



2019 Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development

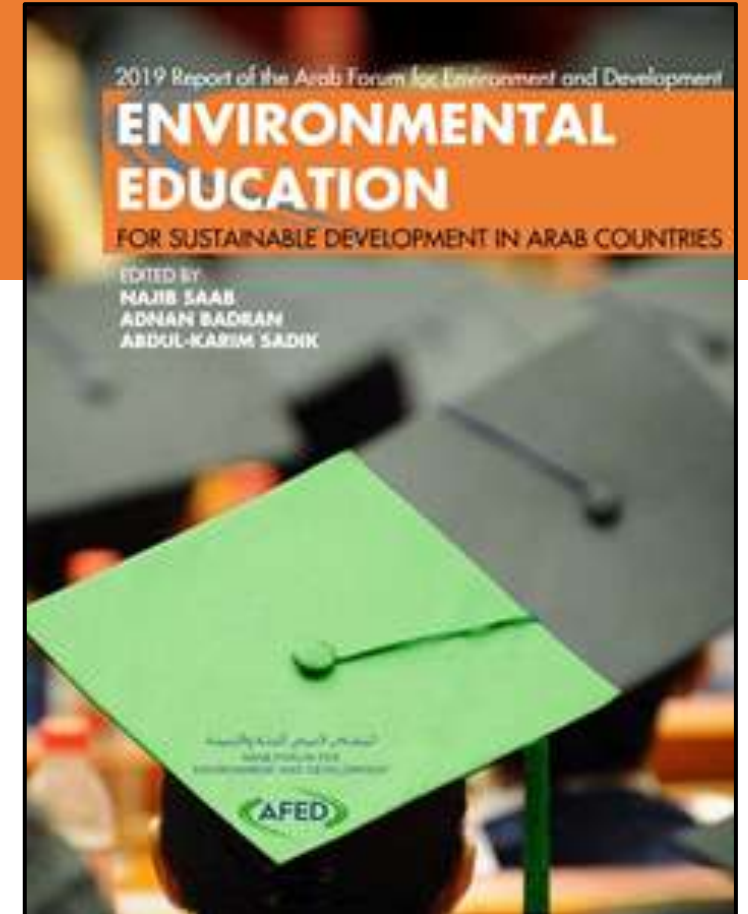
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES

