

Z'AATARI YOUTH TASK FORCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. NOVEMBER 2016

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY & YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The YTF is a Za'atari based interagency action-oriented field-level forum created to promote advocacy on youth issues, coordinate relevant youth programs, as well as encourage mainstreaming of youth across other sectors.

The YTF is co-chaired by UNFPA and NRC. For more information contact lislam@unfpa.org and raed.sawalha@nrc.no

Mark of Hope theatre group perform in Sign language for International Youth Day



A team of committed young people in Za'atari practice, celebrate and promote inclusion and diversity through their theatre performances in the inclusive Mark of Hope theatre group. Since July 2016, the youth have been enthusiastically taking a course in Arabic Sign Language. On the occasion of International Youth Day, they wanted to devise a performance that would encourage the use of Sign language for Deaf persons, especially youth. In collaboration with NHF, Mercy Corps, Holy Land, the three organisations in the camp providing specialised services to persons with hearing impairments, Mark of Hope researched and performed a piece of theatre for an audience of youth and adults with profound hearing impairments and their families.

With fun and passion, they performed a story that told of the importance of every individual having access to a means of communicating with others; of the pivotal role Sign language can play for persons who are Deaf or profoundly hard of hearing; and of the responsibility of us all to make an effort to facilitate communication and expression for others. Being able to communicate with others, largely thanks to his community making efforts to communicate in ways he could understand as well as his learning Sign language, was the primary stepping stone for the young protagonist in realizing his dreams of setting up his own business and becoming self-reliant.

Youth Events during International Youth Day with IRD

On the occasion of International Youth Day, 10 Syrian youth committee members engaged in organizing a training session for 35 youth on stress



management and sign language in district 9 and 10 ("Youth in action"). The theme of the event was focusing on youth support in the community and vice versa; and how the



community influences the future of youth. Furthermore, youth's and children's rights in general and specifically to access quality education was a focus of the event. IRD set up a number of sport and entertainment activities in the Camp from a marathon, to hockey, football and theatrical performances including a Syrian Tomorrow committee Musical and Theatre show. The event was a mix of silent theater, theater, poems and songs and traditional Syrian show.

Youth for Change

About 215 youth (145 males and 70 females) and 35 adults (20 Parents and 15 MCC) participated in activities organised by NRC, Save Children Jordan, IRC, MC, RI and Mercy Corps to celebrate the International Youth Day. The goal was to give youth a voice in order to share their success stories and performances with the audience. Mercy Corps organised the inter-agency event with Makani partners in its site "Youth For Change" (District 1). Speeches were delivered about the benefits of education, and a play and a song were performed.



International Youth Day and Early Marriage:

After welcoming the attendees to the Institute for Family Health/Noor Al Hussein Foundation/UNFPA Women and Girls Center, Youth Educators and Volunteers discussed the importance of youth and youth development in each community. The message of the day was: **“Our Youth are our treasure for the future.”**

Y-Peer youth presented a short play about early marriage, followed by a discussion and speech by Ms.Muneera Shaban about early marriage and its effects on the health as well as by Ms.Nisreen Bdair, a lawyer working with Alown Institute, who spoke about the legal ramifications of early marriage. At the end of the event some recreational activities were conducted and gifts were distributed to the participants.

International Youth Day and Education

With the theme of youth leading sustainability and turning the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into reality, community staff celebrated and led the International Youth Day by designing different booths for youth to work on small projects for the NRC youth centre in D8, supported by UNICEF. These included painting and

decorating the centre using recycled materials, and designing a coloured wooden board showing the Sustainable Development Goals “SDGs”. They also enjoyed

interactive and meaningful activities, as well as watching a short inspirational film. At the end of the day all the participants attended a short play with the message of women’s right for education, which was designed and performed by the youth themselves.



International Youth Day, GBV and Women’s Role in Society

Syrian volunteers conducted a two-day celebration in honor of International Youth Day at the Questscope-UNFPA Youth Center in D4. The celebration featured awareness sessions about GBV and women's role in society, musical and poetry sessions, sports games and competitions, karate, and more. Questscope volunteers also conducted PSS sessions for all participating youth relating to self-confidence and self-esteem. Around 400 youth from Za'atri participated.



Volunteer Youth and Origami for kids

Isma'al is a Youth Volunteer who is teaching 12-14 year olds with Relief International. The kids that he is teaching are often chaotic; messy, trouble makers and tend not to listen to anyone at all. Isma'al came up with an initiative to make them calmer, quieter and to increase their concentrating abilities. The idea that he came up with is to collect all the papers that are used in the center and reuse them to make origami in order to develop an eye hand co-ordination, sequencing skills, attention skills, patience, temporal spatial skills, math reasoning and so on.



YTF Advocacy Message: The initiative of Mark for Hope Youth Volunteers, of the IRD Youth Committee, of QS Volunteers, or of RI Volunteer Isma'al, are all part of the same story of young people in Zaatari who are identifying needs and working to address them in creative ways. The YTF message to all partners and donors is to acknowledge the powerful asset that youth are and to provide them with more opportunities, technical and emotional support as well as funds to implement the great ideas they have to transform their lives and those of the people in their communities and society as a whole.