

## YOUTH & TECHNOLOGY

### Za'atari Youth Conduct Change-making through Film



Two Syrian volunteers from the Questscope-UNFPA Youth Center in collaboration with #MeWe Syria are conducting training for Za'atari youth in change making and storytelling through film. The project aims to decentralize the power of narrative, activate young change-makers, and cultivate spaces for empathy, community engagement and communication using the power of storytelling. The training focuses on problem solving, narration, and visualizing stories, as well as story boarding, filming, and editing.

**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](mailto:lislam@unfpa.org) and [raed.sawalha@nrc.no](mailto:raed.sawalha@nrc.no)**

Throughout this work, Za'atari youth are creating short films focusing on camp-wide issues such as child labor, early marriage, and challenges faced by adolescents in the camp. The youth hope to host a film exhibition in upcoming weeks to display their work.

### TIGER Girls and Tablets

My name is Rawan and I am 15 years old. I am on the These Inspiring Girls Enjoy Reading (TIGER) program team in IRD's District 6 Community Center. Some of my favorite subjects in school are Arabic and English. The TIGER e-library has thousands of English and Arabic language multimedia resources. Using an app we can write in Arabic or English about our experiences and our understanding of the stories that we read. Also we use our tablets to take notes during our activities. Through the support of my coaches and access to materials, my grades are improving and I am becoming more confident in Arabic and English. I have never used an electronic library before the program. With TIGER I am discovering how technology links my learning and personal development. I would like to invite you to visit us in district 6 or other TIGER teams. I would love to tell you more about how we use our tablets to study! Also, I would like to invite other girls to consider joining the TIGER program and learn more about this new community initiative which support girls' education.

### The Exciting World of Mapping Technology - Opportunities and Education

During their visit earlier this year, researchers Dr. Brian Tomaszewski (Rochester Institute of Technology) and Dr. Karen Fisher (University of Washington), taught youth in Za'atari how to use mapping technologies in order to create a "story map" of Za'atari. Youth collected the coordinates of their homes and favorite spaces in the camp, marking those locations on an online map. Afterwards students could add photos and short descriptions to those markers to share their experiences living in Za'atari. The researchers provided resources to allow youth to learn more about GIS, GPS and other mapping technologies. Contact the Youth Task force for more information on you can get involved with the exciting world of mapping technology.

### Student turned Teacher

Malak a native of Dara'a fled to Jordan as she completed high school. Unfortunately the crisis prevented her from going to university. Determined to continue learning, Malak decided to register in ICDL course in NRC youth center which is funded by UNICEF. She quickly distinguished herself as a strong student. Malak expressed that she wanted to give back to her community by sharing her passion for digital literacy and she had the opportunity to do so when she was hired by the NRC Training Program as an ICDL teacher.

Although only 20, her age has not prevented her from teaching older students of both sexes. Malak regularly receives positive feedback from her colleagues and students. Malak is a model for other young women and youth using technology to make a positive impact in the community.



## Refugee Coding Week training

My name is Nisreen and in March I was honored to participate in the three-day training of trainers (ToT) on web design and Scratch coding provided by expert trainers from SAP.

SAP Software Solutions is a corporate partner of UNHCR. The event was intended to train men and women to prepare them to serve as trainers in Za'atari Refugees Camp during Refugee Coding Week which will take place in Za'atari this October.

The training was more than wonderful and a few children were invited to attend a one-day training on Scratch as well. The training was a product of the work of amazing instructors, translators and administrators.

I am very interested in computers and technology. I actually teach a group of girls how they can use tablet devices and an electronic library to support their learning. Moving forward I hope we can have more opportunities to learn about other technology-related subjects.



## Trained Youth support water quality in Za'atari

Kholood, a 25 year-old Syrian, has been supporting ACTED's water operations since 2014. Before arriving in Za'atari camp, she was a student at the University of Dara'a, working towards her Bachelor's degree in accounting. Now, Kholood is responsible for reporting all water quality data from Za'atari Camp into a database. She enters water quality information about each of the 200 truck trips in the camp every day; as well as around 120 water quality samples taken from private and public tanks around the camp each day. This data is used to monitor the quality of the water pumped and distributed in the districts. Kholood was trained by her co-workers on how to use Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, and Google Sheets. She says: "I have learned how to work on Excel, Word, and Google Sheets; they are complicated software. This opportunity is very useful to develop computer skills and for my future career as an accountant".

## Learning English by online storytelling

"I love hearing stories from Nick because it makes learning English so much more fun. I get to act and laugh along with my friends!"

Raem, in 4th grade at RI's Makani centre, is just one of the enthusiastic participants in Nick Bilbrough's highly interactive English lessons. As an English teacher from the UK, Nick has performed for children across the world but also receives the support of many teachers. "Nick's sessions are very important, not just for the children but to show us how to improve our own lessons," Jamal, an English teacher, tells us.

Relief International is proud to host Nick's project in Za'atari camp, where displaced Syrian children can participate in online storytelling sessions. Storytelling is not only a powerful way to learn a language but creates a community of narrators and provides a valuable feature in the lives of Makani centre students.



*"Our lives and technology are intertwined. I have never used an electronic library before the TIGER program."*

*Rawan from TIGER*



## Advocacy Message:

Engaging youth in opportunities to learn and apply new skills in technology is a necessity for Syrian Youth in Zaatari camp. This includes providing youth with access to quality infrastructure (assets) and expertise (soft skills). Such chances provide youth with a number of key benefits, such as building their self-confidence, opening up their access to the wider world and the opportunities available, as well as providing them with the means to make valuable contributions to their communities. Youth with technology skills are assets in the community and need to be supported to access such courses, including accredited programmes. Technology can also enable continuous education for youth, not only to ICT related matters but also to any kind of new learning opportunity that requires ICT skills, which in turn can open access to many learning platforms. Those youth with potential should also receive support to build on their skills in order to reach more advanced levels.