



1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ESCWA Stories: An initiative for a better tomorrow!

“ESCWA Stories have become part of our school curriculum!”

Al-Kawthar Secondary School – Al-Mabarrat, Lebanon

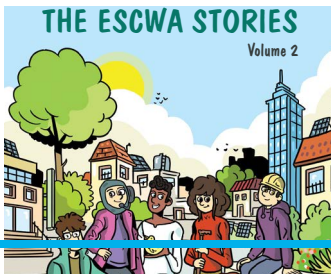
The young people of today are the leaders of tomorrow. They are our hope for a better future. Therefore, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) seeks to build a generation raised on the United Nations values, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the principles of peace, justice and inclusion. These principles will shape the behaviour of our young people as they become the future leaders of the world.

As sustainable development ideals are not always taught to young people in accessible ways, ESCWA stepped in to reduce this gap by publishing the ESCWA Stories comic book in 2021. The book narrates the adventures of six Arab young people who represent ESCWA. United by their faith in a brighter tomorrow, they work to achieve development in their neighbourhood, mirroring the work ESCWA undertakes to achieve the SDGs in the Arab region. The narrators are a child and her grandfather; their intergenerational dialogue represents the continued past-to-future concept of sustainable development.

In the pilot phase of the initiative, the book was distributed to 750 students across seven schools in Lebanon. After a year of creative work and extracurricular activities with the ESCWA Stories team, students were invited to ESCWA Headquarters in Beirut where, inspired by the ESCWA Stories, they let their talents in drawing, painting, performing, dancing, singing and writing shine!

In The 2022-2023 school year, ESCWA is expanding the project and sharing its message with over 7000 students in Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait. The aspiration is to cover the entire Arab region in the future.

Volume II has been released, and the stories go on ...



How will the initiative's goals be achieved?

“ School students (aged 8-14) in target countries will have an increased understanding of the SDGs ”

As with the pilot phase, the comic book will continue to mainstream the United Nations values and the SDG principles in school curriculums. This will instil the new generation with the values and principles needed to build a flourishing society, economy and environment.

“ Inspired by the ESCWA Stories, students with visual and learning disabilities developed the comic book in Braille. ”

Al Hadi Institute for Deaf, Blind and Learning Disabilities, Lebanon

In 2022-2023, ESCWA will expand the initiative. It will continue to work with the seven pilot schools, partnering with an additional nine schools in Lebanon and several more in Jordan and Kuwait. These will include public and private schools, educational institutions in underprivileged areas, and those that work with orphans and students with disabilities.

Every year, a new volume of the ESCWA Stories will be published, so that the children of the region grow up alongside the comic book characters.

Educational institutions in target countries have an increased capacity to mainstream the SDGs in school curriculums

The pilot established a partnership between ESCWA, the Lebanese National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, aimed at facilitating the delivery of the ESCWA Stories initiative in schools.



ESCWA Stories in Braille.



Impact of ESCWA Stories



Latifa loved the ESCWA Stories comic book so much that she painted a painting on equality by candlelight, because there was no electricity.

The painting now hangs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

“Thanks to the ESCWA Stories, our students are now closer than ever to becoming global citizens.”

Collège des Sœurs des Saints Cœurs – Bauchi, Lebanon

Passion and drive! This is what the ESCWA Stories strive to foster within the young people of the Arab region, inspiring them to act according to the principles of the SDGs and to take the reins as the generation of future global leaders.

This will be achieved by mainstreaming the SDGs in schools and engaging students in activities that stir their imaginations and stimulate their critical thinking about developmental struggles in their daily lives and how to resolve them.

As we aim for 2030, the ESCWA Stories are a guide along the journey!



A child made an apron from recycled packaging!

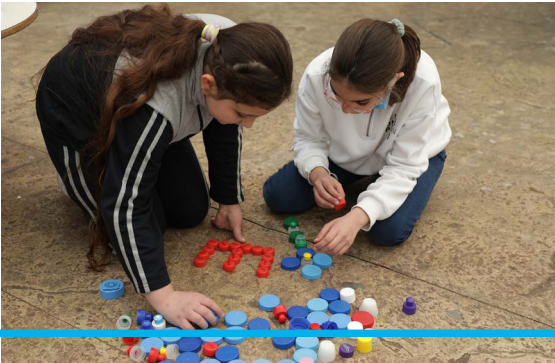


Inspiration in action ...

