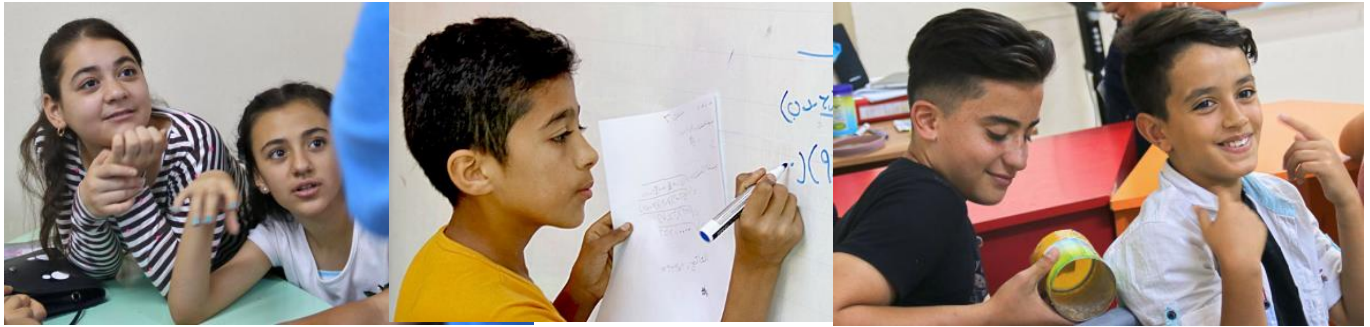


The Experiential Learning Objects (xLOBs)

Learning designs that significantly improve the learning outcomes of existing educational systems and empower children and youth to meeting the challenges and capitalize on the opportunities of the 21st century.



THE xLOBs INITIATIVE?

It is an **educational initiative** that integrates learning resources and teacher development, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and its national curriculum. xLOBs leverage technology. The xLOBs backbone is a repository of xLOBs (Portal)

WHO WE ARE?

We are a research team from Birzeit University that has established an educational initiative that integrates learning materials, teacher professional development, and technology in multiple educational setting

xLOBs are led by the Unit for Learning Innovation a division within the Center for Continuing Education (CCE) at the University. CCE is an innovation hub that is constantly investigating local development needs, exploring local and global trends, researching them and developing or adapting solutions suited to the local context.

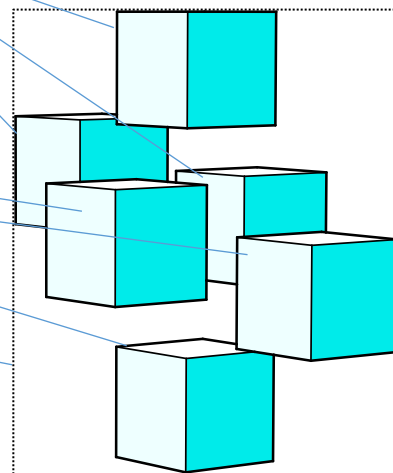
to create new learning paradigms suitable to the current and future learning needs of our children and youth. The initiative's backbone is a

repository of locally produced Experiential Learning Objects (xLOBs) that integrate subject knowledge with life skills and citizenship education **and directly interface with national curricula.**

WHAT IS AN xLOB?

An Experiential Learning Object (xLOBs) a learning design that contain several building blocks which when combined; produce an active and stimulating learning process. These include:

- Learning resources** that can be delivered physically in the classroom or across the network like text book extracts, articles, digital images or photos, Khan Academy lessons, video or audio snippets, stories, animations, basic gadgets and tinkering material from every-day life and connected and non-connected electronic devices;
- Learning activities** and applications of the knowledge in contexts that are meaningful and stimulating to students and seamlessly integrate life-skills and citizenship education with subject content. They are designed to entice students to constantly produce knowledge; and
- Instructional strategies** that glue and integrate the different elements of the learning object together. These strategies are structured to be easy to use and designed to support teachers deploy strong pedagogy as they facilitate learning with xLOBs. They demand of teachers to constantly reflect and develop their learning practices as they deal with the unpredictable learning outcomes and behavior of their students.



WHY xLOBs?

xLOBs is an indigenous design by local educators and research teams responding to challenges and needs of the local context. xLOBs have a positive impact on the learning / educational cycle:

Students

- Achieve significantly higher learning outcomes
- Are challenged to constantly create knowledge, not just consume it
- xLOBs create meanings for students: it gives them a “cause” to learn.
- Integrate life-skills and citizenship
- Gender Responsive

Teachers

- xLOBs give teachers the tools to inspire, facilitate, and partner with students in their learning journey.
- Teacher empowerment and professional development are inherent within the xLOBs implementation model: learning through application; communities of practice, and on-going support and reinforcement.
- Facilitates gender responsiveness among teachers

Learning Environments

- xLOBs provide a stimulating and active learning environment.
- They break the artificial walls between schools and the real world they live in;
- They Overcome the traditional “barriers” between the various disciplines, by integrating knowledge areas across disciplines

