


Youth Well-being Policy Review & Assessing the broader youth Environment 2017

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Soil is the same, yet harvest different crops



The Youth Well-being Policy Review of Jordan provides an in-depth analysis of the situation of young Jordanians through a multi-dimensional approach and provides policy recommendations to improve youth well-being



Youth Well-being Policy Review of Jordan



Assessing the broader youth environment in Jordan



Objectives

- assesses youth well-being in Jordan.
- reviews policies, programmes and institutions targeted at youth.
- analyses youth's employment challenges and the role of technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- looks into the ways youth acquire the necessary skills for civic engagement.

Qualitative Research



**Situation and
context analysis
(Jordanian Youth)
Life course**

**Policy review:
Education,
Employment,
Health & Civic
Engagement**

**Institutional
mapping and
analysis**

**Relevant literature (documents & Policies inventory) - Interviews
(Key informants) – mapping of programs- SWOT analysis – Oral
history – Make-sense workshops**

Chapters of the report

Chapter 1

- Youth well-being and major Challenges

Chapter 2

- Youth Policies and institutional framework

Chapter 3

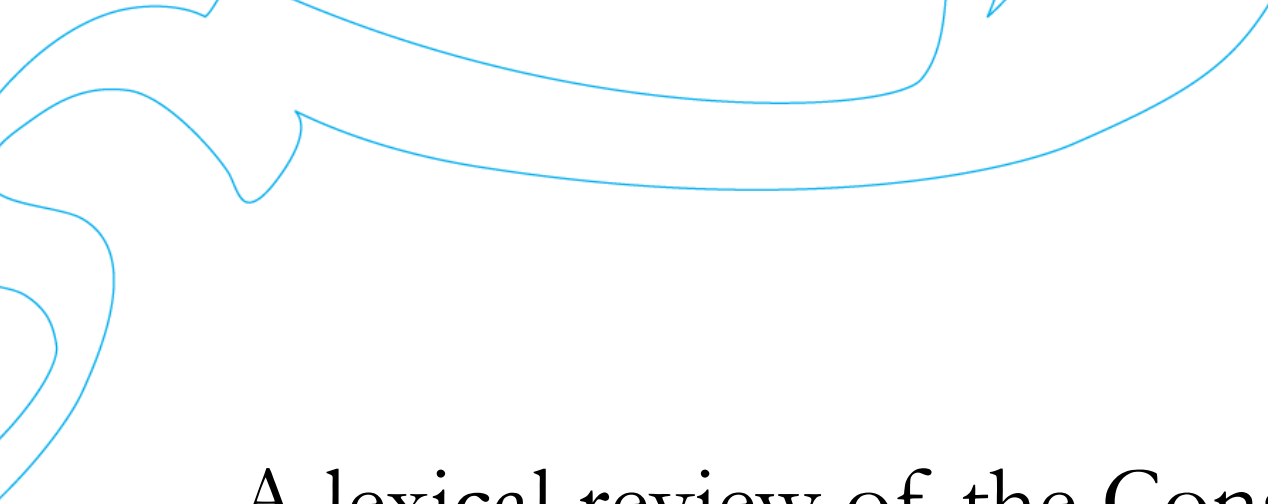
- Improving youth labour market outcomes with technical and vocational education and training