Inspired by the United Nations values and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the children let their talents shine. They put their hearts into singing poignant songs and put stories into dance. Their writing, paintings and drawings told the stories of a thousand voices. We were moved by their vivid imaginations. And through their artistry, we saw the vision of the Arab region we aspire to. Their art depicted the future of the region far more eloquently than our words can do!



Abi Bakr El Siddeeq School Al-Makassed







Mekhitarist Fathers' School





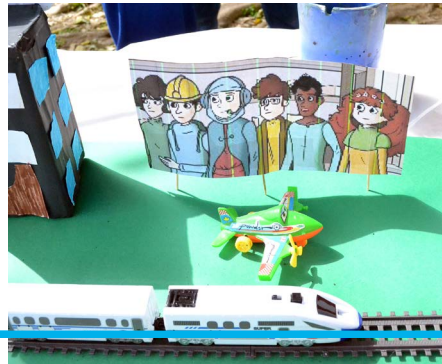
Al Kawthar Secondary School







Rafic Hariri High School, Saida



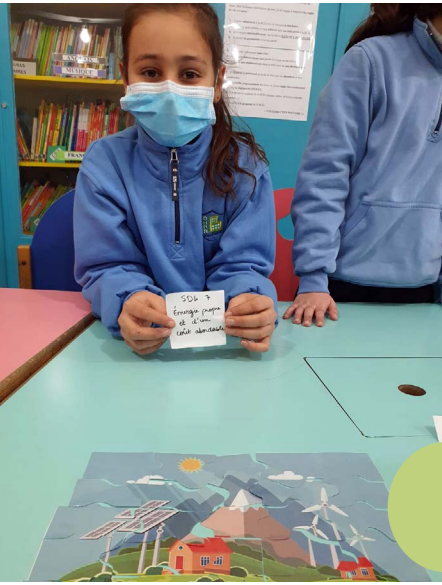


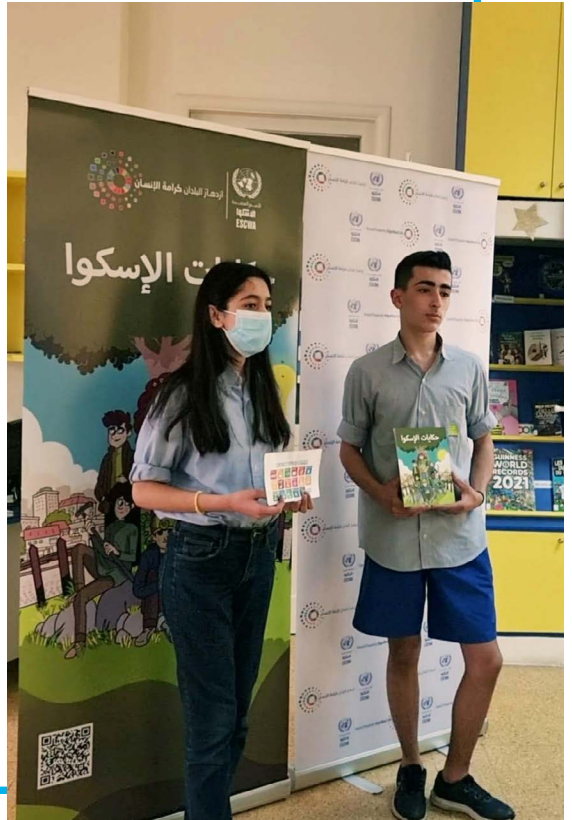
Ali Bin Abi Taleb College Al-Makassed





Le Collège des Soeurs des Saints-Cœurs, Bauchrieh





Al Hadi Institute for Deaf, Blind, and Learning Disabilities







ESCWA Stories Day

June 17th, 2022









Towards a better future ...

Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and our hope for a bright and promising future.

They dream of a secure, stable and prosperous region.

It is up to us, whose decisions will determine the immediate future, to ensure that this dream comes true.