Educational Systems

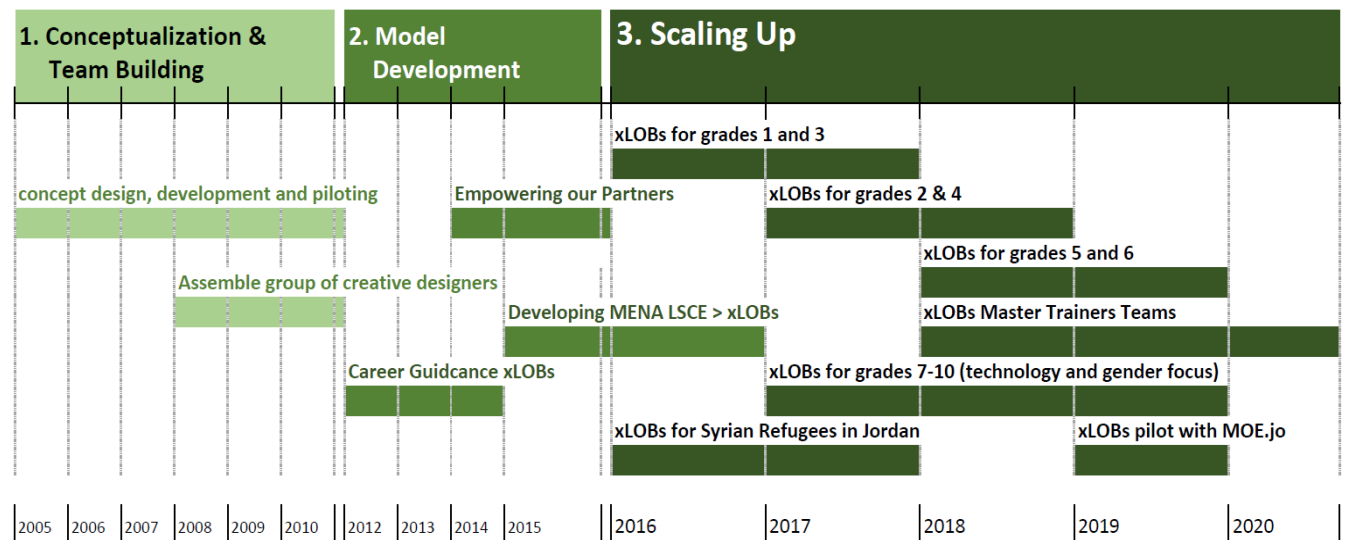
- xLOBs seamlessly integrate into national curricula strategies like active learning, life skills, citizenship education, technology integration, rights and gender responsiveness.
- xLOBs are modular and flexible objects that can be readily ported and adapted from one educational system to another in the region.
- They fill a serious gap in stimulating and relevant educational content in Arabic.
- The xLOBs “engine” can be used in multiple learning pathways: formal, non-formal, vocational, on-line, and others

ANCHORED IN RESEARCH!

The effectiveness of xLOBs is attributed to an on-going design based research that was carried out at every stage of the development cycle for the very beginning, and continues to do so. Applied research was carried out at the following stations in the development life-cycles:

- Concept creation and application in 5 schools in 2008
- xLOBs model development in 2011 and applied in 4 schools
- Model adjusted and piloted in 50 schools in 2013
- Engagement in the design and development of the Life-Skills and Citizenship Education Framework for MENA in 2016 and integrated within the xLOBs model
- xLOBs scaled-up nationally starting with grades 1 and 3 and applied in 20 schools in Palestine in 2017
- xLOBs applied at Makani Centers in Jordan for Syrian Refugees in 2018 to pilot the implementation in non-formal settings
- xLOBs for grades 1 through 4 applied in 200 Palestinian Schools in Palestine (under-way)
- xLOBs for grades 5 and 6 being developed and researched (under-way) to be applied in 200 schools by 2020
- xLOBs for grades 7 through 10 in science and technology in 100 Palestinian schools (under-way)
- xLOBs for grades 7-10 being piloted in 10 Jordanian schools (under-way).

A JOURNEY THAT STARTED IN 2005



xLOBS: INTEGRATING LIFE SKILLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

CCE was a lead partner in a UNICEF regional initiative that reformulated traditional understandings of life skills and citizenship education (LSCE) in the region and structured it in a well-defined conceptual framework. While Life-skills have been an integral part of the design of xLOBS throughout, the LSCE provided the xLOB design team with a clear framework to adopt and integrate within the xLOBS design.



xLOBS – TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALE:

An effective and efficient teacher professional development system that frees them from the boundaries of traditional teaching methods

Teams of master trainers established
Support teachers adopt teaching best-practices (in-service and pre-service)
Teacher Communities of Practice

xLOBS that integrate life-skills, citizenship Education gender responsiveness with subject matter content developed and adapted to multiple pathways of learning (including formal educational systems)

Empowerment programs for teachers and education specialists to design and build xLOBS
On-going research and development
Basic tools and resources to implement the xLOBS
On-line portal facilitating wide access to xLOBS

Mechanisms to support the implementation and systematic scaling-up xLOBS at a national scale established

Supervision and support mechanisms at MOE
Monitoring and Evaluation System
Certification programs for teachers, trainers, developers and supervisors
On-going community and stakeholder engagement

By 2019:

50,000

STUDENTS LEARNING WITH xLOBS IN 2019

.... and scaling up!

1000

xLOBS DEVELOPED GRADES 1-10

1200

TEACHERS TRAINED AND IMPLEMENTING xLOBS