Chapter 4

- Paths to active citizenship

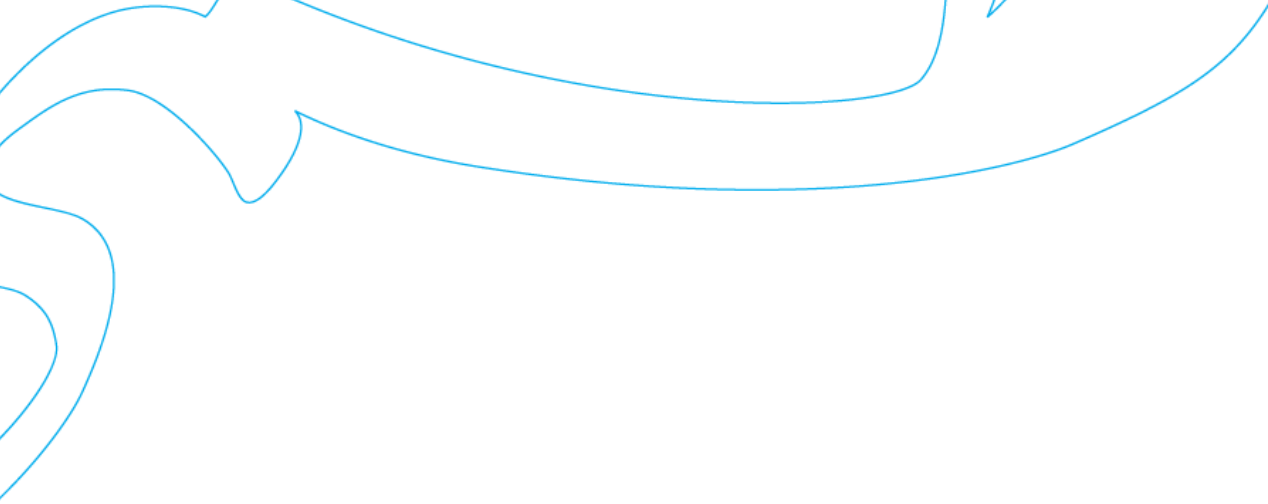


Youth

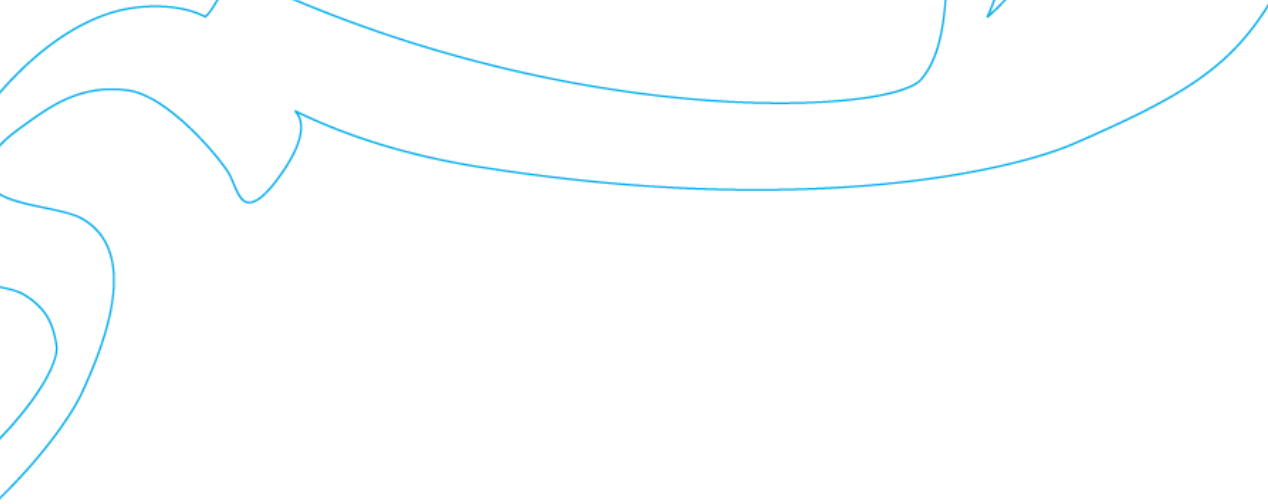


A lexical review of the Constitution of Jordan - as the foundational social contract - exhibits that youth were overlooked without any reference.

