

Regional Workshop

Promoting Integrity and Countering Corruption: The Role of the Education Sector

26-27 June 2025

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Programme



Background

In collaboration with the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is organizing a regional workshop titled **"Promoting Integrity and Countering Corruption: The Role of the Education Sector"**, in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 26–27 June 2025. This workshop is organized in the framework of <u>UNDP's regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries (ACIAC)</u>, implemented in partnership with the <u>Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)</u>.

The workshop builds on discussions from the Regional Expert Group Meeting on Integrity in the Education Sector held in Beirut on 12–13 June 2025, as well as the meetings convened in Baghdad on 4 June 2024. Its objective is to broaden the dialogue to include the role of the education sector—across all levels—in promoting integrity and combating corruption. This will focus on two main axes: (1) issues related to integrity within the education sector itself, and (2) issues related to integrity education across various educational levels, in line with broader efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 4 on inclusive, equitable and quality education, and Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

It will be attended by officials from anti-corruption and integrity commissions, representatives from ministries responsible for the education sector in the Arab region, in addition to experts from research centers, private sector institutions, and specialized civil society organizations. The workshop will address three main dimensions of integrity in the education sector: policy integrity, academic integrity, and operational integrity. It will also facilitate the exchange of experiences and practices related to integrating integrity concepts into education at various levels in Arab countries, while also reviewing relevant international experiences, with the aim of identifying general directions to deepen this work in the future.

The regional workshop will be conducted in person (with the possibility for online participation) in the Arabic and English languages with simultaneous interpretation available to participants. The outcome documents will be made available at <u>www.undp-aciac.org</u> within one month of the completion of the workshop. For further information, please contact us at <u>aciac@undp.org</u>.

Agenda

Day One: Thursday, 26 June 2025

08:30 – 09:30 Arrival of Participants and Registration

09:30 – 10:30 Session 1: Integrity, Education, and Sustainable Development

Objective: This session aims to welcome participants, facilitate networking, and frame the workshop in terms of its objectives, themes, and expected outcomes, within a broader vision of the role of education in enhancing integrity and countering corruption from a sustainable development perspective.

Welcome Remarks

- H.E Dr. Mary Kawar, Director of the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States
- H.E Mr. Hazem Al-Majali, Board Member, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan

Integrity, Education, and Sustainable Development

• Dr. Ahmed Sakr Achour, International Expert on Governance and Institutional Reform, Professor at Alexandria University, Egypt

Corruption Risk Management as an Entry Point to Enhancing Integrity in the Education Sector

• Mr. Arkan El Seblani, Regional Chief Anti-Corruption and Integrity Advisor and Project Manager, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:00 Session 2: Integrity in Education Sector Policies

Objective: To explore concepts and practices of integrity in the development and implementation of education sector policies, and their role in building fair, inclusive, and high-quality education systems. The session will also highlight key steps for effective implementation, successful experiences, and best practices in governance and decision-making.

Moderator

• Mr. Haytham Yassine, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States

Panel

- Dr. Ahmed Sakr Achour, International Expert on Governance and Institutional Reform, Professor at Alexandria University, Egypt
- Mr. Yasser Akkaoui, Expert Advisor and Lecturer of Corporate Governance
- Mr. Hamdi Khawaja, Director General of Planning and Policies, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, State of Palestine
- Dr. Cendrella Abou Fayyad, Director, Conservatoire national des arts et métiers

Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Session 3: Academic Integrity in the Education Sector

Objective: To deepen the discussion on academic integrity, focusing on issues such as academic dishonesty, conflicts of interest, research ethics, the role of technology, and fostering a culture of integrity. The session will facilitate the exchange of successful experiences toward building a shared understanding of risks and effective preventive measures.

Moderator

• Mr. Haytham Yassine, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States

Speakers

- Dr. Kleib Kleib, Member, National Anti-Corruption Commission, Republic of Lebanon
- Dr. Lina Shbeeb, Former Minister of Transport and Member of Jordan Transparency Center
- Mr. Ali Fayyad, Executive Director, Partners Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Dr. Rami Najem, Director, Faculty of Information, Lebanese University

Discussion

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Session 4: Operational Integrity in the Education Integrity

Objective: To deepen the discussion on operational integrity, particularly in student affairs. Key topics include admissions, assessment and grading, scholarships and financial aid, data protection, and disciplinary procedures. The session aims to foster shared understanding and preventive measures by drawing on best practices and experiences.

Moderator

• Mr. Yazan Shawaqfeh, Lawyer and Member of the Integrity Guardians Regional Youth Network

Panel

- Dr. Nizar Barkouti, Senior Legal Expert and Anti-Corruption Advisor, Republic of Tunisia
- Dr. Rayan Haykal, Vice President, Sagesse University, Republic of Lebanon
- Dr. Amani Jarrar, Philadelphia University, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Ms. Maissa Khalfi, Member of the Integrity Guardians Regional Youth Network

Discussion

Day Two: Friday 27 June 2025

09:00 – 10:30 Session 5: Integrating Integrity Concepts Across Educational Stages

Objective: To enable experts to propose effective ways to integrate integrity concepts into education and higher education, with a focus on transparency, accountability, community participation, monitoring mechanisms, and law enforcement. The session will also examine major challenges and explore innovative solutions based on international best practices.

Moderator

• H.E Muhideen Touq, Head, National Center for Curriculum Development, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Panel

• Mr. Elie Bitar, Head of Grants Department, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Republic of Lebanon

- Dr. Khaled Kdah, Head of Integrity and Prevention Department, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Dr. Asma Ghachem, Director, Anti-Corruption Master's Program, Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences, Carthage University, Republic of Tunisia
- Dr. Marwan Shanwany, Head of Education Committee, Egyptian Junior Business Association, and Head of Capital Schools, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Ms. Rula Kababji, Head of Policies, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, State of Palestine

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 13:30 Session 6: Towards Regional Recommendations on Education Integrity and Integrity Education in the Arab Region

Objective: This session aims to support the formulation of clear and actionable regional recommendations to facilitate cooperation among Arab countries on enhancing education sector integrity and integrity education, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderator

• Mr. Arkan El Seblani, Regional Chief Anti-Corruption and Integrity Advisor and Project Manager, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Working Groups

Presentation of Results

Closing Remarks

13:30 Lunch
