

# ZA'ATARI YOUTH TASK FORCE FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 2015

## Za'atari Youth at the Global Youth Forum

Four Syrian youth from Za'atari Camp participated in the Global Forum on Youth, Peace, and Security, after selection by UNHCR and IRD. The event was hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and co-organized by the United Nations and other stakeholders. The three day event was held from 20-22 August in King's Academy and was attended by HRH Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II and representatives from youth-led organizations, international and non-governmental organizations, governments, and UN entities in order to collaborate in the development of a common vision and roadmap to partner with young people in preventing conflict, countering violent extremism, and building lasting peace. The event culminated in the adoption of the Amman Youth Declaration, which among other suggestions, calls on the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on Youth, Peace, and Security.



“The forum was a turning point in my understanding of peace and security, and the role of the youth in decision making processes. Specifically, I learned about the importance of inclusion of youth voices in peace building initiatives.” - Hiba, a speaker at the conference and a Zaatari Syrian Women's Committee member.

All four youth were active participants in the multiple plenaries and breakout sessions. Two of them were selected as speakers at the conference, each speaking about their experiences with displacement and the role of youth in peace-building.

## Youth Volunteers Join YTF Mid-Year Review Workshop

Youth volunteers from various agencies, YTF members and colleagues from Protection, Age and Disability TF, Community Gatherings and Education sector attended the YTF held a mid-year review workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September at IRD center in D2. The workshop was held in Arabic, allowing for active participation by youth in the camp. Participants reviewed recent assessments and discussed recommendations in groups to prioritise actions to address the needs of youth in the camp. These were then added to the YTF Action Plan, which was reviewed and amended by the group.



NRC students compete in a 'telematch' competition to mark International Youth Day.

## Za'atari Celebrates International Youth Day

On 12 August, members of the YTF hosted events throughout the camp to celebrate International Youth Day. This year's theme was civic engagement. Below are a selection of photos from the events:

ACTED hosted three football matches and a talent show for youth in its districts.



International Medical Corps and Mercy Corps volunteers and youths spent the day painting refugees' caravan to add a bit of colour and cheer.

UNHCR & IRD hosted a choral workshop and concert by Vox Humana, a renowned choir from Norway.



Finn Church Aid hosted a circus show for their students to show off their skills to families and community members.

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

## Recent Activities in Za'atari

- ◆ June 2015: UNICEF & REACH released the Comprehensive Child Focused Assessment (CCFA) on Za'atari camp, designed to address information gaps, understanding of current service provision and ongoing needs of residents. The youth element examined the participation of youth in education, employment and volunteering.
- ◆ 2-6 August: UNICEF held the third round of one-week Life Skills training of master trainers, which was attended by 38 participants from 25 agencies running Makanis.
- ◆ 9-13 August: ACTED hosted cycle safety training for 112 youth volunteers who received bikes from the City of Amsterdam.
- ◆ August – September: over 170 youth were trained by Questscope/UNFPA Youth Peer Education Network (YPEER) educators on topics such as YPEER education, reproductive health, gender-based violence, and life skills.
- ◆ A Za'atari youth supported by a UNHCR DAFI scholarship achieved the top grade in her faculty at Al-Albait University!



Cycle safety training

## Tawjihi Students in Za'atari

In the first semester of the 2014-2015 academic year, 290 students from Za'atari were enrolled in Tawjihi (12th grade). Supporting students to pass is essential for their future academic development, and building motivation for students to pursue their studies. Currently, only 22% males and 26% females aged 16-17 attend formal schooling in Za'atari (UNICEF & REACH, CCFA).

Relief International (RI) responded by providing extra support from experienced teachers to Tawjihi students in 3 centres (American school, Saudi centre, and Qatari Centre). Students benefited from extra classes, with small group sizes and a flexible schedule. To help in revision for exams, previous Tawjihi exams were given to students to help familiarize them with Ministry of Education expectations. RI provided intensive revision for 10 days in May 2015 as well as final preparation 2 days before the exam.

In addition to provision of such support, the next challenge is to eliminate barriers preventing students from continuing their education at university level and to inspire other students to follow their example.

## Youth-led Centre Opens in Za'atari

A new Youth Centre run by youth volunteers held their opening ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The new Youth Centre, entitled 'A Space for Change', is supported by Questscope and UNFPA. The event was a big success with over 150 guests. Youth inspired the attendees with their stories, a self-made video of the Center as well as a play about the dangers of drug abuse. YPEER Good Will Ambassador Oustaz Sam, a Jordanian rapper, also performed a new song around the issue of youth and standing together.



## Priority Issue Highlight: Youth with Disabilities

*"A disabled person is a person with an impairment who experiences disability. Disability is the result of negative interactions that take place between a person with an impairment and her or his social environment".*

Agencies in the camp are responsible for acknowledging and addressing obstacles barring young men and women with impairments from meaningful participation and inclusion in recreational, educational, and occupational activities.

The precise number of youth living with impairments/chronic illnesses within the camp is unknown. With 79,695 residents, this number could amount to several hundred, including young men and women with permanent inherited physical disabilities, war injuries, mild-severe intellectual disabilities, sensory impairments, and chronic illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, etc.

Numerous assessments have heard the voices of these youth calling for more recreational, educational, and occupational activities that meet their specific needs and enable participation with their peers. Sports facilities and trainers for persons with disability are missing in the camp, as well as games spaces that are accessible to young men with war injuries, notably in the newer districts.



FPSC Inclusive Theatre Session

Key recommendations to organizations working towards inclusion include: outreach techniques designed to reach youth with disabilities and their families; careful planning and facilitation of activities to make them inclusive of individuals with disabilities; training of staff in the practicalities of inclusive planning and facilitation; creative solutions to the barrier of transport/accompaniment between homes and activities; involvement of parents and caregivers of youth with disabilities in the planning and facilitation of activities; need for psychosocial support notably for those with war injuries; and careful monitoring of activities to protect against bullying, marginalization, and exclusion.