



دور اللجنة الوطنية الفلسطينية للتربية والثقافة والعلوم
في التعامل مع ازمة وباء فيروس كورونا
The Palestinian National Commission's engagement
in dealing with Corona virus disease pandemic



CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19



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The Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science works within the framework of its competence in following up with international organizations specialized (UNESCO, ALECSO, ICESCO) and similar national commissions to assist countries and specialized parties to cope with the great challenges imposed by the spread of Corona in the world. This follow up involves attracting and endorsing best international practices and exchange of experiences, as well as informing specialized parties in our country about it to help them in dealing with the repercussions of this pandemic, and its impact on the cultural, social and educational conditions in Palestine. We also request emergency technical and logistical support for relevant institutions in order to respond with the requirements and needs of such stage. All important releases and initiatives for specialized organizations are being circulated through local media and official press sites of the commission.

At the internal level of PNCECS

The staff of PNCECS continues to perform its tasks on line at home, using various electronic communication means and Tele working technique.

At the UNESCO level:

PNCECS follows up on every press release by UNESCO, its regional and field offices in the context of their issuances, releases and recommendations in relation to coping with the implications of Corona pandemic through circulating them on parties and institutions relevant, in addition to publishing them in local media and media official sites for the commission, for example:

- Publishing a guidance brochure to teach children at home in light of the escalating Corona crisis. The brochure was produced to deliver assistance and useful advice for parents in light of the spread of this pandemic which lead to schools closure.
- Circulating and disseminating UNESCO releases in relation to: How to plan for distance learning during the temporary schools closure. Due to Corona pandemic, the learning process for millions of children and students around the world is being disrupted. UNESCO has circulated ten recommendations for distance learning in Arabic language to guarantee the continuation of the learning process.



- Disseminating and circulating UNESCO online events as Global Network Learning Cities in responding to Corona crisis and discussing contingency plans, exchanging solutions and share distance learning approaches. UNESCO GNLC convened webinar on March.24,2020 at 1-2:20 pm for member and non-member states to take part in the webinar through videoconference technique.
- Promoting cooperation with UNESCO field office in Palestine to disseminate approved material as images, illustration videos in an attempt to unify efforts in fighting Corona pandemic. Emergency assistance is underway by UNESCO for relevant Palestinian institutions to assist them in bearing the burdens of the current challenges.
- A brochure was circulated by UNESCO Regional field office in Beirut, as illustrative graphics and images which were shared on how to continue on line learning with the students, and provide advice for teachers despite the situation .
- In the framework of supporting the efforts of UNESCO regional field office in Arab countries in this critical time, the office link was downloaded on the website of PNCECS and its national media sites regarding updates in education entitled: “Education in light of Covid-19, transforming crisis into opportunities.”
- Cultural initiatives launched by UNESCO were circulated and disseminated for the sake of supporting cultural industries and heritage. These aim at overcoming the difficulties encountering the industries due to social isolation
- imposed by Corona crisis on this sector.



At the level of Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO)

The Palestinian National Commission worked on :

- Disseminating and circulating ICESCO messages in terms of pictures, illustrations and graphics to raise public awareness about the risks of Corona, and educating them through info graphics. These illustrations aim at teaching them how to cope and face this global pandemic, and how to learn and work despite the crisis.
- Circulating what ICESCO has prepared as a list of open and free resources program so that producers of the educational content can use them in the layout of a program for distance learning.
- Interacting with ICESCO initiative to circulate national initiatives for education in light of the spread of Corona pandemic through a link so that member states can participate and benefit from national experiences. This link allows exploring many of distance learning applications launched by Islamic countries and other countries. The link was made available to the specialized parties and the official media sites for the Palestinian commission.
- Work is underway with ICESCO initiative “ICESCO kit for educational content creators”, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education to offer logistic support to member states most affected in light of the pandemic. The kit provides the required audio visual and digital devices, thus creating a technique to prepare and record the educational material to be made available for various educational stages.
- Interacting with ICESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education, in the context of an initiative called “How to spend your time in light of Corona spread?” This initiative is conducive to developing one’s artistic and literary creativity during the quarantine for this category of people. The competent parties offer a symbolic prize for best literary work (short story) and artistic work (paintings). Best works will be nominated during the next session of Conference for Ministers of Culture in the Arab world, and in the context of the closing ceremony for celebrating the capitals of Culture in the Islamic world. The initiative was circulated through PNCECS official media sites in coordination with ICESCO interaction committee through the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.



