

CURRICULUM RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENT: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

STUDY VISIT

**Ministry of Education of Iraq
Ministry of Education of Jordan**

IBE-UNESCO, Geneva, 10-18 September 2005

Main goals and outcomes

The present study visit represents a continuation of previous joint activities of the IBE, the UNESCO Iraq office and the UNESCO Jordan office in Amman in the service of the education reforms currently taking place in the two countries.

Following the exchanges between the Iraqi Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Education of Jordan, the UNESCO offices in Amman and the IBE, the study visit will be focusing on following main objectives:

- To facilitate professional exchanges between the Iraqi and Jordanian teams of curriculum specialists and the IBE staff and associated consultants on issues pertaining to exploring new trends in international curriculum and textbook design, development and evaluation;
- To also delve into discussing the place of curriculum changes within the overall reform of modern education systems with a view to foster quality education for all;
- To learn about the integration of modern education technologies (especially ICT) into the curriculum and the new teaching and learning strategies;

- To learn about the IBE programmes on HIV/AIDS and to explore strategies to integrate health and preventive education into the curriculum;
- To explore effective ways of fostering quality differentiated learning especially in difficult circumstances such as large classes of students;
- To draw some preliminary lessons that would serve the further efforts to change and improve the primary and secondary curriculum in Iraq and Jordan;
- To identify additional needs for capacity building and experience sharing, and to explore possibilities for further cooperation between the Iraqi Ministry of Education, The ministry of Education of Jordan and the IBE and the international education community.

Based on carrying out the seminar agenda and following the productive interactions between the Iraqi and Jordanian specialists, and the IBE staff and international consultants it is expected that the two teams of curriculum specialists will be taking back to their country the following main outcomes:

- A shared understanding of the most important international trends in modern curriculum and textbook development and of their relevance for the current curriculum renewal process in Iraq and Jordan;
- An enhanced awareness of the need to link curriculum and textbook changes with significant reforms in other related areas, such as teacher training, evaluation, and school and classroom management in order to maintain the coherence of the overall education system and cater for effective sustainability of education reforms in the country;
- A set of draft recommendations to improve quality education for all in difficult circumstances that are relevant for Iraqi and Jordanian curriculum specialists and decision makers, and that will be shared with colleagues from the Ministries of Education and other relevant education stakeholders;
- A draft follow up plan of the current study visit along with suggestions for further international cooperation in the field of curriculum and textbook development between the two ministries of education, the IBE and the international education community;
- A study visit Report and a set of education materials/pedagogical folders documenting the study visit proceedings that could be used for further dissemination of the study visit outcomes within the national and the international context.