Education for Sustainable Development in Arab Countries

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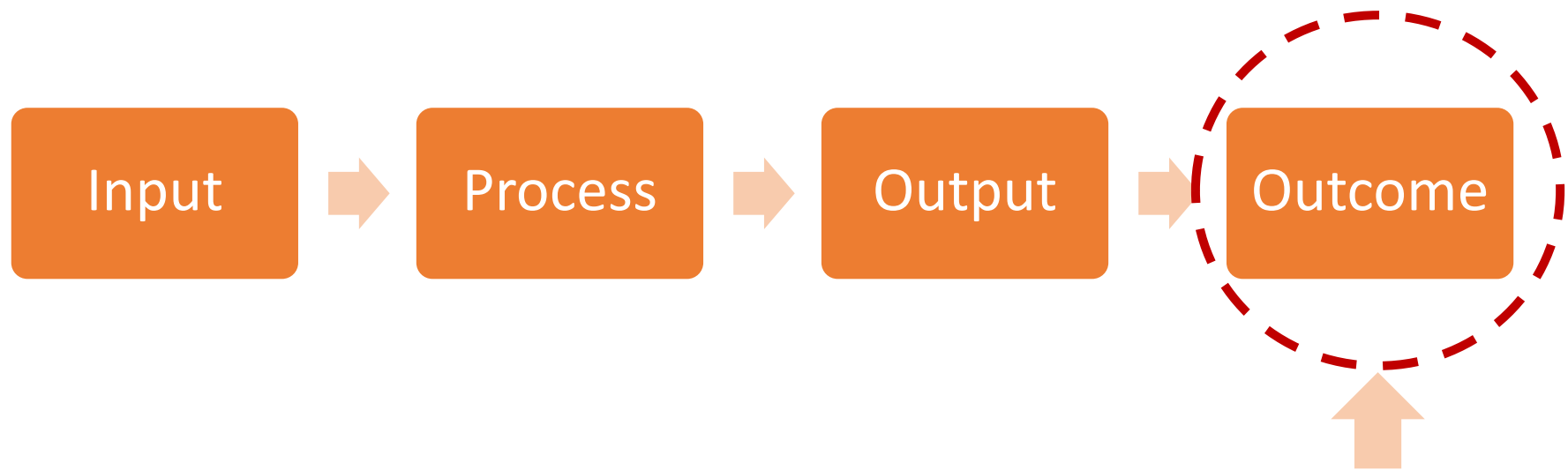
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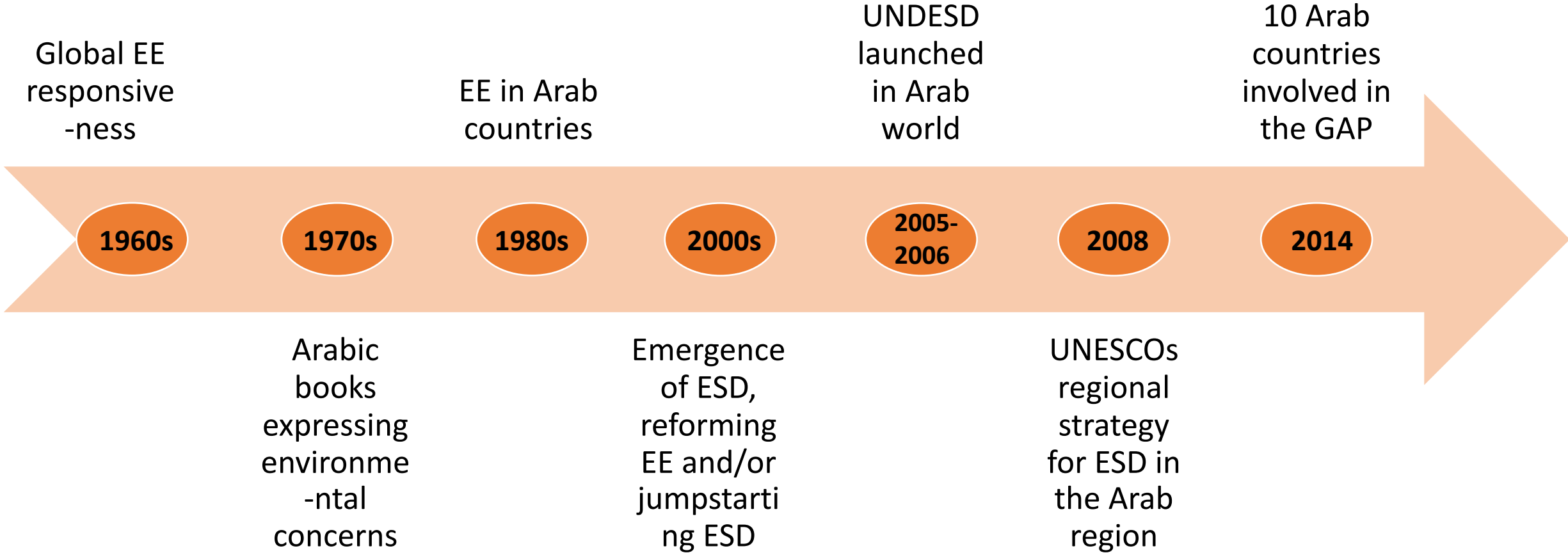
Introduction

- Many environmental challenges facing the Arab region with some relating to the scarcity of natural resources and/or their mismanagement.
- Need robust, systematic approaches to confront these challenges and mitigate and adapt to their effects.



Education, awareness & professional development

EE and ESD in the Arab Region



Arab Involvement in Regional Programs and Initiatives



Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEEdIES)

Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)



Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Programme

Regional Expert Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD) in the Arab region



The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)

Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) and Horizon 2020 (SWIM-H2020) Support Mechanism (SM) Project

National Involvement in ESD Programs and Initiatives

- Most Arab countries have been involved in the DESD or the GAP.
- Algeria, Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Bahrain and Qatar have taken part in regional ESD programmes/initiatives.
- Themes include:



Env. Education



Waste Management



Clean Energy



Water Conservation



Biodiversity



Climate Change

- Stakeholders were involved with a noticeable involvement of NGOs.
- The main target was formal education.

National Involvement in ESD Programs and Initiatives

The range of implementation activities varies widely among countries.

