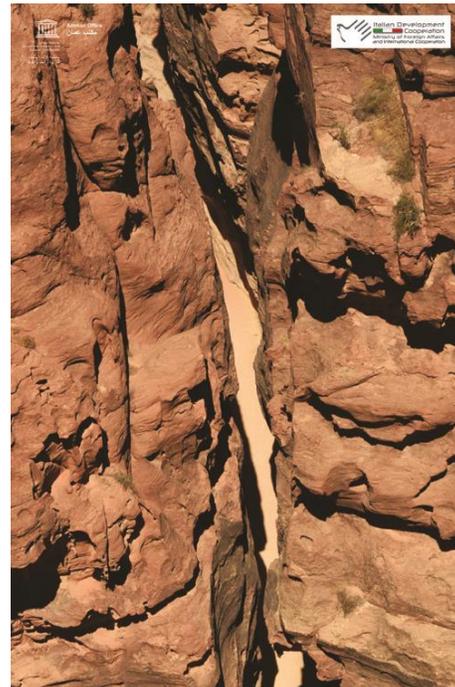


# Jordan: Taking Action for Sustainable Development



Students explore the 'Siq Al Barid', a smaller 'Siq' in the Northern part of the Petra Archaeological Park. © UNESCO



'Siq' at Petra © UNESCO/Agnes Montanari

## What are the bold actions being taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Jordan?

From cultural heritage to cultural and creative industries, culture is both enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Children and youth are the agents of social change and can contribute significantly to the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, says the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

UNESCO and Petra National Trust, a not-for-profit NGO that

advocates for the environment, antiquities and Petra, the region's cultural heritage, have focused much of their efforts on children and young people from the six main villages surrounding Petra so they can become strong ambassadors for the preservation of the Petra site.

Educational programmes are currently under way and one of these is a series of nine workshops aimed at raising awareness of Petra and the UNESCO-led "Siq Stability" project. The "Siq" is a 1.2km

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*Petra is a part of me. It is the jewel of Jordan and we need to spread the word.*

**Huda Amareen**  
Participant from the  
surrounding community of  
Wadi Musa

”

*It is so important for Jordanians to take responsibility for protecting the work of the Nabataeans - they did good work!*

**Abrar, age 13**  
Participant



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naturally formed gorge that snakes through the sandstone cliffs, serving as the main entrance to the site. The Siq is one of Petra's most endangered areas, in which environmental risks pose a major threat to the cultural heritage of the site and the visitors.

Implemented by Petra National Trust and under the supervision of UNESCO, children and youth are educated on the significance of the site, the risks the project is striving to mitigate in the 'Siq' and the importance of protecting Petra's inherent beauty and richness.

In total, 150 local children and youth from age groups 10-12 years and 13-15 years have been trained in the last quarter of 2016 and more are expected to be trained in 2017.

## ***Why do the above actions matter to the people in Jordan?***

The cultural sector is a driver of sustainable development: it generates income; creates decent jobs; and improves livelihoods.

Petra is one of the world's richest and largest archaeological sites set in a

dominant red sandstone landscape and inscribed in the World Heritage List in 1985 in light of its "Outstanding Universal Value".

## ***What SDGs have been particularly advanced through the project?***

UNESCO Office in Amman provides technical assistance to the Government of Jordan to adopt resilient management practices, aimed at the preservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage (Goal 11, target 11.4.1).

Through the application of disaster risk reduction strategies at the local level, the project also aims to have the Government of Jordan implement educational and awareness raising activities geared towards children and youth on disaster preparedness, the mitigation of disaster risks and climate change phenomena (Goal 13, target 13.1, 13.3).



Students use colored sand mixed with plaster to create versions of the sandstone found in Petra. © UNESCO



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