

UNRWA EDUCATION



# UNRWA/UNESCO Education Programme

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# United Nations Relief & Works Agency

- UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) provides assistance, protection and advocacy for some 4.7 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory, pending a solution to the situation.





# Establishment of UNRWA

- Following the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, UNRWA was established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 to carry out direct relief and works programmes for Palestine refugees. The Agency began operations on 1 May 1950.
- In the absence of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate, most recently extending it until 30 June 2011



# UNRWA Services



- Since its establishment, the Agency has delivered services both in times of relative calm in the Middle East, and in times of hostilities.
- UNRWA's work exemplifies an international commitment to the human development of Palestine refugees, helping them:
  - *acquire knowledge and skills*
  - *lead long and healthy lives*
  - *achieve decent standards of living*
  - *enjoy human rights to the fullest possible extent*





# Where does UNRWA work?

- **UNRWA provides education, health, relief and social services to 4.7 million registered Palestine refugees in five fields :**
  - Jordan
  - Lebanon
  - Gaza Strip
  - The Syrian Arab Republic
  - The West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- **Some 1.4 million refugees, around one third of the total, live in 58 recognised camps, and UNRWA's services are located in or near these areas.**



# UNRWA's Education Programme



- UNRWA operates one of the largest school systems in the Middle East and has been the main provider of basic education to Palestine refugees for 60 years
- UNRWA students are among the most highly educated in the region. Since the 1960s, girls have made up around half of UNRWA's students.
- Education is our largest programme, accounting for more than half of the Agency's regular budget.



# Education Vision & Mission

## Vision/Goal

To provide quality education for Palestinian refugees to achieve their full potential, individually as a member of local and global community towards active and productive participation in social, political, economic, technical, and cultural life



## Mission/Purpose

Quality relevant school education for Palestinian refugees and innovative, market orientated vocational training

# Education Department

*in figures*

- Around 500,000 Students in schools every day.
- 690+ Schools
  - Elementary – Preparatory - Secondary
- 10 Vocational Training Centers
  - Semi Professional – Trade Courses
- 3 Educational Science Faculties
  - University Degree
- 19,000 staff
  - Education and Administrative