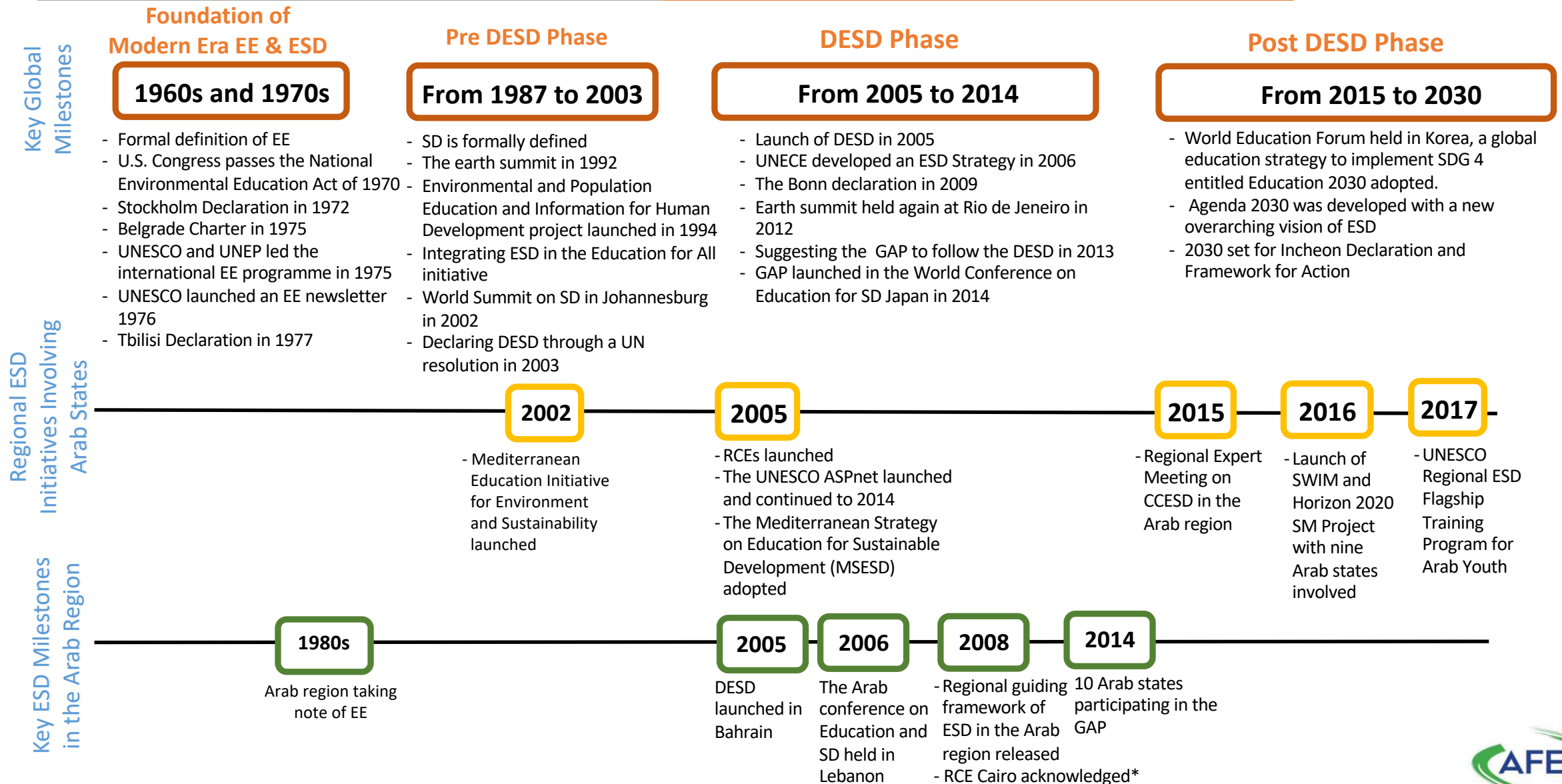
ESD is now integrated into early childhood care and education (ECCE) in Kuwait and Oman, while Kuwait also reports a full integration of ESD in government education programming.

ESD is only included in selected courses in Qatar and is rarely mentioned explicitly in education curriculums in Morocco, whereby ideas related to SD and an environment-friendly culture are introduced.

With respect to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), some Arab states achieved significant advances such as Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, who indicated a full integration of ESD in TVET.

Progress implementing ESD in higher education in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Qatar and Oman, including university staff trainings on integrating ESD themes into curricula, incorporating ESD in university courses, and funding ESD-related scholarships and programs.

