



Connecting Classrooms

Phase 4

Extension report

Jordan

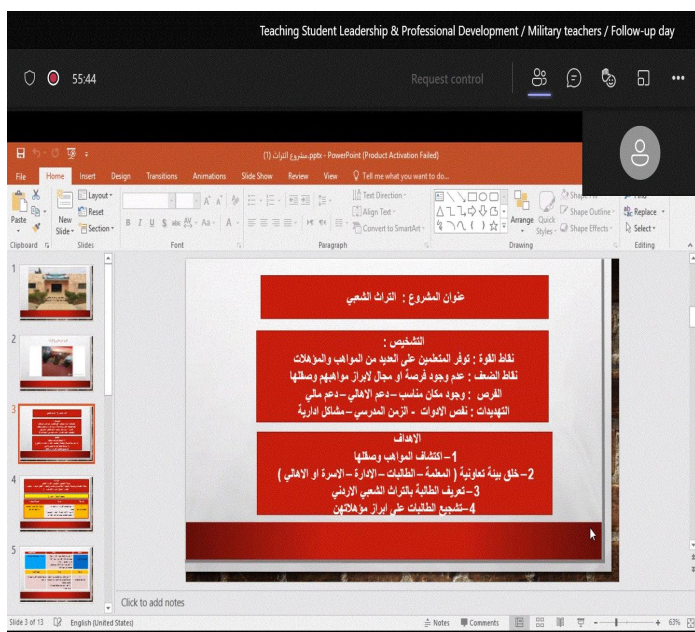
September 2021 - March 2022

Programme's achievements

Professional Development trainings

Connecting Classrooms is providing flexible, tailored support to meet education priorities. We offered support at school and policy level to develop core and transferable skills, inclusive education, and school leadership. We have a range of approaches, including consultancy, professional development for teachers and school leaders and international school partnerships.

Connecting Classrooms programme aims to build the capacity of teachers, school leaders and policy makers to support them to integrate a range of core skills into the curriculum, thereby improving learning outcomes for young people in transferable skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, creativity & imagination, digital literacy, citizenship, student leadership and collaboration & communication to help them become responsible global citizens.



During the extension the following courses were delivered in Jordan for UNRWA and Military school staff:

- Teaching Citizenship / 9 UNRWA Schools teachers trained
- Teaching Student Leadership & Professional Development / 15 Military School teachers trained
- Teaching Communication & Collaboration / 15 Military School teachers trained
- Teaching Creativity & Imagination / 17 UNRWA Schools teachers trained
- Leading Core Skills / 18 UNRWA Schools leaders trained

Teacher testimonial:

The Citizenship course was one of the most interesting and useful courses I have ever attended. I have learnt a lot from the colleagues' experiences. The course has developed my understanding of being a good citizen in every way. After the course I have started to re-plan my way of teaching in a way that encourages the students to be good citizens in their communities. I am so thankful for having the opportunity to attend this great course.

Neda' Banat (UNRWA school teacher, Jordan)

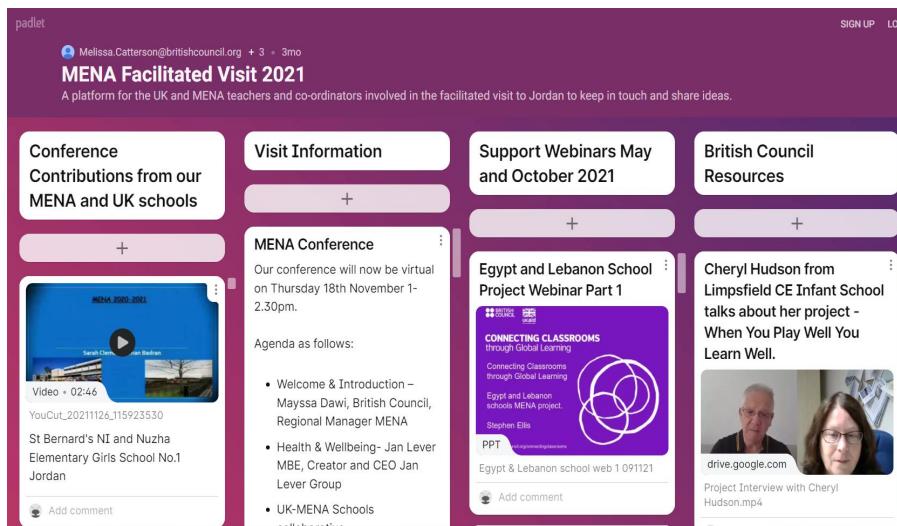
UK / Jordan International Schools Partnerships

The main aims of the UK and MENA facilitated programme are:

- To support partner schools to collaborate on projects relating to the UN Sustainable Goals, with reference to UN Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being);
- To support schools to maintain and sustain their global partnerships as they navigate their way through the challenges of a global pandemic;
- To create opportunities for schools to showcase and celebrate their partnership successes.

