ANSH JAIN

TUNISIA

UNESCO

Topic 1: Governance and its Effects on Education

Education is number one priority for government of Tunisia. In Tunisia pre school education is divided into three segments that is Kindergarten followed by Kouttabs and then followed by preparatory year. All of this education is compulsory for all the residents of Tunisia. According to 2013 population census, Tunisia has 10.89 million people. According to Unicef.org Tunisia has a literacy rate of 98.2 for men and 96.1 for women aged between 15-24.[[1]](#footnote-1) Tertiary education opportunities in Tunisia have expanded rapidly during the past decade and total student numbers now approach 350,000. In total, there are 13 universities, 24 institutes of technological studies and 6 higher institutes of teacher training. Basic education in Tunisia is free and compulsory from 6-16 years of age. This lasts for 9 years. Tunisia's [Penal Code](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/61250/60936/F1198127290/TUN-61250.pdf) criminalises several forms of corruption, including [active](https://business-anti-corruption-2199079.hs-sites.com/corruption-dictionary?__hstc=40289853.f7e02cbe67fa980c642cb5cef006ffeb.1478657006956.1478657006956.1478657006956.1&__hssc=40289853.1.1478657006956&__hsfp=1879117827) and [passive bribery](https://business-anti-corruption-2199079.hs-sites.com/corruption-dictionary?__hstc=40289853.f7e02cbe67fa980c642cb5cef006ffeb.1478657006956.1478657006956.1478657006956.1&__hssc=40289853.1.1478657006956&__hsfp=1879117827), abuse of office, extortion and conflicts of interest, but the anti-corruption framework is not effectively enforced. Even though gift-giving and gift-receiving are criminalised, these practices are commonplace in Tunisia.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Tunisia national constituent assembly approved a new constitution for the country on January 25,2014. It was found to be one of the most progressive constitution as it recognizes Islam as state religion, protecting freedom of belief and gender parity in politics. It also ensures political pluralism by affirming the opposition rights. In urban areas, refugees are guaranteed access to basic services such as health care and education. They receive a relocation grant and help in securing accommodation from UNHCR’s partners, the Tunisian Red Crescent and Islamic Relief Worldwide. As well as financial assistance, refugees can participate in language courses and vocational training as well as income-generation projects. In late June, more than 600 refugees were living in the southern Tunisian towns of Ben Gardane and Medenine[[3]](#footnote-3). It is important policy-makers to identify the most costly corrupt practices in the public sector so that they can be targeted first. Unfortunately, very little research has been carried out to compare the costs of corruption in the education sector with that in other sectors. Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer provides the only instrument that can be used to make comparisons of corruption levels across public sectors. The policies that unesco has taken up are Publi**c** Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) **.** It aims to follow the money trail, mainly non salary expenditures . Tunisia strongly agrees to PETS as this is one of the best ways to keep an eye on the people when they do their non salary expenditure so that there is no chance for corruption to take place. Another policy formed by UNESCO is Quantitative Service Delivery Surveys (QSDS) . These surveys are basically used to collect quantitative data on the efficiency of the public spending and different aspects of front line services delivery usually represented by school. Tunisia is not in favour of QSDS as this measure teacher absenteeism and Tunisia thinks that this might lead to teachers not giving their 100 percent in teaching and might also lead to some protests .

Tunisian authorities are currently thinking of bringing changes in the 1951 Refugee convention which says that without a residency card, it is difficult for refugees to get a work permit plus Tunisia is already struggling with high unemployment rates. So the delegate thinks that there should be amendments in the act so that it becomes easy for the refugees to live in Tunisia which in turn also helps the country which is batting with high unemployment rates . Tunisia is also creating policies in order to provide education at refugee camps by hiring university students and teachers for part time jobs, at first note, it would give an internship offer to students aspiring to become teachers, also as they will be paid, there would not a burden for paying tuition fees. For teachers it would serve as extra income. This will have a positive effect on Tunisia GDP. By mid-2015, there were 15 million refugees under the global mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) — 5 million more than in 2010 (UNHCR, 2015. In Egypt, Niger, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Uganda, the percentage of refugees who are children exceeded 60% (UNHCR, 2015b). [[4]](#footnote-4) Tunisia is currently an active participator in terms of educating the Refugees. [[5]](#footnote-5)