Global, Regional and National Involvement in ESD



* No information available on RCE Amman Acknowledgment date



Selected ESD Projects



Young garbage collector in the Learning by Earning Recycling School in Mokkattam in Egypt, Source: UNESCO (2012c)

- **Learning by Earning Recycling School** in Mokkattam, Egypt, which targeted young boys who work as garbage collectors, and the ESD in the **Shouf Biosphere Reserve** project in Lebanon.
- **The re-greening Tunisia project** was one of the nominees for the 2018 UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD. The project combines classroom study with field experience and offers practical ways to mitigate climate change and develop sustainable agricultural.
- **Zikra programme** for popular learning in Jordan is a UNESCO sustainability education award winning project. It promotes alternative learning to inspire sustainable solutions to the local community's most stressing challenges.



Rural women from from Ghor Al-Mazara'a in Jordan demonstrating traditional skills in Zikra project, Source: UNESCO (2018a)

Strengths

- Arab countries have recognized the importance of ESD since the launching of the UNESCO-led DESD in 2005.
- The Arab states' involvement in the DESD and then the GAP has generally shown consistent progress, which promises even more impact going forward after the GAP.
- Key sustainable development themes addressed:
 - Peace and human security
 - Conflict resolution
 - Biological diversity
 - Climate change
- Other strengths included providing teacher training for ESD at primary and secondary levels of education and the availability of ESD tools for them(OECD, 2019).

ESD Challenges in the Arab Region

- Unavailability of resource materials in Arabic (policy development, curricula development and teacher training).
- The lack of regional, sub-regional, country and institutions' cooperation and coordination.
- Lacking a clear understanding of the wide concept of ESD and its relation to EE.
- The Arab States' values and traditions (such as protecting the environment, rational consumption..etc.) are not considered when planning and implementing ESD or in the preparation of ESD curricula and teaching materials.
- The lack of necessary funding and training, and the promotion of the principle of equal partnership.
- Wars and conflicts still constitute a challenge not only for ESD but also for development in general.
- Role of NGOs vis-à-vis ESD promotion is not well defined.

Opportunities and the Way Forward

Despite promising achievements in ESD activities in the Arab region on both the national and regional levels, there seems to be a clear gap between the Arab region and other parts of the world when it comes to ESD.

- The vast majority of the national and regional ESD initiatives and projects in the Arab countries are dependent on international donors and hence are largely not sustainable
- There is no solid ESD legislation or specific ESD allocated budgets, which are crucial steps towards establishing a consistent national ESD structure that is not dependent on external funding.
- It seems that the involvement of most Arab countries in ESD lacks a real commitment to adopt ESD beyond the UNESCO led initiatives.
- Lack regional and sub regional cooperation and collaboration between Arab states on ESD.
- Furthermore, the Arab region is not utilizing its full potential as to what can be collectively done on a regional level to advance ESD, given the diversity in the region's resources.
- The region lacks initiatives and programs that are directed to ESD research and development.
- Addressing these challenges should be a priority for Arab countries aiming to move forward with transformative and impactful education for sustainable development structures based on the GAP.

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Thank you



Introduction

The chapter:

- Aims at providing an overview of ESD in the Arab region, the involvement of the Arab states in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and the Global Action Program (GAP).
- Discusses and analyses the ESD global, regional and local strategies, policies, programs, projects and initiatives that Arab states are involved in.
- Highlights good practices, strengths and weaknesses of ESD in the region, identifying trends and success stories, alongside relevant case studies.

Arab Involvement in Regional Programmes and initiatives



Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES)

- Launched in Johannesburg during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.
- Include eight Arab countries: Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine.
- There are state partners from 3 Arab countries, Egypt, Tunisia and Palestine.



Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development Programme

- One of two flagship initiatives through which the ESD project designs and implements research and development.
- An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal organizations that facilitate learning towards SD.
- There are two RCEs in the Arab region, located in Egypt and Jordan, which serve Africa and the Middle East regions.



The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)

- There are over 11,500 ASPnet member schools in 182 countries.
- The ASPnet schools adopt a “whole-school” approach in their ESD activities, in which schools attempt to integrate local and global sustainability issues into the curriculum, while reinforcing interactive, participatory teaching and learning.

Arab Involvement in Regional Programmes and initiatives

Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD)

- The first regional strategy on ESD, adopted in 2005.
- The aim is to encourage countries of the Mediterranean to develop and incorporate ESD into all relevant subjects of their formal educational systems, as well as in non-formal and informal educational systems.

Regional Expert Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD) in the Arab region

- Held in Beirut from 5 to 7 May 2015.
- Organized as part of the ESD work plan for 2014–2015 and was funded by the ESD Japanese Funds-in-Trust (ESD-JFIT).
- The meeting identified the main challenges that climate change poses to education systems in the Arab region and explored the role that education can play in climate change adaptation and mitigation

Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) and Horizon 2020 (SWIM-H2020) Support Mechanism (SM) Project

- A three-year (2016-2019) EU funded project which aims to contribute to reduced marine pollution and a sustainable use of scarce water resources in a select number of countries in North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia).

