



United Nations  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

## Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE

2018/12

Ramallah, 5 October 2018

### “The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher” central theme at today’s celebration of World Teacher’s Day in Ramallah



This year World Teachers’ Day will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes education as a fundamental right for all. This year’s theme has been chosen to remind the global community that the right to equitable and inclusive education cannot be achieved without the right to trained and qualified teachers. It highlights that teachers, according to the Education 2030 Framework for Action and SDG4, must be *adequately trained, recruited and remunerated, motivated and supported within well-resourced, efficient and effectively governed systems.*

During the welcoming remarks, the Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Sabri Saidam, highlighted the excellence of Palestinian students and expressed his deep respect for the teacher force in Palestine, *who continue to stand strong despite the challenges and policy changes of the past year.* Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative to Palestine, commended the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) on the implementation of the National Teacher Education Strategy and further stressed that *this is the time to increase our focus on the qualification of secondary as well as technical*



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*vocational education teachers. He emphasized that teachers are critical foundation of every society's long-term strength and therefore must be provided with continued training opportunities and professional development, based on appropriate qualifications.*

Mr. Muawiya E'mar, UNRWA's Chief of Education stressed that the Agency is doing *its utmost best to fill the funding gap in order to keep providing education to all UNRWA students.* He highlighted UNRWA's continuous efforts of investing in its teachers *through professional development opportunities in order to provide them with the necessary tools to transfer knowledge to our children.* Ms. Etona Ekole, Deputy Special Representative of UNICEF stated that *we must remember that teachers are investments in the future and that this is why today's teachers need the necessary support and training, improved employment conditions and quality recruitment.* She further emphasized that Palestine can *only be proud of its teacher force, which is growing stronger every day.*

The opening remarks were followed by a symposium on the achievements and challenges in Palestine towards more qualified teachers. The roundtable discussion saw as speakers Dr. Basri Saleh, Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Sofia Al Rimawi, Acting Director General of the National Institute for Educational Training (NIET) and Dr. Inas Naser, Dean of the Education Faculty at Al-Quds University. The debate was followed by an awarding ceremony for the present teachers from challenge schools in Area C.

World Teachers' Day held every year on 5 October globally, is a UNESCO initiative, devoted to celebrate every teacher, from pre-primary to higher education, and in all types of settings, aiming to ensure that they are qualified, supported and adequately recruited to guarantee everyone their right to education.

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit [www.unesco.org/ramallah](http://www.unesco.org/ramallah) and visit us on : [Unesco Ramallah Office](https://www.facebook.com/unesco.ramallah)

For more information on this event, please contact: Majd Beltaji, Public Information Officer of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at [m.beltaji@unesco.org](mailto:m.beltaji@unesco.org)