# Need for reform

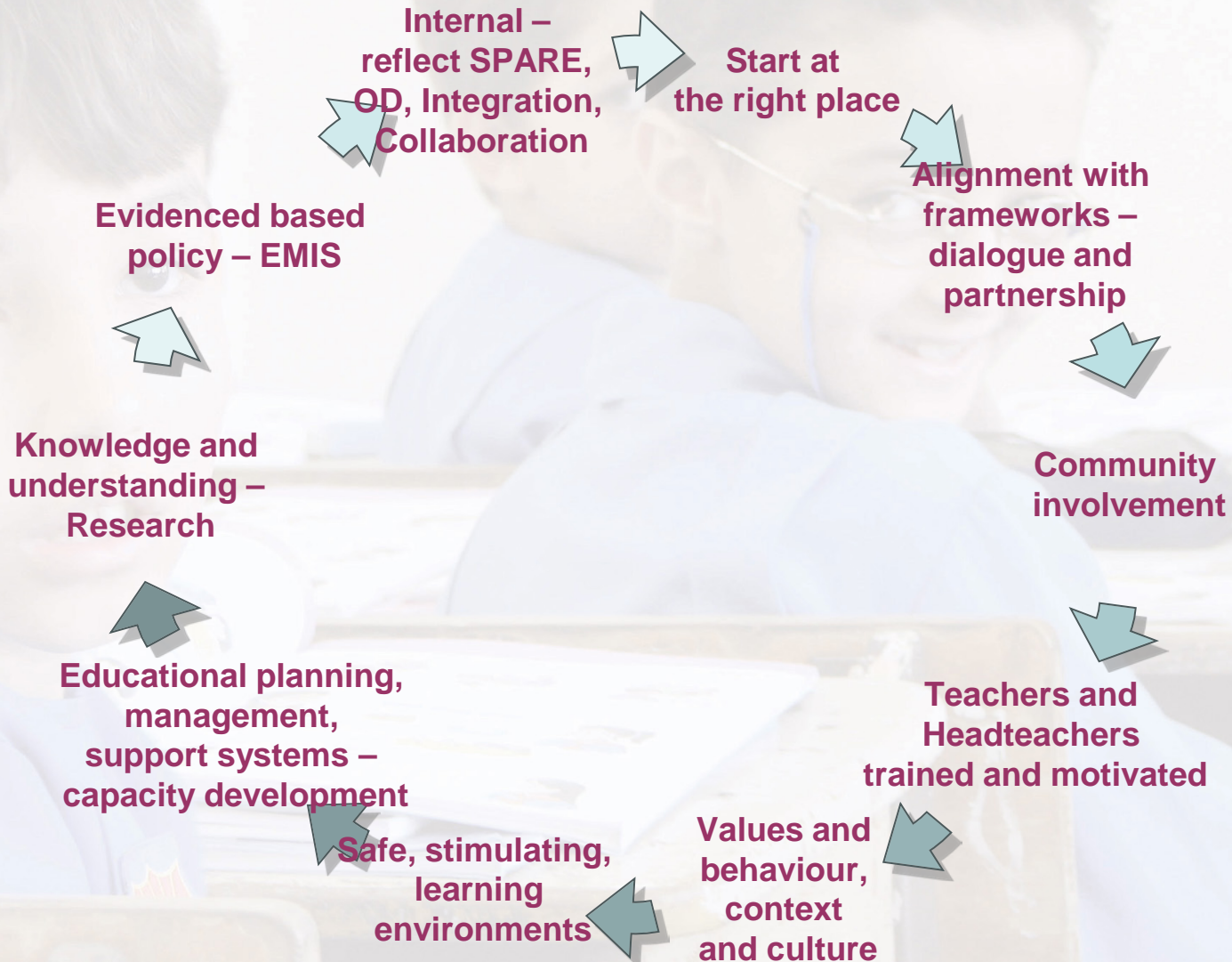
- Education key to development
- Global discourse on role of education
  - - individual/society/global
- No prior evaluation
- Implications of OD
- Perceptions of declining standards
- Resource and efficiency issues

# ...sharing reflections

- Differing perspectives on quality education
- Need for stronger development perspective
- **Limited model of classroom teaching – modality and focus (*specialist, limited, higher order skills, extra curricular, whole child*)**
- Emphasis on testing and examination – children, teachers, schools, Field
- Decentralisation – achieving the balance (school, community)
- Policy frameworks– teacher, SEN need strengthening
- Evidence based policies
- Competency Based Performance Management
- Teacher support, management, progression
- Stronger linkages - partners, institutions, development frameworks
- Need for greater cost-effectiveness



# Identifying key elements



# Three principles for improving the quality of learning –Public Sector Reform

- A moderate pace of change
- More equal power relations
- **Teaching and learning at the heart of the system**
  - A joint endeavour to enable students to achieve full potential
  - Research points to development of teacher professionals as ‘fundamental lever for improving student learning’
  - ..only when the quality of teaching and learning begins slowly to improve then success in meeting other objectives more likely to be achieved





# Teachers

- Single most important education resource (2010 GMR)
- Teacher quality (attraction, recruitment, selection, preparation, induction, utilization, deployment, INSET and CPD, motivation, planning and management) is central lever to achievement of educational access and quality.
- McKinsey report – looked at well performing countries – Canada, Cuba, Finland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea
  - Getting the best teacher
  - Getting the best out of them
  - Stepping in when learners lag behind

# Teacher Task Force on Teachers for Education for all

- Provides an opportunity for us to work together – global alliance and umbrella for collaboration at all levels/focus
- Helps place teachers and their development central to the quality education
- Three themes – learning outcomes; relevance of life skills, citizenship (capability); efficient use of resources
- Springboard to further debate in the region
- Contributes to the global knowledge and understanding







Thank You