As the global pandemic continued throughout 2020 and 2021, it limited the engagement of schools, so it was necessary to adapt the programme model and move towards supporting schools with online webinars.

A face-to-face conference was scheduled to take place in Jordan in October 2021. However, this decision too had to be revised in the face of a global surge of new Covid strains and rising global cases. A Virtual Schools conference was held on 18 November 2021 to replace the face-to-face conference. Jordan was presented by 3 UNRWA schools and 2 Military schools.



Despite all the challenges, schools and teachers continued to work successfully with their partners, under the revised structure of the facilitated visit programme. All schools had an opportunity to showcase and celebrate their partnerships using the programme's UK and MENA Padlet.

UK-MENA School Partnerships Padlet link:

<https://padlet.com/melissacatterson/e6lqdgqossotb5iye>

UK / Jordan Supported Partnerships

This is a short-term (3 month) project for schools new to international collaboration, supported by Local Advisers.



5 UNRWA Jordanian schools and their UK partners worked together on themes linked to COP26.

Schools coordinators attended 3 webinars and participated in the cluster project:

- Webinar 1 covered context of project and benefits of international collaboration
- Webinar 2 – Climate Change and how it relates to SDGs
- Webinar 3 – Empowering young people to take action

The schools will continue to work together in their individual partnerships on whatever theme they decide is mutually relevant and beneficial to their respective school communities.

Collaboration with UNICEF on 'Blue Dot Project'

The Blue Dot Project is led by UNICEF in collaboration with the British Council.



Through this collaboration we:

- Advocate for the important role of children in climate change discussions
- Co-create knowledge on environmental education
- Engage ISA School Ambassadors
- Engage children in producing messages on the three major themes (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).
- Raise discussions in schools about protecting the environment by reducing plastic waste.

In total 205 students from Jordan schools participated in this collaborative work and submitted 104 “Reduce”, 21 “Reuse” and 8 “Recycle” projects. coordinated by 8 teachers and 4 School Ambassadors:

The project of student Layan Al Bayrouiti (Baqaa Prep. Girls. School 1 / UNRWA) has been chosen among the ten winners in the Blue Dot Project for Theme 1 (Reduce). Selected from more than 300 submissions across the region, these ten projects demonstrated both the scope and depth of climate issues surrounding schools, and provided feasible solutions for teachers and students to tackle climate change by reducing plastic waste.

For the Themes 2 & 3 (Reuse and Recycle) we had the following winners:

- Azmi Mufti Elem Girls School (UNRWA) - 1 winning project;
- Amman New Camp Prep Girls School 1 (UNRWA) - 1 winning project;
- Shurahbeel bin Hasna Secondary School for Boys (Military) - 2 winning projects.

Selected from more than 250 submissions across the region, these projects demonstrated the ability to change and creativity through producing eco-friendly artwork and initiatives.

The list of participating schools can be found in Annex 1.

International School Award (ISA)

The International School Award (ISA) is a global accreditation scheme recognising good practice in incorporating the international dimension into schools. In many ways, SDG4 (Quality education) is very much what our ISA is there to do; to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning with equitable and authentic communication and collaboration. During 2019-2021, 29 schools from different Educational sectors (Public, UNRWA and Military) schools participated where 23 schools received full awards.



At the end of 2021, new ISA schools were recruited for the cycle 2021/2022. List of schools can be found in Annex 2.

Four Info & Planning sessions for new ISA schools focused on purpose and benefits of ISA, the different awards levels, planning the activities and Lessons learnt session were delivered by the Ambassadors face-to-face in Military Directorate and UNRWA venues

Schools are working on a reduced number of projects for ISA cycle 2021/2022 due to the fact that the first school semester was reduced for all schools in Jordan, and the unstable Covid-19 situation in country.

As we support our Ambassadors in their professional development, in October 2021 eight Ambassadors from Jordan participated in Regional ISA Ambassadors training (blended event).

The main themes explored during the event:

- Gender Equity and Education in MENA Region: An Overview of Challenges & Opportunities / Building awareness of how education can support progress towards gender equality by considering how gender norms develop in childhood and through socialisation;
- MENA region's journey on the Mental Well-Being / Introduction to the consultants who will be leading on the development of a regional framework for Mental Well-Being.

Focus group discussion on the Mental Well-Being was held with participation of ISA Ambassadors, facilitated by British Council Deputy Director.

