Ministry of Education and Higher Education organizes Annual Sector Review



Ramallah- 23-26 May. From 23 May to 26 May the Annual Sector Review (ASR) took place in Ramallah, organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), with special focus on two themes, namely child-centered teaching and learning and protection. First the MoEHE organised two field visits on 23 and 24 May, visiting Al Shareqah Girls Primary School in Qalqilya, Atteel Girls Primary School in Tulkarem and the Al Huda and Jabal Al Zeitoun Primary Schools in East-Jerusalem. The visitors were welcomed with great enthusiasm by the principals, teachers and students of the schools, eager to show how the Inclusive Education Programme implemented by UNESCO and centered on child-centred teaching and learning activities, has vastly influenced their school experience.

The principals of the schools highlighted the great impact of the inclusive education programme on the performance of their students; one of the school principals mentioned that "*We are noticing more participation and commitment from the students, in addition to better academic achievements.*"

During the ASR workshop that took place at the MoEHE on 25 and 26 May, the **Minister of Education and Higher Education, HE. Dr. Sabri Saidam,** highlighted the on-going reform of the Education Sector "*with the new framework for curricula, the new sustainable school programme for a green school environment and the integration of Technical and Vocational Education in the standard curriculum, to better respond to the labour market needs in Palestine*". He thanked UNESCO, US-Aid and other international partners for their support to the preparation of the new Education Law. The Minister further called for a coordinated joint approach on the critical issue of the schools in East Jerusalem.

The Representative of UNESCO to Palestine, Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi stressed the key role of the Education Sector Working Group in the on-going preparation of the National Policy Agenda launched by the Prime Minister's Office and vis-à-vis the intertwined Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) process, in particular SDG4 on inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning

opportunities for all. He recalled that "*on all of these processes, UNESCO and the UN family in Palestine, are happy to continue providing all its support and working side by side with the MoEHE.*"

The **Belgian Consul and Head of Development Co-operation, Ms. Florence Duvieusart**, congratulated the MoEHE on the formulation of new policies such as a Joint Protection and Advocacy Strategy, Digitalization in Education, and on Technology Labs. She further underlined "*the importance of making TVET a priority in order to fight youth unemployment*" and reiterated that "*we all remain committed to the cause of education. We aim at maintaining a constructive dialogue to ensure that quality education in Palestine remains a priority objective for all*" and encouraged the MoEHE "*to continue this constructive dialogue, and we wish you two fruitful days of exchanges and a good workshop, since we are all here for the same aim.*"

During the 2-day workshop at the MoEHE, which was moderated and supported by Dr. Sakeena Elayan, Education Advisor to the MoEHE, the status of school construction and main other challenges that schools in East- Jerusalem, Area C and Gaza are facing, were also widely discussed. The ASR part of the Education Sector Working Group adopted a set of recommendations aimed at reinforcing child-centered teaching and learning and gathering efforts of all education partners to ensure that educational institutions are safe and child-friendly environments.

The ASR is a perfect opportunity for all members of the education community in Palestine, including local and international civil society, development partners and officials of the MoEHE to come together and actively participate in the evaluation of achievements made in the Palestinian education sector in 2015 and identify recommendations for the future.

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at m.beltaji(at)unesco.org