Arab States Involvement in ESD

National ESD Programs and Initiatives

Country	National Program / Initiative	Theme	Stakeholders	Date
Egypt	<p><u>Learning by Earning Recycling School:</u> Establishing the Mokattam Recycling School for Boys who work as garbage collectors. The initiative aims to improve living conditions for the community through non-formal education (UNESCO, 2012b, 2015).</p>	Environmental education and poverty reduction	<p>The Spirit of Youth NGO, CID consulting, Procter and Gamble, the Bill Gates Foundation, the Hands on the Nile Foundation and the African Star Foundation Funding: UNESCO, P&G and Bill Gates Foundation Target: Young garbage collectors in Mokattam (Garbage City)</p>	2001 - Present
	<p><u>Educamp I:</u> Developed ESD resource kits and a teachers training program, in addition to seven Centres of Excellence in seven universities to promote the concept of ESD. <u>Educamp II:</u> Introduced ESD in informal areas (2 schools in El Warraq) <u>Educamp III:</u> Transformed the poor schools in Egypt into schools that meet the objectives of the Country's Sustainable Development Strategy "Egypt 2030" (2 schools in Boulaq El-Dakrour)</p>	Environmental education	<p>The RWTH Aachen University in Germany, The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD) in the American University in Cairo, AIMofid Foundation for Development and Human Resources (NGO), Rowad El Ghad for Local Society Development (NGO) Funding: The EU and the German government Educamp I: Targets teachers and students Educamp II: Targets administration staff and teachers of the local schools, El Warraq community, other local NGOs, youth groups and local units of the Ministry of Education (MoE) Educamp III: Targets students from both schools, their teachers, administrators and ministry officials.</p>	Educamp I started 2010, Educamp II started 2014, Educamp III started in 2017
	<p><u>International Conference on ESD in Egypt:</u> International conference on the role of education for supporting SD and how to enhance education's contribution in Egypt (Institute of National Planning, 2017).</p>	Education and sustainable development in Egypt	<p>The Institute of National Planning (INP) Target: Researchers from Egypt and other Arab and foreign countries as well as local, regional and international institutions concerned with education</p>	6-8 May 2017
	<p><u>The 5-year Action Plan on ESD in Egypt:</u> Two trainings on ESD that aimed to raise awareness and contribute to building the capacity of formal and non-formal educators and Ministries Officers on ESD programs (MEdIES, 2018).</p>	Solid waste management (recycling, marine litter)	<p>Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability, SWIM-Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Programme, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) Target: Educators and Ministries Officers on ESD</p>	2-6 December 2018

Arab States Involvement in ESD

National ESD Programs and Initiatives

Country	National Program / Initiative	Theme	Stakeholders	Date
Jordan	<p><u>ESD Biodiversity Initiative:</u> An initiative focusing on integrating biodiversity concepts including those related to herbal and medicinal plants in the national curricula in Jordan (UNESCO, 2012a).</p>	Biodiversity	<p>The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature RSCN (NGO), and The Ministry of Education - Directorate of Curricula and Textbooks</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Students and teachers</p>	2004-2008
	<p><u>Zikra for Popular Learning Program:</u> Zikra promotes alternative learning to empower people to reconnect with their local culture and traditions, and to utilize local knowledge to inspire sustainable solutions to the local community's most stressing social, economic and environmental challenges (UNESCO, 2018a).</p>	Environmental education and sustainable development	<p>The local non-profit organization Zikra Initiative</p> <p><u>Target:</u> The marginalized village of Ghor Al-Mazra'a in one of the poorest areas of southern Jordan.</p>	2011 - Present
	<p><u>Queen Rania Teachers Academy (QRTA) ESD training program:</u> Aims to enhance the academic and professional capabilities of teachers by incorporating three of the most critical environmental risks in Jordan (water, energy and solid waste) into an inquiry based, interdisciplinary, project based training program (QRTA, 2019).</p>	Water, energy and solid waste	<p>Queen Rania Teachers Academy (QRTA), and Public Action Project PAP (USAID funded)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Teachers in 50 schools across 6 directorates in the Central Governorates of Jordan.</p>	2014 - Present
	<p><u>K-12 Arab Online Learning Platform:</u> Offers both sequential learning material, as well as student-centered inquiry based learning that allows users to search for concepts or skills without having to enrol in a predefined learning sequence. It will also provide key resources for use in the classroom and will eventually align with national curricula (UNESCO, 2018b).</p>	Quality education, technology and innovation, sustainable development	<p>Google and Queen Rania Foundation</p> <p><u>Target:</u> K-12 students and their educators across the Middle East and North Africa region.</p>	Launched in 2017

