

UNESCO OFFICE AFGHANISTAN

IBE UNESCO

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
AFGHANISTAN



# **RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF AFGHANISTAN**

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

## **AFGHANISTAN SECONDARY CURRICULUM: PROCESSES AND PRODUCTS (Grades 7 to 12)**

**26 August – 7 September, 2006**

**Kabul, Ottawa Hotel**

**Workshop objectives:**

- To revise and improve framework provisions for secondary education (education structure; structure of the curriculum; learning outcomes for different stages and learning areas);
- To assess the existing drafts of syllabuses for secondary education in the light of international standards and agree on modalities of improvement (learning objectives; learning outcomes; scope and sequence; strategies for teaching and learning; assessment);
- Exploring good practices of converting syllabuses into textbooks (developing learning units focusing on student-centred approaches);
- Reflecting upon possibilities of improving curriculum processes in Afghanistan: to formulate recommendations and suggestions for follow-up.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Revised comprehensive draft of the *Secondary Curriculum Framework* incorporating the participants' views and proposals on aspects such as learning objectives and areas of the curriculum; cross-cutting objectives and themes; gender issues; learning outcomes for different education stages; monitoring the quality of learning results.
- Overview of links between primary and secondary education (syllabuses and textbooks) envisaging coherence and consistency throughout the curriculum;
- Recommendations for improving secondary syllabuses: several models of improved syllabuses for different learning areas/subjects;
- Participants get acquainted with principles and means of student-centred materials design;
- Recommendations to improve both processes and products (phasing out activities; flow-charts; timelines; task distribution; quality control; sustained capacity building; institutional settings).

**Prerequisites/Assumptions:**

- The Curriculum Framework (2003) is distributed to participants with the invitation (if possible, existing draft syllabuses will also be made available and two such syllabuses will be translated into English);
- The presentations, inputs and handouts will be distributed to participants in Dari and Pashto;
- The workshop benefits from excellent translation and interpretation;
- Workshop schedule is observed and time is used fully and efficiently;
- Adjustments to the schedule will be provided flexibly according to needs;
- The final workshop agenda will benefit from the stakeholders' inputs.

**Documents to be prepared:**

- Presentations and inputs from the MoE
- Presentations and inputs from the IBE team
- Handouts/Instruction sheets for group work and plenary sessions
- Reports from the groups
- Summaries of discussions/"consensus sheets"
- Samples of Curriculum Frameworks, syllabuses and textbooks from Afghanistan and different other countries
- Evaluation form

<b>Chair persons/ General facilitators</b>	Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani, Director, Curriculum Department Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister
<b>Group Facilitators:</b>	Mr. Gul Ahmad Sagheri, Academic Council Mr. M. Hasan Salimi, Academic Council Mr. Hayatullah Naser, Academic Council Mr. Yusuf Niazi, Academic Council
<b>International resource persons:</b>	Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO programme coordinator Mr. Omar Humos, Palestine, IBE consultant Mr. Khalil Elaian, Jordan, IBE consultant
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Mr. Mir Nagibullah Mr. Anis Jonus Mr. Hayatullah Osmani
<b>Computer operators:</b>	Mr. Hamidullah Mr. Abdul Fatah
<b>Translators/interpreters:</b>	Mr. Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie Mr. Masoud Younis Mr. Sayed Ah. Moreed Sahidi Mr. Mohammad Bashir Ahadi

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

### Day 1: Saturday, 26 August 2006

**08:30-12:30**

**Opening session (Ministry of Education)**

**Chair:** Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi, General Director,  
Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

**National Anthem**

**Recitation of Quran**

**Mr. Haneef Atmar**, Minister of Education

**Mr. Anwar Al-Said**, Programme specialist, UNESCO

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Introduction of participants and of resource  
persons; Participants' expectations (25 minutes)**

**Mr. Seddiq Weera**, Advisor to the Minister

**Workshop overview: objectives; expected outcomes;  
working strategies (20 minutes)**

**Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General Director,  
Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

**Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu**, IBE UNESCO

**Presentation of curriculum processes and  
achievements to date (15 minutes)**

**Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani**, Director, Curriculum  
Department

**Links with other programmes (20 minutes)**

**Mr. Seddiq Weera**, Advisor to the Minister: Teacher  
Education

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch (Ottawa Hotel)**

**13:30-16:00**

**Plenary (Ottawa Hotel)**

**Chair: Mrs. Jeaniene Spink, Advisor to the Minister**

**First case study: Palestine**

Education System  
Curriculum Framework  
Institutional Settings

**Mr. Omar Humos**, Palestinian Centre for  
Curriculum Development

**Plenary discussions**

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Reflective exercise (groups): what is relevant  
for Afghanistan?**

## **Day 2 – Sunday, 27 August 2006**

**08:30-12:30**

**Plenary**

**Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Golestani**, Director,  
Curriculum Department

**Input from MoE: Critical issues to be revised and  
improved in the Curriculum Framework for  
Secondary Education**

**Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General Director,  
Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

**Response from international perspective: possible  
solutions to address the concerns raised**

**Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu**, IBE UNESCO

**Mr. Omar Humos**, IBE consultant

**Mr. Khalil Elaian**, IBE consultant

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

(Presentations continue, if needed)

