

# ZA'ATARI YOUTH TASK FORCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. FEBRUARY 2017

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)



## Ouais's Story

Ouais is a 14 year old boy who recovered after 3 years of cancer. He missed so much school as a result of treatment that he was not able to attend formal education. He registered at Relief International for informal education classes after the outreach campaign by RI team who visited his shelter and his family.

When you first see Ouais, you would not notice that he is different from any other child. Yet he felt like an outsider, not being able to engage fully in activities with other friends. Therefore he decided not to continue his education.

Khawla is an Informal and non-formal education coordinator at Relief International who found out about Ouais condition from Ismael, an informal facilitator assistant who taught Ouais for the few days he spent in RI center. She rushed to his shelter and tried to find a solution for him. When Khawla was asked about her motivation to help and rescue the future of this kid, her answer was "Education is a fundamental right for every child, and Ouais has the ability to achieve great things in his life. Why should we deprive him from this right? Also the health situation for any kid should never be a barrier to his opportunity to receive education".

Now Ouais is receiving home schooling five times a week for around one and half hour only, because his inability to put up with pressure of long classes. He is receiving education in Arabic, mathematics and science.



## 16 Days of Activism

On the occasion of the last day of the 16 Days of Activism, IRD Community center in D2 hosted the main event planned and implemented by the activities leaders, beneficiaries and community groups.

The event was an open invitation for the Community and organizations, with nearly 400 people attending.

The event included Recreational and Art activities for children conducted by the Art committee and Syrian youth committee. The Syria Tomorrow committee performed 'Yiham Jidak' theatre sketch, addressing SGBV concerns and women's abuse. The Tiger program

beneficiaries also performed a song addressing the issue of early marriage.

The women's committee, vocational coaches and beneficiaries planned, and performed a soap making session, a bazar and a style show for the attendees.

A sports medals ceremony was also held for the winners of the sport activities during the 16 days of activism for a 3 km Marathon, and for Hockey and Football tournaments for both girls and boys.



### **New Partnerships for Youth**

A training for youth entitled “I exist through Syrian Dreams” was conducted by IFH/UNFPA in cooperation with Aspire Academy from Qatar.

The main goal of the training was to activate the role of male and female youth and build their capacity through different activities, including sports and recreational activities. In addition, brainstorming and storytelling techniques were used to encourage youth to use their personal skills in a positive way.



### **Youth Volunteerism in the Mentoring Program**

The Questscope Mentoring Program provides individual and group psycho-social support for Syrian young people aged 15-17 in Za'atari Camp. The program also provides the opportunity for young people over the age of 20 years old to volunteer as peer mentors to younger youth. Mentors accompany youth in the program through educational and recreational activities, as well as provide individual guidance and support in developing mentees' confidence, positive thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Mentors gain volunteer work experience through the program, which they can build upon through volunteerism or work with other organizations in the future. Mentors also receive training in case management basics and the identification and referral of at-risk cases.



### ***YTF Advocacy Message:***

The 16 Days of Activism is always a time to remind ourselves of the importance of looking at sexual and gender-based violence and how we can work with the community to prevent and respond best to SGBV in general and to early marriage and early pregnancy in particular. Working with youth is one excellent way of doing this. Providing them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to tackle these issues with their peers, families and the wider community is how we can work together towards change for a better future for men, women, boys and girls.