# UNESCO
## for the people

# UNESCO was established in 1945 to build peace in the minds of all women and men.

Our mandate brings people together through international cooperation in :

**Education**

**Sciences & Ocean**

**Culture & Heritage**

**Communication & Information**

Through these fields, UNESCO's longstanding global expertise addresses the greatest challenges of our time, empowering people and societies with the knowledge, skills and values needed to transform lives, promote inclusion and mutual understanding, and advance equitable and sustainable development.

To deliver on this mandate, we mobilize 5 complementary core functions:

**Sharing ideas**

**Setting global standards**

**Disseminating knowledge**

**Building skills and capacities**

**Fostering cooperation**

2 Global Priorities:

**Africa**

**Gender Equality**

2 Priority Groups:

**Youth**

**Small Island Developing States**

# 80 years of global impact

**1945** UNESCO is born

**1952** Universal Copyright Convention

**1954** Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

**1954** Creation of CERN (European Council for Nuclear Research)

**1960** Launch of the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia (till 1980)

**1960** Convention against Discrimination in Education

**1964** Launch of the The General History of Africa (11 volumes and continuing...)

**1965** Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System

**1966** Recommendation on Teachers

**1970** Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property

**1971** The Man and the Biosphere Programme

**1972** Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

**1989** Convention on Technical and Vocational Education

**1991** Windhoek Declaration: A landmark declaration by African journalists that inspired the creation of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May

**1997** Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights

**2001** Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage

**2003** Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

**2005** International Convention against Doping in Sport

**2005** Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions

**2019** Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education

**2021** Recommendations on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence & Open Science

**2025** Recommendation on the Ethics of Neurotechnology

# A global family

bringing together governments, institutions, experts, NGOs and civil society.

**53**
**Field offices,** Headquarters in Paris

**10**
**UNESCO Specialized Institutes**

**4,800+**
**Personnel**, from
**160+**
**Nationalities**

**1,270+**
**World Heritage sites**

**790+**
**Biospheres Reserves**

**240+**
**Global Geoparks**

900 million people live in our designated sites, which span 13 million km² across land and sea.

**840+**
**Intangible Cultural Heritage elements**

**570+**
**Memory of the World Documentary Heritage items**

**200**
National Commissions

**130+**
Affiliated Centers of expertise

**420+**
Learning Cities

**500+**
Private sector partners

**1,100+**
Affiliated University Chairs

**10,000+**
Associated Schools

**400+**
Creative Cities

**440+**
NGOs

# Advancing peace, empowering people

**Empowering learners and teachers for the future through strong and resilient education systems.** As the lead UN agency for education and coordinator of SDG 4, UNESCO advances inclusive and quality education for all, fostering the knowledge, skills and values that advance peace, human rights and sustainable development.

**Harnessing multidisciplinary, ethical and inclusive natural, social and human sciences for people, societies and the planet.** UNESCO empowers scientists, strengthens the science-policy nexus, and advances open science, ethical STI, water security and ecosystems protection, while promoting inclusion, sport and intercultural dialogue.

**Ocean science for the "ocean we need for the future we want".** Through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the UN Ocean Decade, UNESCO advances ocean observations, data sharing, early warning systems and sustainable ocean planning, capacity building and ocean literacy.

**Culture for people and communities: from heritage to creativity.** UNESCO safeguards heritage sites and cultural heritage in all its forms, combats illicit trafficking, empowers artists and creative industries, and promotes cultural diversity, harnessing culture as a force for peace, resilience and sustainable development.



**Freedom of expression and access to information to empower people and build information-resilient knowledge societies.** UNESCO promotes press freedom, access to information and the safety of journalists, while strengthening independent media, media and information literacy, and information integrity in the digital age.

**Leveraging intersectorality to address complex challenges and opportunities.** Drawing on its unique expertise across education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO delivers integrated and multidisciplinary responses to the most pressing global challenges of our time.

# People we serve

# Partnering for the people

UNESCO amplifies its global impact through partnerships with **governments**, the **private sector** and **multilateral partners**, combining financial resources, expertise and networks to advance its mandate and deliver results for people worldwide.

Partners engage with UNESCO in different ways:

**Strategic and thematic partnerships**

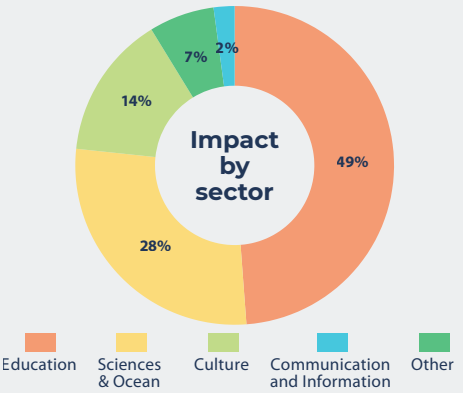
Aligning around shared priorities and long-term ambitions.

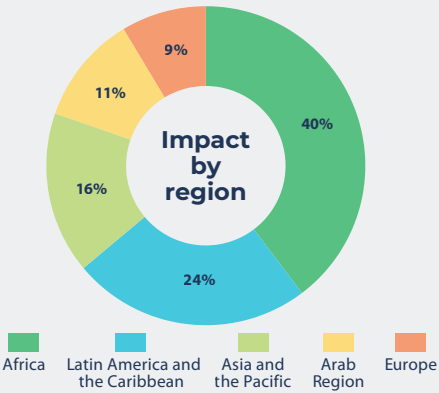
**Expertise and in-kind contributions**

Contributing knowledge, data, technology, services and other resources.

**Multi-stakeholder engagement**

Bringing together institutions, companies, foundations and networks to mobilize collective action.



**Since wars begin in the minds of women and men,**
**it is in the minds of women and men that**
**the defences of peace must be constructed.**

—

UNESCO, 1945
(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Partnering with UNESCO

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