



unicef   
for every child

©UNICEF Jordan / 2020 / Moises

## UNICEF EDUCATION

### Education Case Study

## JORDAN

**Learning Bridges  
accelerates  
learning for over  
600,000 students**

**12 October 2022**

The Government of Jordan closed all education establishments in March 2020. When schools re-opened in September 2021, nearly half of all schools were on rotation due to COVID-19 space restrictions, causing affected students to lose 50 *per cent* of their in-person learning time. The Ministry of Education, with UNICEF support, launched [Learning Bridges](#) in September 2020. It is a national blended learning programme that links printed materials with online resources to provide weekly activities based on core curricula. In the second semester of the 2021/2022 academic year, Learning Bridges reached nearly 625,000 students (57 *per cent* female) in Grades 4 to 10 in public schools.

Learning Bridges is an innovative approach which links textbooks and technology, school and home, and subject knowledge with applied learning. Every child in Grades 4 to 9 receives a printed activity weekly with guidance on how parents can support. Grade 10 students undertake longer projects. Learning Bridges activities are also available to download on the UNICEF Jordan [Learning Bridges](#) page in addition to the Ministry of Education's [DARSAK online learning platform](#). Every activity has its own QR code linking to an online resource with audio content and extra resources. Teachers receive weekly guidance and an online resource to support teaching. Audio files are embedded to provide accessibility for children with visual impairments or who have difficulty reading. During year one of Learning Bridges, UNICEF also directly provided printed weekly activities, as well as monthly data packages, for teachers and students in the refugee camps.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education prepared an [online training](#) to strengthen teachers' pedagogical understanding of blended learning. An online refresher training building on best practices will be launched in October 2022. Learning Bridges Champions in each Directorate supported teachers to be flexible and

innovate in their delivery of the curriculum. This included promoting the use of [Good practice padlets](#); large notice boards of children's work for use by schools and supervisors which have had an average of 100,000 views a month.

## RESULTS

An [impact study](#) undertaken by UNICEF and Education Development Trust confirmed that in the first academic year of implementation, Learning Bridges:

- reached almost 500,000 students (65 *per cent* girls) in Grades 4 to 9 in over 70 *per cent* of public schools in 2020/2021
- enabled 30,000 teachers to access online teacher education on blended learning – a first in Jordan
- provided access to online learning resources: as an example, between March and May 2021, over 350,000 visitors clicked on Learning Bridges activities with the intention of downloading from UNICEF's web page.

A survey undertaken by the Ministry of Education in May 2022 confirmed that in the second year of implementation (2021/2022), the Learning Bridges programme reached almost 625,000 students (57 *per cent* female) in Grades 4 to 10.

In October 2022, 38 schools, including those in refugee camps, were recognised as part of a national Learning Bridges competition. More than 25 *per cent* of all public schools nationally participated. The competition led by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF aimed to promote best practices to support excellence in teaching and learning.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- **Learning Bridges sparked innovation among teachers.** Teachers have been challenged to break away from the textbooks and think creatively about curriculum and pedagogy. They have moved from

a heavy reliance on textbooks to embrace new teaching styles, including problem-solving and investigation. Many reported improvements in their digital skills and ability to produce engaging and participatory lessons.

- **Learning Bridges is accelerating children's learning.** Learning Bridges enabled the Ministry to identify core learning objectives. Weekly Learning Bridges activities are all cross curricula, aligned directly to that week's taught content for each grade group. This makes curriculum delivery more effective and accelerates learning. In the recent impact study, the Ministry of Education viewed the cross curricular approach as one of the greatest successes of Learning Bridges.
- **Learning Bridges is 'building back better'.** In addition to strengthening skills in blended learning and the use of technology, Learning Bridges improved overall teacher pedagogy. This has helped teachers to improve their teaching practices and support children's learning recovery. Such an approach calls for all teachers to be prepared and supported to address learning losses among their students as schools reopened.

## NEXT STEPS

The Learning Bridges Programme is included in the Jordan's [Education During Emergency Plan](#) – with budget committed – as a key strategy to support children's learning recovery. Learning Bridges continues to be used in schools as a blended learning resource for teachers to recover and accelerate children's learning. This year, UNICEF, the Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Digital Economy are piloting Learning Bridges Clubs in 20 community centres. These will create links between schools and the community and support the most vulnerable students. UNICEF and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are also implementing Learning Bridges in 169 UNRWA schools in Jordan within the 2022-2023 academic year.

**Cost effectiveness:** In the first year of implementation, UNICEF committed US \$500,000 to Learning Bridges. The Ministry of Education was able to leverage additional funding from donors which supported printing and hiring of 12 project writers. The national digital platform, which is used by teacher and students to access online resources, costs UNICEF only US \$12 per month. In Year 3, the Ministry of Education will print materials directly using donor funding.

For more information, please contact:

UNICEF Jordan Country Office: [Amman@unicef.org](mailto:Amman@unicef.org)  
© UNICEF October 2022