Topic 2: Preservation of World Heritage Sites

Some might visit Tunisia for its beach and general culture, but there’s no doubt that history plays a massive part in the country’s tourism industry. Tunisia is one country which has managed to preserve a large amount of its famous and historic attractions, meaning that it’s most definitely possible to step back in time and see what life really was like for the Romans and beyond. While Tunisia continues to build a new democratic future and to reconstruct its economy in conventional ways, its new leaders and many Tunisians are also looking for inspiration in unlikely places – notably the country’s rich ancient history and culture. In an effort to pump life back into the struggling economy as a consequence of what happened after the fall of long-time ruler Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the country’s new government has promised to revive the shaky tourism industry by embracing ancient history and the diversity of culture across Tunisia as part of a new shared future. “When the revolution started in 2011 tourism stopped. There was no tourism in Tunisia. Now it’s slowly picking up and it’s coming back. Everywhere is fully booked, but you don’t see the tourists on the main streets in the capital. They are usually visiting the old Souq and the Roman baths,” says Hassanain Al Aydi, a former tour guide at the Ministry of Tourism who now works with the Ministry of Culture. “The ministry is encouraging every town in Tunisia to have its own heritage and traditional culture, and wants to preserve that. But it’s difficult.”[[6]](#footnote-6)Yet, despite cultural and ancient historical wealth akin to some of its European rivals, many of Tunisia’s archaeological sites like Carthage lay in relative disrepair with the tourism industry continuously suffering from a lack of confidence and fears about future political instability. Recently on 18 March,2016 there was a terrorist attack on BARDO NATIONAL MUSEUM in Tunis, Capital of Tunisia. Here is the statement given by Habib Essid, Tunisia’s Prime Minister-“I want the people of [Tunisia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/tunisia) to understand firstly and lastly that we are in a war with terror, and these savage minority groups will not frighten us,” said newly elected president Beji Caid Essebsi in an evening address to the nation. “The fight against them will continue until they are exterminated.”[[7]](#footnote-7)

Five C’s given by the UNESCO for World heritage convention are

1. CREDIBILITY
2. CONSERVATION
3. CAPACITY BUILDING
4. COMMUNICATION
5. COMMUNITIES

The 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage had two parts. The first one focuses on preservation of cultural sites while the second one focuses on conservation of nature.[[8]](#footnote-8) The number of countries around the globe that have signed the World Heritage Convention in the course of the last ten years has risen from 139 to 178. The number of States Parties who have submitted Tentative Lists complying with the format established by the Committee has grown from 33 to 132. New categories for World Heritage sites have also been promoted, such as the categories of cultural landscapes, itineraries, industrial heritage, deserts, coastal-marine and small-island sites. UNESCO has developed a comprehensive set of international instruments to protect cultural heritage. The [Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/1970-convention/) (1970) and the [World Heritage Convention](http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/iq) (1972) provide a solid basis to protect cultural heritage. [The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Properties in the Event of Armed Conflict](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/armed-conflict-and-heritage/) (1954) and its Protocols set further international standards to deal with the specific risks faced by heritage during conflict. In addition, the Statutes of the International Criminal Court have defined the intentional destruction of historical buildings as a war crime. This provides firm ground to address impunity related to such attacks.[[9]](#footnote-9) According to the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage act, UNESCO has presented some really commendable solution for preserving the Heritage , it wants member nations to adopt a general policy that aims to give the cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of community and to integrate the protection of that heritage. Tunisia completely agrees with this policy as it aims to help both the member nation and the world. “Globally, we need to better understand, monitor and address climate change threats to World Heritage sites,” said Mechtild Rössler, Director of UNESCO’s World Heritage Centre. “As the report’s findings underscore, achieving the Paris Agreement’s goal of limiting global temperature rise to a level well below 2 degrees Celsius is vitally important to protecting our World Heritage for current and future generations.”[[10]](#footnote-10) The new report lists 31 natural and cultural World Heritage sites in 29 countries that are vulnerable to increasing temperatures, melting glaciers, rising seas, intensifying weather events, worsening droughts and longer wildfire seasons. It documents climate impacts at iconic tourism sites—including [Venice](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/394/), [Stonehenge](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/373) and the [Galápagos Islands](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1/)—and other World Heritage sites such as South Africa’s [Cape Floral Region Protected Areas](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1007); the Port, Fortresses and city of [Cartagena](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/285), Colombia; and [Shiretoko peninsula](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1193) in Japan.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Tunisia thinks that working on the Management of resilient World Heritage properties requires designing and implementing appropriate adaptation measures, complemented by activities that contribute to [disaster risk management](http://whc.unesco.org/en/disaster-risk-reduction/), climate change mitigation and [sustainable development](http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/). A [report](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Tunisia/1/INDC%20Tunisie%20VF%205%20aout%20Valid.pdf) released last August by the Department of the Environment and Sustainable Development said Tunisia “is considered among the most exposed Mediterranean countries in terms of climate change”; the risk of rising temperatures and sea levels, droughts and floods “translate into a profound environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability.”[70 percent of Tunisia’s population and most of its industry](https://www.undp-aap.org/countries/tunisia) are located in low-lying coastal areas.

