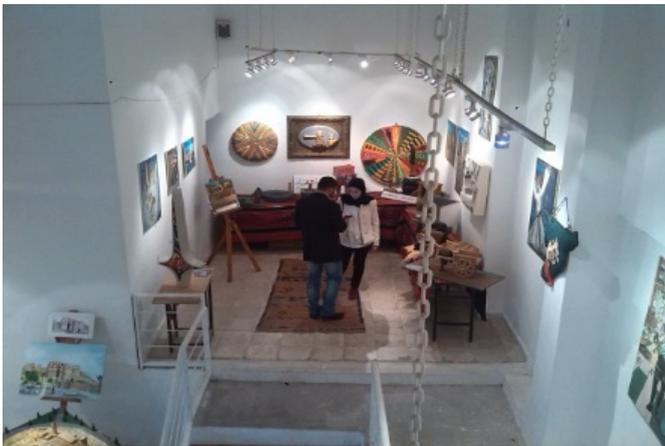


Za'atari Camp Youth Task Force - Fact Sheet January 2016

Trained youth support the Za'atari community



Youth practiced their welding, tailoring, carpentry and maintenance skills by manufacturing wooden beds for bedridden refugees and repairing wheelchairs. Youth were very happy to contribute to the community and innovate with scarce resources to create new products that can be used by community members. The trainees' projects in NRC's District 8 centre, a UNICEF Innovation Lab, included supporting people with disabilities in coordination with IRD, UNHCR and FPSC.



10 Days of Activism

Za'atari Y-PEERs (UNFPA peer educator network) were involved with the 10 Days of Activism campaign which ran from 25 November until 5 December, 2015. The overall goal of the campaign was to mobilize adolescents and young people to advocate for their rights and include them in the priorities of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and local levels. Y-PEERs in Za'atari planned various activities throughout the campaign period such as interactive theater, freeze-mobs, mural paintings and an open day with a range of entertainment.

16 Days of Activism

Za'atari youth participated in the 16 Days of Activism campaign which focused on expanding the role of men and boys in preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence.

Opening of new spaces for youth

Syrian youth hosted an opening ceremony of the sports field at the Questscope/UNFPA Youth Center in District 4. The ceremony marked the opening of a new space for youth that is accommodating for all age, gender, and disability sensitivities. The event also featured a graduation ceremony in which around 275 youth graduated from activities at the youth center.



Youth advocacy messages through art

On December 25, 2015 the Art from Za'atari Artists committee, in collaboration with IRD, held an art exhibition in Amman featuring painting, sculptures, and glassworks from artists in Za'atari Camp. The exhibition focused on promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Syria and sharing Syrian traditions with Jordanians. Some artists included their paintings depicting scenes from the current situation in Syria. On both days artists from Za'atari Camp attended the exhibition. The host was so impressed by the works that he asked to keep the artwork on display for an additional day.



The Youth Task Force (YTF) is an action-oriented field-level forum focused on youth-specific advocacy, planning and coordination, co-chaired by UNFPA and NRC, contact via lislam@unfpa.org and raed.sawalha@nrc.no.

Success story: Higher Education



Three years after the opening of Za'atari refugee camp, Alaa, 19, completed the first year of her degree in Arabic language and literature at al-Bayt University in Mafraq, a short bus ride from the camp. As well as finishing top of her department in the end of year exams, she also gained the second highest mark in the academic year overall. Alaa's attendance at the university is funded through UNHCR's DAFI scholarship programme. "Education is the first block in building a strong society, and without it there will be no doctors, teachers or engineers to help rebuild Syria," Alaa said. "As the crisis drags on and on, I don't know how long the international community can keep providing this huge number of refugees with food and shelter. But if we can at least get an education, we have a chance of being self-sufficient and providing for ourselves in the future." Source: UNHCR



Syria Tomorrow: Youth and civic engagement in Za'atari Camp

On 1 December, with support from IRD and FPSC, youth and older members of the Syria Tomorrow art group performed plays, comedy sketches, and recited poetry at Hashemia Hall in Madaba. This performing group is made up of Syrian refugee youth and older actors, spoken word poets, and other types of performers living in Za'atari Camp. The event was entitled "You, me, we in support of those with disabilities" and was attended by approximately 500 guests. The performance was an effort to raise awareness through theater about early marriage, child labor, the rights of those with disabilities, and other concerns of refugees. Ahmad, a youth member of the art group described his involvement as "an amazing experience." He discussed the importance of his civic engagement stating that the community needs to learn more about these critical issues. Ra'afat, another youth performer in the group, described the power of performance to not only shed light on difficult issues, but at same time "draw smiles on the faces of the audience." Ahmad also commented that he was happy to help "lessen the suffering related to being a refugee" by providing entertainment to urban and camp-based refugees. These youth are a model for how youth in Za'atari can shift perceptions and raise awareness in their communities. Ahmad and Ra'afat both described their experiences as rewarding and hoped that the other young people in Syria Tomorrow would continue their tradition of civic engagement through the arts.

Winter Contingency Planning

In November 2015, 48 Syrian youth participated in data collection and mapping capacity-building sessions, facilitated by REACH in collaboration with the YTF. These trainings equipped youth volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills to support their communities during the 2015/2016 winter response. As part of Za'atari's winter contingency activities, these volunteers will map areas of their districts that have experienced flooding, road blockages, shelter damage, and septic overflow in private WASH facilities following winter storms. The data collected and reported by these volunteers will inform the provision of repair and maintenance services and aid delivery across the camp. The young people trained could have ongoing volunteering roles in their communities through future contingency activities or other initiatives.



Global Refugee Youth Consultations

Six motivated young refugees from Za'atari Camp were selected to participate in the Global Refugee Youth Consultations, which took place in Amman in December 2015. One youth from Za'atari Camp contributed to the discussion by suggesting potential solutions for overcoming barriers in access to education. Of his experience participating in the consultations, Hamzeh said, "It was great, and really useful. We took a lot of useful information from it. As youth and as refugees, we were able to talk about all of the problems we face, and to suggest ideas."