Articles 6 - 7- 13 – 15- 16 – 17 – 20 -23 -
24 – 70 - 96



A demographic dividend:
60.4% of the population was
working age (15 – 64 yrs)



**With one-third of the population
aged 12-30**



Youth – age transitions

حقائق وأرقام حول سن الشباب في الأردن



Program trends

Life course

Education programmes and intervention

Directions and working areas	under 12	12 - 15	16 -18	19 - 24	25 - 30	Above 30	Youth Segments	Settings of intervention
تحسين انجازات الطلبة التعليمية Improving students' educational attainment							Students with weak attainment and performance	Public Schools
تطوير مهارات الطلبة والتدريب البدني الصيفي Summer physical training and skills development (grade 9 male students)		14					Grade 9 male students in public schools	Public schools
تعزيز الثقافة المالية Students' financial literacy education							students	Schools
الأنشطة اللاصفية ما بعد الدوام After school extra-curricular activities							Students	Public schools
برنامج الطلبة المتسربين Non-formal education for drop-out students							Drop-outs students Not enrolled students	Community-base centers
بناء قدرات خريجي الكليات Building capacity of community colleges graduates							Community Colleges graduates	Community collages
فرص التعلم عبر النت Online education opportunities							Online students	Online platforms

Education programmes and intervention

Directions and working areas	under 12	12 - 15	16 -18	19 - 24	25 - 30	Above 30	Youth Segments	Settings of intervention
منح وقروض لتغطية مصاريف الجامعة Grants and loans to cover university fees							Public universities' students	Public universities
الوصول للمعلومات المساءلة Education accountability and access to information							Students in public schools	Schools
ترميم وصيانة البنية التحتية للمرافق والمدارس Renovating and maintaining education infrastructure and facilities							Students in public schools	Public schools
دعم بيئة التعليم الشمولي Supportive inclusive learning environment							Students	Public schools
تحسين التعليم من خلال التكنولوجيا Using ICT to improve education quality							ICT graduates Students	Public Schools
تشجيع ودعم التعليم التقني والمهني Promoting and supporting technical and vocation education							Technical/vocational students	Secondary schools
تحسين مناهج القراءة والرياضيات improving reading and math curricula							Students	Schools
بناء قدرات ودعم المعلمين Teachers' training and support							Students in public schools	Schools

- **The gap between the outreached youth against the total number of youth**
- Despite enormous number of interventions that are being undertaken, they are not covering all youth. Most of them are not mainstreamed as nation-wide programmes. They are mostly a short-term project that rely on changing agenda of the funders, not on the national priorities.

- **Missing out students enrolled in private education**

Most of interventions targets public schools' students without mentioning other students enrolled in private education, who constitutes one third of total students. Such gap is quite evident across different sectors which raises concern about being privileged with private education constitutes a limitation to access other services and care entitled to students of public schools.

- **Other youth groups were absent**

Examining the targeted groups of mapped intervention against the various youth groups indicates that many groups were absent without needed intervention, such as youth with **disabilities**, not **health insured youth/workers**, **youth in conflict with law**, young **governmental** employees, **expat youth** as well as youth who are exposed to commit suicide (**Parents**)

Highlights on youth situation

Key findings

- **The quality of the education remains a significant cause for concern.** Jordan's results in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) were significantly below the OECD average, in mathematics, Jordan ranked 66 out of 72 countries, while in reading it ranked 63 out of 72.
- The high unauthorised student absenteeism — 43.4% of students miss at least one day of school every two weeks — partially contributes to these low performances

- Jordan's youth NEET rate was 28.7%, with 19.3% inactive non-students and 10.7% unemployed nonstudents
- NEET occurs predominantly among youth who are from urban areas, older, less educated and female - the NEET rate of young women was triple that of men.
- The vast majority of employed Jordanian youth (92.7%) are wage workers
- Most employed youth are paid below the average youth wage- 29.8% earned less than 60% of the average youth wage.

- Comprehensive knowledge about sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is still limited, in particular among girls, due to inadequate access to youth-friendly services.
- **Despite significant improvements, prevailing gender disparities undermine the health prospects of young women.** In recent years, the rate of young women aged 15-17 who were married remained quite stable (13.2% in 2013) (UNICEF, 2014).
- Marriage at a young age can also affect mental health in connection with early and forced sexual activity, premature childbirth and childcare responsibilities (Save the Children, 2014).

- The increasing prevalence of smoking by Jordanian youth is a particular concern. In 2014, 24% of young people aged 13-15 smoked tobacco
- Overweight and obesity rates are high among Jordanian youth.

