UNICEF Iran and the Ministry of Education (MOE) have been trialling a Global Education Project in pilot schools in four provinces in Iran for four years. Following a successful start, some uncertainties remained within sections of the MOE, teacher education organisations and schools on how or whether to expand the initiative.

Global Education teachers faced a range of problems. There was no clear agreement about the nature and content of Global Education, and teachers must teach this student-centred program in addition to an already crowded national curriculum. UNICEF Iran requested CCI Australia to assist the MOE to resolve these perceived issues. The project was undertaken over a one-year period between 2004 and 2005.

Initiative

CCI Australia completed an initial needs analysis and educational audit in-country in November-December 2004. The CCI team consulted with stakeholders, including MOE officers and school representatives, in Bandar Abbas, Esfahan, Tabriz and Tehran. There was general agreement about the need for reform in Iran’s national curriculum for schools, textbook development, as well as school governance and management.

During a second mission to Iran in April 2005, CCI Australia provided intensive training throughout Iran about curriculum and school governance models. Workshop participants were provided with detailed training materials and reports prepared by the consultants. Subsequent reports reviewing the workshops included detailed implementation models for reform in Iran’s national curriculum and school governance.

The final stage of the project provided an intensive 10-day workshop for educators and teacher trainers throughout Iran in order to build local capacity in pre-service and in-service teacher education programs. CCI Australia, in partnership with the MOE and UNICEF Iran, developed strategic planning documents such as Global Education Expansion and Public Awareness and Strategies for Future Interventions.

The project was supported by four internationally experienced consultants from CCI Australia. The project engendered a mutually supportive and trusting relationship between the consultancy team and leaders within the Curriculum Development Centre of the MOE. Throughout the project, CCI Australia, with the support of UNICEF Iran, was able to meet a range of emerging needs and requirements of the MOE that were unforeseen at the beginning of the project.

Following CCI Australia’s inputs, the MOE is now ready to develop a new national curriculum and a revised pre-service and in-service education curriculum that is student-centred and relevant to the needs of Iran’s young people.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact international@curriculum.edu.au