**Group activity: participants are invited to give their views on the issues raised**

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-16:00**

**Group work continues**

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

### **Day 3: Monday, 28 August 2006**

**08:30-12:30**

**Plenary**

**Chair: Mrs. Jeaniene Spink**, Advisor to the Minister

**Groups report to the plenary**

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

Summary of proposals/suggestions and consensus reaching (What is worth taking into consideration?/Lessons learned)

**Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General Director, Curriculum Department

**Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu**, IBE UNESCO

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-16:00**

**Plenary**

**Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

**Curriculum Framework: its role and content**

CF as guidance for syllabus development  
CF: encouraging outcome-based approaches  
CF: skills curriculum developers need in order to prepare a CF (writing exercise focusing on learning outcomes)

**Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu**, IBE UNESCO

**Mr. Omar Humos**, IBE consultant

**Mr. Khalil Elaian**, IBE consultant

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Presentations and discussions continue**

**Day 4: Tuesday, 29 August 2006**

**08:30-12:30**

**Group activity: Drafting the Curriculum Framework**

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-16:30**

**Group work continues**

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Day 5: Wednesday, 30 August 2006**

**08:30-12:30**

**Plenary**

**Chair: Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu, IBE UNESCO**

**Groups present their work to the plenary**

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Critical review of products (Curriculum Framework chapters)**

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-16:00**

**Groups finalise the draft Curriculum Framework based on incorporating comments and suggestions from the plenary**

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**



**Day 6: Thursday, 31 August 2006**

**08:30-12:30**

**Plenary**

**Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Golestani**, Director,  
Curriculum Department

**Links between Curriculum Framework and  
syllabuses**

**MoE: presentation of syllabuses drafted to date**

**Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General Director,  
Curriculum Department

**A critical friend's view from the inside**

**Mr. Nang Arsala**, Advisor

**10:30-11:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Feed-back from international perspective:  
Modern syllabus development - examples from  
different countries**

**Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu**, IBE UNESCO

**Mr. Omar Humos**, IBE consultant

**Mr. Khalil Elaian**, IBE consultant

**12:30-13:30**

**Lunch**

**13:30-16:00**

**Group discussion: lessons learned from  
presentations**

**14:45-15:00**

**Tea and coffee break**

**Groups report to plenary; Conclusions**

**End of first week**

**Day 7: Saturday, 2 September 2006**

<b>08:30-12:30</b>	<b>Plenary</b>  <b>Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi</b> , General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate  <b>Learning outcomes and assessment as part of a syllabus</b>  <b>Mr. Khalil Elaian</b> , IBE consultant
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>  <b>Consensus reaching on what a syllabus should encompass</b>  <b>Facilitator: Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu</b> , IBE UNESCO
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30-16:00</b>	<b>Groups develop draft of syllabuses for two subjects</b> <b>(grades 7-9; 10-12)</b>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>

**Day 8: Sunday, 3 September 2006**

<b>08:30-12:30</b>	<b>Groups continue working</b>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30-16:00</b>	<b>Group work continues</b>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>

**Day 9: Monday, 4 September 2006**

<b>08:30-12:30</b>	<b>Plenary</b>  <b>Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi</b> , Director general, Curriculum and Textbook directorate  <b>Groups present to the plenary</b>
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>  <b>Critical analysis of outcomes</b>  <b>Facilitator: Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu</b> , IBE UNESCO
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30-16:00</b>	<b>Groups improve their syllabuses through incorporating comments and suggestions from the plenary</b>
<b>14:45-15:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>

**Day 10: Tuesday, 5 September 2006**

<b>08:30-12:30</b>	<b>Plenary</b>  <b>Chair: Mrs. Jeaniene Spink</b> , Advisor to the Minister  <b>Converting syllabuses into textbooks</b>  <b>Mrs. Dakmara Georgescu</b> , IBE UNESCO <b>Mr. Omar Humos</b> , IBE consultant <b>Mr. Khalil Elaian</b> , IBE consultant
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>  <b>Presentations and discussions continue</b>
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30-16:00</b>	<b>Group work: developing learning units based on syllabus models produced during the workshop</b>

**14:45-15:00                      Tea and coffee break**

**Day 11: Wednesday, 6 September 2006**

**08:30-12:30                      Group work continues**

**10:30-11:00                      Tea and coffee break**

**12:30-13:30                      Lunch**

**13:30-16:00                      Plenary**

**Chair: Mr. Abdul Zaher Gulestani**, Director, Curriculum Department

**Groups present to the plenary**  
**Critical analysis of products**

**14:45-15:00                      Tea and coffee break**

**Lessons learned**  
**Wrap-up and follow-up**

**Day 12: Thursday, 7 September 2006**

**08:30-12:30                      CLOSING SESSION (Plenary)**

**Chair: Mr. Abdul Nabi Wahidi**, General Director, Curriculum and Textbook Directorate

**Open discussion: workshop outcomes**  
**Recommendations and follow-up**  
**Participants' evaluation of the workshop**

**10:30-11:00                      Tea and coffee break**

**Closing remarks**

**Mr. Haneef Atmar**, Minister of Education

**Mr. Malama Meleisea**, Director, UNESCO Office Afghanistan

**12:30-14:00                      LUNCH**

**End of the workshop**