- Only a very small percentage of youth are members of formal civic groups: 2.7% of a charitable society and 2.3% of a youth, cultural or sports organization study of youth life satisfaction has been neglected, only receiving attention recently.
- In 2013, there was a high degree of distrust among youth aged 18-29, particularly of political parties and parliament (10.8% and 21.9%, respectively)
- Poor economic prospects and inadequate income prevent their smooth transition into work, marriage and family (Brown et al., 2014), the greatest barrier being low employment. This last affects the experiences, frustrations and aspirations of youth and serves as a major impediment to taking interest in active citizenship and endorsing its values.

Policy Review

- **Jordan 2025: A National Vision and Strategy (2015-2025) supplies the frame for government actions.** Jordan 2025 gives a prominent role to youth and addresses youth issues in all policy sectors, including health, education, employment, entrepreneurship and civic and political participation. The other major strategy influenced by King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein's discussion papers and directives is the National Strategy for Human Resource Development (2016-2025) (NSHRD), which provides a new vision of education as a comprehensive human resources development system that aims to enhance the skills, qualifications, capabilities and behaviours of citizens in order to achieve Jordan's social and economic ambitions (King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, 2017, MoHESR, 2015).

- There is no overarching law or legal framework defining youth.
- Jordan lacks an articulated vision for its youth policies. Yet, this process remained inconclusive due to institutional instability and shifting priorities induced by the crises in neighbouring countries, resulting in Jordan having no national youth strategy since 2012.
- Public policies should focus not only on **objective indicators of well-being** but on subjective indicators as well. A deeper analysis of the different dimensions of youth well-being is beyond the scope of that aim.

- Each sector designs and implements substantive policy instruments affecting youth. Most policies include young people as part of their general target population, but some target youth in particular.
- The lack of clear youth-related indicators and an overarching youth strategy across all agencies, make it impossible to present the total government spending on youth.

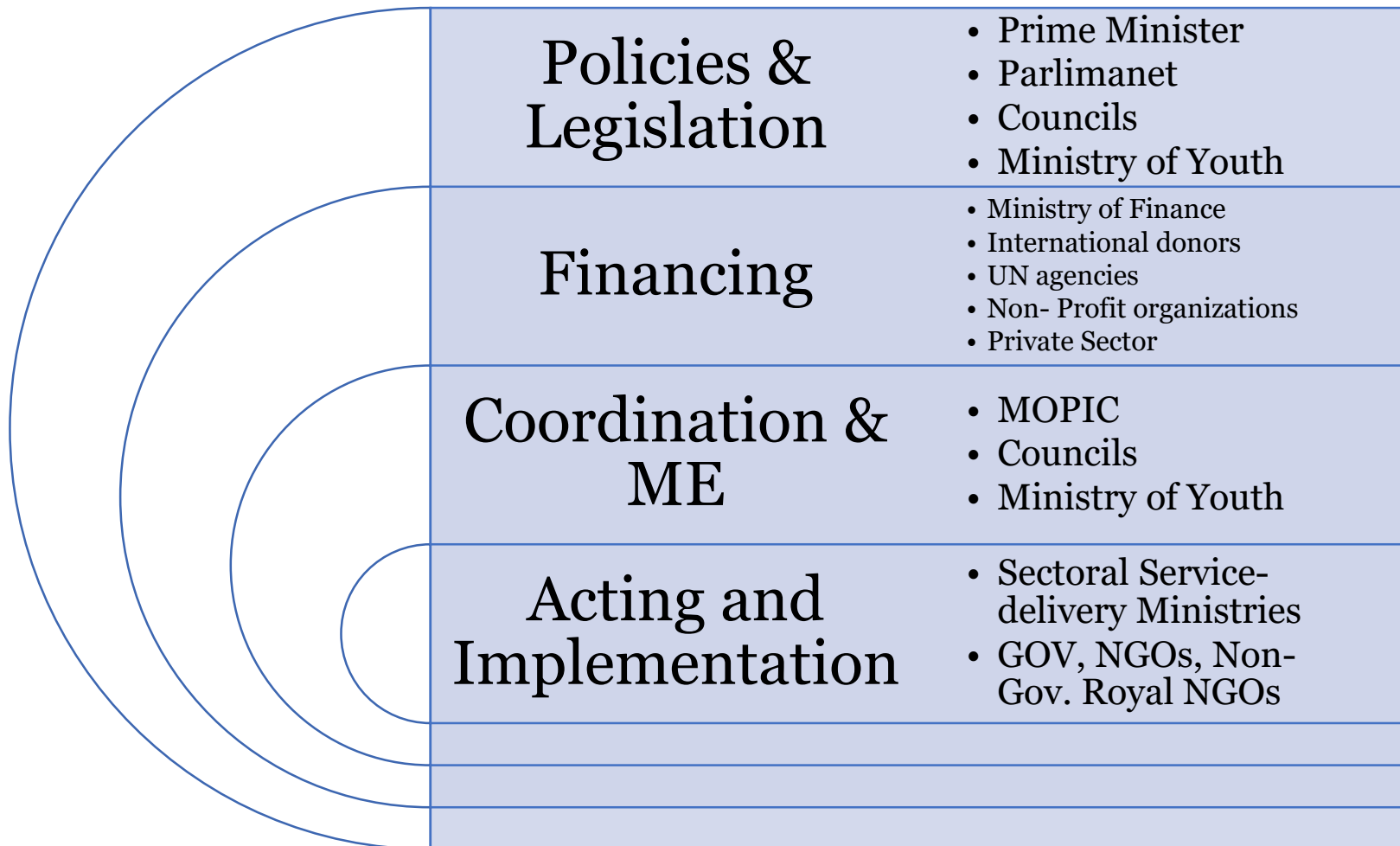
- The importance of enabling the private sector to move up the value chain, increase its productivity, expand its ability to export products and services, and create more and better jobs.
- Jordan 2025 stresses the importance of enhancing entrepreneurial spirit among students.

