

ZA'ATARI YOUTH TASK FORCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER. DECEMBER 2018

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 and raed.sawalha@nrc.no

Youth Get Creative

Photography is such an important tool for refugee youth to express themselves and tell their own stories. The QS -UNFPA Youth Center in District 4 had a workshop in photography basics with external experts from a US-based NGO, Lens on Life. 30 Syrian boys and girls were trained for a week on the methods of photography and lighting and how to use that in photography. The youth went out during these days to photograph in the



camp to apply the things they had learned.

In addition, the Youth Center hosted a poetry-writing workshop, which was conducted by a group of Arab poets and trained Syrian youth who were interested in creative writing, reading, writing poetry, and how to express themselves through poetry and prose. The result was that the youth were able to create a large collection of literary pieces and short texts.



National accreditation extends further opportunities for the Syrian youth refugees



Accredited certification has been on the top of the listed priorities demanded by the Syrian refugee youth served by the Youth Training Program- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in refugee camps. Syrian Youth believe in the value of accredited courses as they consider it a smooth marketer for their skills in the job market or when applying for further education opportunities. NRC recognizes the importance of this demand and hence has made continuous efforts to provide accredited courses such as the International Computer Driving License.

In 2018, NRC has partnered with the Centre of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA) to accredit its Youth Training Program in Zaatari and Azraq camps. CAQA is affiliated by the Ministry of Labor in Jordan and is considered as the national entrusted entity for accrediting vocational training centers and is regionally recognized by some Arab Countries.

This scale-up accomplishment meets our strategic ambitions toward extending support for the Syrian Refugee Youth with what can make them feel confident regarding their abilities and potentials.

YTF Advocacy Messages:

Participation:

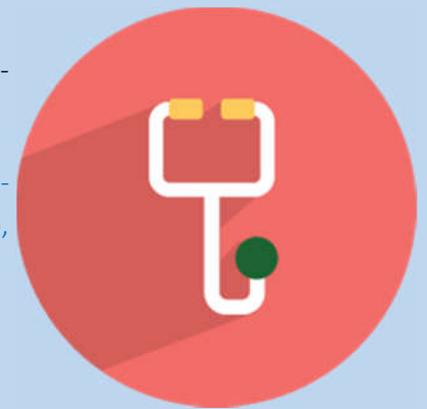


- * Service providers should focus more on the rapid changing youth needs in the camp in their programming.
 - * The community, with support of the UN and NGOs in the camp, should work on cultural gender barriers and stereotypes that are the main obstacle for girls' meaningful participation.
 - * Organisations should provide and communicate about trainings for youth that will lead to a better understanding on how they can be more vocal and influential.
 - * The community and service providers should learn to respect and take youth opinions seriously. Furthermore, youth committee members should not be permanent members and should be diverse, allowing for more youth participation.
- * Organisations in the camp should provide spaces for female youth where they can learn, practice hobbies and socialize “we attend early marriage awareness sessions almost in each organisation, but there is nowhere for us just to hang out and do new things”.

Health:

- * Female youth would like health service providers to have more female doctors and request health professionals to offer health care courses in the camp.

The number of female healthcare members in the camp is quite good. For a given population, the Zaatari needs have been met and exceeded in this regard. On average in the camp, there are more female health staff than male.



Infrastructure:



- * Both male and female youth requested road structure enhancement, transportation, internet and longer electricity hours.
- * Community centers should increase the internet hours for refugees, including youth, to access.

The road infrastructure was affected due to the upgrade works in the camp. In preparation for the winter all these works have been completed. Electricity is currently being provided for 12 hours, which is a great improvement. This is based on the production levels at the solar power plant. Saving from high production in the summer is what allows provision of electricity for 12 hours in winter time despite low production in winter.

YTF Advocacy Messages:

Education:



- * UNICEF and MoE should consider separating male/female schools and unifying school times to make school attendance more efficient and allow them to better learn and practice. Male and female youth wish for more scientific and computer labs in the schools.
 - * Service providers should offer youth different courses to match different youth needs, including literacy and numeracy classes for all ages interested to learn.
 - * Scholarship providers should consider relaxing criteria to take into consideration the camp context and the hardship on students to achieve high Tawjihi grades.
- * Cash for work opportunities should also target current university students to allow them to generate some income that would help them attend university.
 - * Organisations working in the camp as well as the community should work more systematically to reduce harassment and bullying.

Livelihoods:

- * Increase cash for work opportunities in the camp and communicate well to the community to connect skilled people in the camp with employers outside the camp, and to create a central location for all CFW opportunities announcements.

In order to address issues around nepotism and other irregularities and a number of other complaints made by refugees, a workshop was held recently to review and improve the complaints mechanism related to cash for work.

Skilled people in the camp who are interested in working outside the camp can register as job-seekers at the Zaatari Office for Employment. There are regularly vacancies available that are then matched with the skills of the job seekers. Job vacancies outside the camp are also regularly advertised.

Regarding the idea to create a centralized location where all cash for work opportunities can be advertised in the camp and that would be updated regularly for refugees, the basic needs and livelihoods working group is working on finding a suitable response.

