



Innovative approaches to reaching women, girls and the marginalized in the Arab region

Background Paper for the ECOSOC for the Western Asia Regional Consultation

especially the poor ones where the state has little resources, and will most like jeopardize the maintenance of present enrolment rate

More than 60 per cent of the primary school aged children that are not e

ESCWA states are on track in terms of female education enrollment: the Gender Parity Index for Primary Enrollment has been achieved for most of the region, with the exception of Iraq and Yemen at .86 and .76 respectively, and Egypt at .96 (data is not available for Syria and Sudan). For all countries for which there is data, other than Bahrain, the female share of tertiary education exceeds, sometimes by a wide percentage, that of males fulfilling

Other indicators are lagging far behind. In terms of female political representation, Arab States have not progressed to close the gender gap

2. How can literacy levels among girls and women be increased and associated with relevant learning and life -skills programmes?
3. What can education policy makers do to scale-up existing innovative approaches around the region to reach women and girls in education?
4. How can regional and/or international mechanisms assist to share and exchange good practices around the region, especially to those countries which face multiple challenges?
5. How can policy -makers ensure that innovative non-formal education approaches are integrated with the education systems to ensure coherence and sustainability?
6. What are some of the enabling factors which are necessary to implement innovative approaches, especially non -formal education approaches? (Eg. Legal frameworks, private-public partnerships..)

Access

- What measures can be employed to mitigate the impact of poverty on education by increasing and stabilizing incomes and food security of poor households?
- What are the key challenges in helping the marginalized overcome poverty? What role can education play?
- How can investment within the education sector be better targeted to support poverty reduction?
- What structures can organizations put in place to mitigate low survival rates in conflict areas? What policies can governments institute to do the same?
- What innovative educational approaches can be put in place to accommodate displaced and migratory populations?
- What policies can be implemented to reach out to specific populations – e.g. rural and under-served communities, to improve their schooling, especially through non-formal and informal education?
- What incentives can be instituted that would allow school systems to eliminate direct and indirect school fees?
- If UPE is not attainable for some countries, what new or different measures can be taken to maximize primary enrolment?
- What of the six goals should take priority in developing policy and programmes?

Equity

- What measures and new approaches can be taken to combat declining female literacy rates in the face of increasing population growth?
- How do we encourage women to enter non-traditional careers such as the scientific professions and technical occupation?
- What can be done to promote investment in female and marginalized education as part of national development strategies?

Quality

- What policies can be implemented to increase lower secondary retention?
- How can the transition from primary to secondary school be made smoother? Is testing an issue?
- What strategies can be undertaken to reach all three categories of out-of-school children?
- What kind of support can be given to families of children who are not enrolled in the education system? What policies can be promoted to entice enrollment?
- How can pre-primary education be implemented in systems as a method of primary and secondary retention?
- What can education policy-makers do to integrate lifestyle relevant curriculum into education planning and practice?
- What bridges can be made between formal and informal education systems?
- What types of education pedagogy can be used to promote community collaboration to create better schools and communities?