- **Numerous state actors shape Jordan's education policies.**
- The NSHRD does not bring substantial change to the education system's structure but proposes a wide range of reforms to make existing structures more efficient. The main priorities are
 - **i) ensuring equal access to education for all students;**
 - **ii) empowering educational institutions to take responsibility for their performance through delegated responsibilities and decentralised decision making; and**
 - **iii) incorporating innovative and creative educational approaches through the use of technologies.**

- **Providing universal health coverage is a top priority for Jordan.** Free health services are available for all children under 6, regardless of their parents' insurance status. Youth under 18 are covered as long as they are enrolled in education and one of their parents has a public health insurance (Health Act 83/2004). Currently, the MoH is evaluating insuring children and adolescents aged 6-18 not currently covered by the system. After 18 years, health insurance for men depends on their education or employment status: the civil health insurance covers male university students up to age 25 only upon presentation of registration. By contrast, young women continue to be covered by their parents' insurance until marriage.

Institutional Analysis

- Hierarchical: who reports to who
- Communication: who communicates with who
- Co-operation: who works with who
- Operational: who provides inputs to who
- Financial: who pays who



Recommendations

Address youth as a transversal theme in Jordan's public policies

- Mainstream youth in all sectoral ministries.
- Create a cross-sector co-ordination mechanism and pass a national youth strategy.
- Support the staff capacity and institutional strength of the MoY.
- Increase the budget and transparency of MoY youth programmes and implement results-based management.
- Create an information system on youth, and monitor and evaluate youth policies.

Align technical and vocational education and training with the demands of youth and firms: Provide early guidance to young people for their educational or workplace transition.

- Make TVET an attractive choice for young people.
- Make entrepreneurship a possible path for TVET graduates.
- Simplify the governance within and among different branches of the TVET system.
- Involve the private sector in designing and implementing TVET programmes.
- Create a skills assessment and anticipation system.

Facilitate active citizenship and involve youth in policy making processes

- Improve communication with young people.
- Develop public consultation mechanisms to integrate youth perspectives in policy formulation, design and implementation.
- Strengthen the role of the education system in the provision of skills for active citizenship.
- Make volunteering and civic engagement more attractive to youth.
- Improve vertical and horizontal co-ordination among youth engagement stakeholders.

Thank you!

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