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UN-Habitat's Approach to Youth Empowerment; Examples from the Arab Region

[YOUTH AND LAND ASSEMBLY]

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المملكة المغربية
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وزارة إعداد التراب الوطني والتعمير
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الاراضي العربية ادارة
Arab Land Initiative

Context and Key Youth Challenges in the Arab Region



113 million young people between the ages of 15-29 in the Arab region (**25% of its population**)



Highest and fastest-growing **unemployment rate of young people** worldwide at **25.9%** (2021)



Half the Arab region population is **under the age of 25**



Unemployment rate among young women in the region is estimated to be **42.5%**, double that of young men



37% of MENA's youth (15- 24 years) live in fragile and conflict-affected states



Around 60% of rural-urban migration in the region **are youth under the age of 30**

UN-Habitat's Multisectoral Approach to Youth Empowerment

UN-Habitat works to ensure that young women and men have a voice in local governance, access to livelihoods and can enjoy their rights in cities. Youth empowerment is mainstreamed across all programmatic work of UN-Habitat. **Our Approach** includes:



Youth Capacity Building & Training to facilitate access to Livelihoods



Youth Inclusion in Decision making at Local and National Levels



Mainstreaming Youth issues in all Programmatic work



Awareness Raising and Advocacy for Youth Rights



Knowledge Generation and Exchange

One Stop Youth Centers

- In 2003, UN-Habitat partnered with local governments to launch the One Stop Youth Center program.
- These centers, now spread across several countries, create safe public spaces for youth.
- One Stops offer services such as training, health access, and recreation, fostering community impact.
- With over 500,000 youth served, UN-Habitat developed **detailed Guide** for establishing OSYC to support its replication.

UN-HABITAT Youth and Livelihoods Unit | Urban Economy Branch

UN-Habitat Guide for the Establishment and Accreditation of One Stop Youth Resource Centres

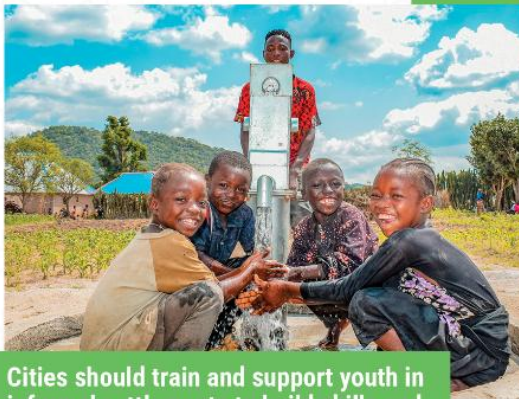
Project Manager: Doug Ragan | Author: M. Karun Koernig

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Advocacy and Global Platforms

World Cities Day 2024 “Youth climate changemakers: Catalyzing local action for urban sustainability” celebrated youth leadership in climate action, highlighting their innovative and impactful contributions to building resilient urban environments



Cities should train and support youth in informal settlements to build skills and drive youth-led enterprises.

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Engaging youth in local governance, like Youth 2030 Cities, is key to advancing the SDGs.

World Habitat Day 2024 - "Engaging youth to create a better urban future." focused on empowering youth to take the lead in development through participatory processes and local leadership.



The Children and Youth Assembly at WUF12 – convened to discuss sustainable urbanization while elevating the voices of children and youth in tackling global challenges

Examples of Youth-focused Projects in the Arab Region



Engaging Youth as Peacebuilders - Japan Village Project - Iraq

The project is supporting peacebuilding and durable solutions in Mosul to facilitate transition from emergency recovery to sustainable development.

Youth were engaged in developing social housing units with essential infrastructure:

- **104 trainees** (including 43 women) received vocational training in blacksmithing, carpentry, masonry, whitewashing, and green economy.
- **83.7%** applied their skills in daily life, including home maintenance and assisting other families in their neighborhood.
- **16.3%** used the skills to increase earnings, while **24.3%** already accessed new job opportunities, including 5 employed in the Japan Village project.
- The initial construction phase created **25 job opportunities**, benefiting local businesses.



Empowering Youth to Explore Innovative Solutions to Climate Challenges - Jordan

In response to growing climate challenges, the “Resilient Water Solutions against Climate Change” project in Jordan adopts a **youth-focused approach** aiming to build climate resilience by tapping into the potential of Jordan's youth.

- A student competition was organized to empower youth to explore innovative solutions to climate challenges. **54 students** and **18 teachers** were trained in environmental education and big data analysis to address local climate issues.
- Youth were trained on **permaculture and eco-friendly farming** techniques allowing them to grow and sell crops locally, creating a source of income, while conserving environmental resources.



Utilizing Minecraft To Engage Youth in the Design of Inclusive Public Spaces



Minecraft is deployed to engage youth in envisioning what public spaces in their neighborhood and cities could look like.

- This tool was applied in many countries globally and in the Arab region.
- Public spaces in **Jordan, Egypt** and **Palestine** among other countries were designed based on input from Minecraft workshops with community groups.
- The game increases youth's interest in urban design and planning, enables them to express themselves in a visual way, and helps youth develop skills and network with other people from the community.

"In the past, we did not get a chance to be involved in deciding what our community needs. Today, we are creating a design for our public space as a team, and I cannot wait to see it come true."

R.A, Workshop Participant

THANK YOU!

For more information visit:

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