

## ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH

*UNICEF provides sustainable and equitable opportunities of positive engagement for vulnerable adolescents and youth, regardless of their nationality, through innovative public and private partnerships.*



### SITUATION FOR YOUTH

In Jordan, 70.7 per cent of the population is below the age of 30 and 61.9 per cent in the productive age between 15 to 64 years. There is an immense “demographic window of opportunity” to better engage the youth of Jordan economically, socially, and civically.

Young people in Jordan, especially the most vulnerable, have limited access to opportunities to engage in their community and improve their employability. The transition to safe and decent work is often slow, with youth having limited access to the resources required for self-employment. An estimated 31 per cent of youth aged 15-30 years old are unemployed, and an even greater percentage of youth are disengaged and not in education, employment or training. Access to opportunities for Syrian refugee youth living in Jordan is even more limited. An estimated 84 per cent of Syrian refugee youth are unemployed and at risk of harmful or exploitative labour or negative coping mechanisms. Specific challenges facing girls include limited mobility and forced or early marriage.

Youth in Jordan are facing an uncertain future. They are often highly educated and nearly universally connected to global community. However, the great potential they see in the world and in themselves is oftentimes at odds with the political and economic realities they face as they enter their adult years. Jordan is at a strategic moment of action; if urgent and scaled action is not taken the country is at a risk of losing a generation of adolescents and youth and the opportunity they provide for economic growth and social change.

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

UNICEF focuses on adolescents’ strengths, viewing young people as assets and resources to be developed rather than as problems to be managed, therefore promoting positive changes across the second decade of life. Evidence shows that predictors of a successful transition for young people are opportunities to develop their skills/assets; access to networking and mentorship; and meaningful leadership/engagement opportunities in their communities, schools, spheres of influence. UNICEF aims to identify and engage adolescents who are the most marginalized: those out of school for whom return to formal education is not an option, working children, children living with disabilities, those from marginalized minority groups and refugees without adequate documentation.

#### The current situation:



**70.7%**

Of people in Jordan are under 30



**19.8%**

Of people in Jordan are between the age of 15 and 24



**31%**

Of youth are unemployed



**19%**

Of the 655,000 registered Syrian refugees between 15 and 24



**<3%**

Of Jordanian youth participate in TVET



**84%**

Of Syrian refugee youth are out of school and unemployed

Funding required in 2017:

**US\$ 15,000,000**

Funding received in 2017:

**US\$ 1,000,000**

Unit cost per child reached with skills/asset development :

**US\$ 38**

## UNICEF & PARTNER RESULTS

In 2016, UNICEF and its partners achieved the following:

- Life skills capacity development for **83,246** marginalized young people ages 10-24.
- Successful establishment of **five** social innovation labs in refugee camps and urban settings, giving vulnerable adolescents and youth an opportunity to engage in social innovation
- Capacity development on vocational subjects for youth in refugee camps, reaching a total of **5,000** Syrian refugee youth at 4 centres. Subjects included tailoring, mechanics, air conditioning repair and electrical repair, beauty and hairdressing, as well as soft skills.
- Launch of the **Jeel962 network** formerly known as UNICEF Change Agents Network (UCAN) mobilizing 300 youth leaders to enact positive change in their communities
- **Social cohesion engagement** and conflict transformation efforts, through sports and arts initiatives engaging 1,600 refugee and host community adolescents in an environment of tolerance and mutual respect

## UNICEF PLANS FOR 2017

**Life Skills Education:** UNICEF will continue to scale up Life skills Education. Life skills capacity development empowers adolescents and youth (ages 10 to 24), providing opportunities for active participation in constructive social change. Life Skills capacity development includes cognitive and social skills, and is followed by adolescent and youth led collective action / civic engagement. A subset of the civic engagement initiatives will focus on social cohesion through 'sports for peace' and 'arts for peace' projects which aim to improve social cohesion between Syrian and Jordanian youth.

**Social Innovation Labs:** In addition to the five existing centres of excellence; Innovation Labs will be scaled up in 50 Makani centres to provide an enabling environment for adolescents and youth to engage in civic, social innovation and entrepreneurship. This includes equipment, incentives, capacity development and mentorship that moves from problem identification to implementing solutions. This process helps youth in developing skills that will support their transition into adulthood and work. Operationally, the labs are a component of Makani and includes a curriculum of social innovation, implemented through a combination of self-directed learning, training and instruction, and incentives.

**Youth vocational education in refugee camps:** UNICEF will continue to support four centres providing capacity development in vocational subjects to refugee youth in camps in partnership with various sectors, including education and WASH, to ensure the employability of graduates in cash for work opportunities. Wherever possible, certified training opportunities will be brought to scale.

**Youth employability and employment in host communities:** Youth employability and employment is a key pillar of the Government's strategic framework for employment in Jordan and is addressed in education, social protection and labour strategies. UNICEF is developing innovative public and private partnerships in the field of technical and vocational education, youth entrepreneurship, and cash for work/entrepreneurship to increase employability and employment of vulnerable youth.

**Jeel962:** The youth network Jeel962 will engage 30,000 adolescents and youth in networking, mentorship, learning, analyzing, and identifying challenges in their school or community, and finding innovative solutions to address them through a digital platform.

## UNICEF & Partner Results 2016



### 83,246

Adolescents and youth participating in life skills programming



### 5,000

Youth reached with vocational training in camps



### 9,744

Adolescents and youth reached with innovation labs



### 1,600

Adolescents engaged in peacebuilding and conflict transformation



### 125

Youth reached with entrepreneurship opportunities

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SDC



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## UNICEF TARGETS FOR 2017



### 100,000

Children and youth participating in life skills programming.



### 30,000

youth engaged in Jeel962



### 100,000

children and youth participating in innovation labs, civic and social engagement



### 5,000

youth accessing technical training for job

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