- In the context of ICESCO platform “ ICESCO Digital home”, the initiative of “Teaching Distant Arabic Language for Non-Arabic Speakers”(Learn Arabic language, be skillful at your home) was circulated at Palestinian university students and institutions adopting the same program, through PNCECS official media sites to guarantee continuation of the educational process, and guarantee benefits desired.
- Interacting with ICESCO Digital home through the Ministry of Culture in the context of its initiative “ Have Distance Access to Culture” addressing workers and officials at heritage sites, museums and national libraries to build their capacities and for students to use their time effectively during the quarantine, and to stimulate their artistic and innovative potential from distance. Instructions and prizes relevant to this initiative were circulated through PNCECS official media sites and parties relevant.
- Interacting with ICESCO to circulate national cultural initiatives on the member states and benefiting from their experiences. The Palestinian Ministry of Culture has adopted several initiatives to curb Corona pandemic effects through intensive activities simulating various aspects of literature, theater, music, and fine art. The ministry has funded those activities on its official website, moderated poetic recitals evenings, literary symposiums on line, as well as musical performances entitled" “musical clips under quarantine”. These were composed by young artists under quarantine, in addition to virtual exhibitions for artists on line entitled “your portrait from home”. Meaningful Monodramas were performed reflecting this unusual event. The Ministry has opened its official website to receive short stories and artistic portraits for children, and granting awards and prizes for winners.
- Disseminating ICESCO initiatives regarding the encounter of Corona pandemic on PNCECS website and to Ministry of Education, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research entitled: “A prize worth of 200000\$ to find an efficient cure to respond to Corona virus pandemic. Another initiative includes offering technical assistance to establish training units for local communities’ individuals to teach them how to manufacture antiseptics with a low cost in the member states.



At the level of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

- Disseminating and circulating ALECSO initiative for electronic learning, and enhancing open education to encounter the interruption of the education process due to Corona pandemic, and to put their accumulative knowledge and experience in the domain of available open educational resources, for example: Arab Network for open educational resources, Riwaq platform, and massive open on line courses (MOOCS) .
- Circulating a guidance for raising public awareness in the context of prevention from Corona virus risks in various languages (Arabic, English, Spanish, and Chinese) in addition to producing a sign language section for the guidance with electronic link.
- Nominees from the Ministry of Education have participated in a virtual classroom training session for the benefit of Arab teachers concerning the use of ALECSO platform-Arab Hub for Open Educational Resources (OER) to produce open digital educational content, and make them available in the context of ALECSO initiative to encounter disruption of education in all Arab countries, in light of Corona spread.
- The Palestinian National Commission has managed to provide financial support through ALECSO to implement cultural activities and programs in light of Corona crisis, for the benefit of the Palestinian Ministry of Culture. The Ministry, in turn, initiated to curb the effects of Corona on the cultural sector, and to work on the continuity of these cultural activities through the use of modern technological means, digital platforms and Technology communications. ALESCO has already supported part of these activities and programs.
- PNCECS Secretary General participated in an on- line platform for Secretary Generals for National Commissions in the Arab region, and members of executive board for ALECSO, in the presence of H.E Dr. Mohamad Ould Amar entitled” the reality of distance learning in time of Corona”. Secretary General, Dr. Dawas has reviewed the most important challenges and initiatives in the frame of the Palestinian experience to encounter the repercussions of Corona virus pandemic on the disruption of education, and the importance of circulating and disseminating best practices .
- ALECSO has welcomed the Ministry of Culture’s initiative to curb the effect of Corona on the cultural sector. The initiative was circulated among the Arab



National Commissions, and were invited to participate through electronic interactions in terms of the activities they see convenient.

At the level of similar national commissions:

PNCECS follows up on other national commissions in the context of their releases, contributions, experiences and initiatives in dealing with the spread of Corona pandemic. The staff of PNCECS circulates it through local media and official press sites of the commission.

At the media level:

PNCECS works on disseminating news, articles, reports and press interviews in the local audio-visual media, including various electronic mass media to stand on the efforts exerted by the Palestinian National Commission, as well as specialized, international and regional organizations (UNESCO, ICESCO, ALECSO) and the opportunities given by them to work with the specialized parties to provide their needs, increase their capacities and efficiency in coping with the challenges encountered by the relevant institutions in the State of Palestine, in light of Corona Pandemic.

