



SUMMARY OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS ON YOUTH CONCERNS IN ZAATARI CAMP

CONDUCTED BY YOUTH TASK FORCE MEMBERS

SUMMER 2018

BACKGROUND

- YTF members conducted FGDs for youth aged 15-32.
- A total of 138 (65M, 73F) participated in 17 FGDs.
- FGDs were facilitated by IRD, NRC, QS, WCUK, IFH, RI.
- All organisations engaged youth from different districts from the camp.

YOUTH PERCEPTION OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE CAMP

- Youth believed that many organisations work on their mandates and programmes provided, but not necessarily focusing on the rapid changing youth needs in the camp. They felt that organisations can modify or do more than the current youth services provided.

PARTICIPATION

- Female youth still believe that cultural gender barriers and stereotypes are the main obstacle for their meaningful participation.
- They mentioned that they feel freer to share thoughts within the family and with organisations, especially when engaged in programmes but not within the community.
- Males felt that they can represent themselves by social media, youth committees, NGOs activities and some community gatherings.
- Participants also believed that issues related to already existing youth programmes are easily discussed with organisations.

PARTICIPATION CONTINUED

- Both male and female participants mentioned that they don't know exactly where to go to share their thoughts on general topics or to suggest community solutions.
- They believed also that they lack the knowledge on the best way to represent other youth – *“We know that individual requests will not be taken into consideration.”*
- Both sexes mentioned that they should attend trainings that will lead to a better understanding on how to be more vocal and influential.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- In daily camp living, needs and other household responsibilities were seen as one of the major challenges for youth participation in youth gatherings and other youth services, in addition, they don't feel as if youth opinions are taken seriously.
- Male youth noted: *“youth committee members should not be permanent members and should be diverse”.*
- Female youth noted: *“we attend early marriage awareness sessions almost in each organisation, but there is nowhere for us just to hang out and do new things.”*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Both male and female youth asked for:

1. Road structure enhancement,
2. Transportation,
3. Internet,
4. Longer electricity hours.

EDUCATION

- Females mentioned that separating male/female schools and unifying schools time will make school attending time more efficient and will allow them to better learn and practice.
- Both male and female youth mentioned that scientific and computer labs are needed in the schools.
- Male participants criticized the same training opportunities provided among different organisations and asked for more different courses offering to match the different youth needs. They also asked for literacy and numeracy classes for all ages interested to learn.

EDUCATION CONTINUED

- Female participants asked for relaxed scholarship criteria where providers should take in consideration the camp contexts and the hardship to achieve high Tawjihi grades.
- Some also asked for CFW opportunities for current university students to allow them to generate some income that would help them attending university.
- Teachers trainings and open courses and programmes to all ages was mentioned a lot in the discussions.

PROTECTION

- Females mentioned that organisations and the community should work more to reduce harassment and bullying.

LIVELIHOODS

- All participants asked to increase CFW opportunities in the camp.
- Nepotism was mentioned a lot and both sexes believe that organisations can invest more in the recruitment of CFW, they showed an understanding to opportunities given to vulnerable cases, yet they wished that qualified and certified people take a fair opportunity.
- Male participants asked for a way to connect skilled people in the camp with employers outside the camp, and to create a center for all CFW opportunities announcements.

NEXT STEPS

- The Youth Task Force would like the relevant sector chairs to follow up on the feedback and recommendations of the youth as it relates to their specific sectors.
- The Youth Task Force will be meeting in October to share plans for 2019 in terms of targeted youth programmes in the camp to coordinate around the issue of trainings in particular.

THANK YOU