billion in 2015.At this month’s United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, [Prime Minister Habib Essid reiterated the nation’s September pledge](http://allafrica.com/stories/201512010684.html) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 41 percent before 2030. But Morched Garbouj, president of the local environmental organization SOS-BIAA, doesn’t believe the pledge represents an earnest commitment to environmental movements.The plan for reducing Tunisia’s carbon footprint is said to cost $20 billion and will depend heavily on international funding. All but 11 of the world’s nations have made a similar pledge, though many are smaller than Tunisia’s in terms of percentage reduction of carbon emissions.[[12]](#footnote-12) The abstaining nations include North Korea, Libya and Syria. Tunisia is in the same frustrating position as many countries in that it could bear the brunt of climate change, but it has little power to reverse the environmental effects.[[13]](#footnote-13)

Topic 3: Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

Since gaining independence from the French in 1956, Tunisian education sector has shown great progress. The government of [Tunisia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tunisia) has focused on developing an education system which produces a solid human capital base that could respond to the changing needs of a developing nation. Sustained structural reform efforts since the early 1990s,prudent macroeconomic policies, and deeper trade integration in the global economy have created an enabling environment for growth .This environment has been conducive to attain positive achievements in the education sector which placed Tunisia ahead of countries with similar income levels, and in a good position to achieve [MDGs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MDGs).[[14]](#footnote-14) According to the HDI 2007, Tunisia is ranked 90 out of 182 countries and is ranked 4th in [MENA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MENA) region just below Israel, Lebanon, and Jordan

The agenda for SDG 4 EDUCATION 2030 is “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*”*.[[15]](#footnote-15) The Goals and targets of Education 2030 the next fifteen years are the Five Ps of critical importance: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. The vision of UNESCO is to transform lives through education, recognizing the important role of education as a main driver of development and in achieving the other proposed SDGs. UNESCO says that it will ensure the provision of 12 years of free, publicly funded, equitable quality primary and secondary education, of which at least nine years are compulsory, leading to relevant learning outcomes.[[16]](#footnote-16) In sector of education, Tunisia completely agrees with providing the provision of free education for 12 years, Education is one the basic rights to a human being.

Tunisia is already providing its citizens free and compulsory education for children aging 6-16. Currently, school enrolment rates are high in Tunisia by regional standards, with a gross attendance rate of over 100% at the primary level and around 91% at the secondary level, according to the World Bank. In 1960 the government passed a higher education law that led to the establishment of the University of Tunis, which was responsible for overseeing all existing institutes, faculties and schools in the country. In 1988 it was split in three institutions, all under the University of Tunis name.[[17]](#footnote-17) According to a 2014 British Council report titled “Education in North Africa”, since then the system has developed to include 198 public higher education institutions, 63 private institutions, 24 higher institutes of technical studies and six higher institutes for teacher training. The expansion of the higher education system led a boom from 17,000 students in 1975 to half a million students in 2015, which represents an increase in the enrolment rate at the tertiary level from 2.6% in 1974 to 35.2% by 2015, according to the British Council’s report. Tunisia ranked 73rd out of 144 countries on higher education and training, according to the World Economic Forum’s “The Africa Competitiveness Report 2015”.[[18]](#footnote-18)

Tunisia will work on the integration of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in its new National Plan for Development, and will fully support their implementation at regional and international levels. And in the framework of its commitment to South-South Cooperation, Tunisia will also endeavor to promote joint projects with brotherly and friendly countries highly the African Sub-Saharan countries. [[19]](#footnote-19)

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