners and civil society organisations, NGOs and networks dealing with literacy and adult education programmes; c) and academia (universities and research institutes members) in literacy, lifelong learning and adult learning and education.

The panelists will be government officials, researchers, professionals and education practitioners in the field of literacy and adult education, adult education and lifelong learning, with wide experience in design and implementation of youth and adult literacy programmes.

Platform

The webinar will be conducted on [Zoom \(click to participate\)](#).

Languages

The webinar will be held in Arabic.