This event was highlighted in the UK Newsletter – The Bulletin, Issue No.71 on 9th Nov 2021 (Week in Pictures):

<https://ukglobal.newsweaver.com/165vru9dp5/1559l0gjey?lang=en&a=1&p=60660123&t=31506295Yes>

Middle East and North Africa (MENA)



Image: Yuliya Dhingra

As part of the MENA British Council Schools Ambassadors Regional event, the delegates participated in a focus group discussion on mental well-being. The purpose was to co-create a mental well-being framework for schools in the region. Participants discussed mental well-being in schools, school leadership and strategy, school culture and supporting students.

Focus Groups Discussions on Mental Well-Being Consultancy

Based on the previous Regional conference on Mental Health and Well-Being, school teachers and Ambassadors continued working and adapted MHWB Framework within their school activities.

On 8th November 2021 MWB Consultancy – Regional Working Group discussion took place (with participation from the British Council, MoE, UNRWA, Military schools directorate and International Medical Corps Jordan).

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Main theme that was discussed with Policy Makers is a national approach to Mental Well-Being, School culture and leadership as well as teachers' professional development and supporting students.

MENA MWB framework cascade trainings for Ambassadors and Trainers

During the sessions trainers and ambassadors were introduced to the MENA MWB framework, they were familiarised with an action planning tool to develop MWB in schools. 5 Ambassadors, 2 teachers and 4 trainers participated in the trainings in December 2021 and February 2022.

Further, participants reflected on the current position of their schools against the Wellbeing Framework and planned at least one action to take between March and the end of the school year. Online resources were shared with participants. A private Facebook group has been created for the teachers to share their successes and to seek support on their journeys; from each other and the trainer.

Policy events

10 Policy Makers from various Non-profit and governmental organisations attended and contributed to multiple regional policy events:

1. Global Connecting Classrooms Virtual conference "Creating More Inclusive Classrooms" on 1st and 2nd Dec 2021. The Secretary General Assistant for Technical Affairs HCD, Ghadeer Alharis contributed by sharing information about the 10-years strategy for inclusive education in Jordan and about its components. She also discussed the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic caused for education, and covered e-learning interventions.
2. MENA region SEND Policy Dialogue 1: Developing provision for children and young people with complex needs on 15th Dec 2021.
3. MENA region SEND Policy Dialogue 2: Developing system-level leadership and accountability for SEND provision on 26th Jan.
4. MENA region SEND Policy Dialogue 3: Developing a CPD model for classroom teachers on 14th Mar.
5. MENA region Mental Wellbeing Framework for schools launch event on 20th Jan.

Challenges faced

1. Poor internet connection;
2. Packed school schedules and calendars run against implementation;
3. Lack of participation due to Covid-19 high rate of spread and peak waves.

Closure message

'Dear partners!

As the Connecting Classrooms programme comes to a close (at the end of March), we'd like to thank you for your collaboration and your huge support over the years.

Together, we have helped thousands of young people in Jordan to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes for life and work in our interconnected world.

Although Connecting Classrooms is closing, we are looking forward to continuing to work with you through our other programmes and projects, such as ELT in Education: Teacher Training Program for English Language Teachers (TTPELT), Language for resilience: Community language support (CLS), Going Global Partnerships (HE programme) and our Arts programmes.'



Annex 1

Schools participating in 'Blue Dot Project'

	Partner	School name
1	UNRWA	Baqa'a Prep. Girls School 1
2	UNRWA	Azmi Mufti Elem Girls School
3	UNRWA	Amman New Camp Prep Girls School 1
4	Military schools directorate	Al Hussein Primary School for Girls
5	Military schools directorate	Shurahbeel bin Hasna Secondary School for Boys

Annex 2

Recruited ISA schools for the cycle 2021/2022

	Partner	School name
1	Military schools directorate	Sama Al-Sarhan Secondary School for Boys
2	Military schools directorate	Al Rashaida Secondary School for Boys
3	Military schools directorate	College of the Martyr Faisal II
4	Military schools directorate	Al Hasa Secondary School for Boys
5	Military schools directorate	Amir Faisal Bin Hussein Secondary School for Boys
6	UNRWA	Mashari Preparatory Girls School
7	UNRWA	Waqgas Preparatory Girls School
8	UNRWA	Sweileh Preparatory Boys School
9	UNRWA	Sweileh Preparatory Girls School
10	UNRWA	Baqa'a Preparatory Girls School 1
11	UNRWA	Karameh Preparatory Girls School
12	UNRWA	Marka Preparatory Girls School No 3
13	UNRWA	Russifeh Preparatory Girls School No 3
14	UNRWA	Russifeh Preparatory Girls School No 2
15	UNRWA	Amman New Camp Preparatory Boys School 2
16	UNRWA	Madaba Preparatory Boys School
17	UNRWA	Taibeh Preparatory Boys School 1
18	UNRWA	Zuhour Elementary Girls School
19	UNRWA	Amman New Camp Preparatory Girls School 1
20	UNRWA	Natheif Preparatory Girls School 1