Arab States Involvement in ESD

National ESD Programs and Initiatives

Country	National Program / Initiative	Theme	Stakeholders	Date
Morocco	<p><u>Young Reporters for the Environment:</u> An educational program that aims to increase awareness of local environmental issues and empower young people to articulate these issues through the media of writing, photography or video (M6FE, 2019).</p>	ESD	<p>Mohamed VI Foundation for the Protection of Environment (M6FE), The Foundation of Economic Education (FEE)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> High School Students</p>	Launched in 2002
	<p><u>Eco-Schools:</u> Aims at educating students about positive ecological principles so as to prepare them for some of the environmental issues that their schools might face with regards to water, energy and waste management (UNESCO, 2013).</p>	Environmental education, sustainability, recycling, and clean energy	<p>FEE, M6FE</p> <p><u>Funding:</u> The EU</p> <p><u>Target:</u> School Students</p>	Launched in 2006
	<p><u>National Program for Environmental Rehabilitation of Rural Schools:</u> The program has three main objectives: improving the infrastructure of rural schools, developing environmental clubs and libraries on environmental and SD topics, and supporting environmental clubs activities such as field visits and other environmental education activities (Ministry of National Education, 2019).</p>	Water, energy and waste management	<p>The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment and Municipalities</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Rural schools and students</p>	2006 - 2015
	<p><u>Functional Literacy Programme of Women of the Argan Cooperative through Amazigh (Berber) Language:</u> The main objectives of the programme are: Making the cooperative's women aware of the importance of environmental protection and preservation of the importance of the Argan Biosphere and what is at stake in the preservation of the Argan forest (UiL, 2015).</p>	Environmental protection and sustainable development	<p>Association Ibn Albaytar (NGO), National Centre of Development and Literacy (Centre National de Développement et d'Alphabétisation – CNDA), Nutrition Act and the international cooperation of Monaco</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Women in the Argan cooperative</p>	Launched in 2008

Arab States Involvement in ESD

National ESD Programs and Initiatives

Country	National Program / Initiative	Theme	Stakeholders	Date
UAE	<p>Shaheen's World Project: Shaheen's World is a publicly accessible online learning website that aims to enhance children's knowledge, skills and attitudes towards the environment and global issues through friendly online activities and games. Shaheen's website contributes not only to awareness raising among Emirati children but also community members such as consumers, business people and women (UNESCO, 2014).</p>	Environmental education, sustainable development, water, energy, waste, air and biodiversity.	The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) <u>Target:</u> Children 6-16 years old	Launched in 2009
	<p>Sustainable Schools Initiative (SSI): An initiative which aims to strengthen the skills and leadership capacity among youth, to address the challenges of environmental sustainability. The programme strives to provide a platform that addresses students, parents, teachers, administrative staff and the non-teaching staff to gain hands on experience, knowledge and create change from within in their everyday behaviour and attitude for a sustainable future (EAD, 2019).</p>	Environmental education, sustainable development	The Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the Department of Education and Knowledge <u>Sponsor:</u> British Petroleum (BP) <u>Target:</u> Intermediate and secondary school students.	Launched in 2009
	<p>ESD Climate Change Initiative: The initiative included conducting workshops for teachers and students on ESD to enhance the knowledge and equip the educational segment of the society with the tools to combat climate change at the local level. (UNESCO, 2012a)</p>	Environmental education, climate change, water conservation	Emirates Environmental Group EEG (NGO), Local authorities, Pre-school institutions, Schools, Higher education institutions, NGOs, Private sector, Media, Intergovernmental, international institutions <u>Target:</u> Teachers/Students from various schools and colleges in the UAE	2010
	<p>Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre (SZDLC): An educational facility combining knowledge and learning through interactive exhibits, multimedia and visual materials that are specially designed by world-class experts and specialists. The SZDLC teaches students on sustainable living using low-carbon technologies, helps them examine their relationship with the environment and encourages them to adopt more sustainable lifestyles (UNESCO, 2018b).</p>	Environmental education and sustainable living	The Government of the UAE <u>Target:</u> Students	Opened in 2016