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Youth Sector PROJECT PROFILE

May 2011



Youth: Work Jordan empowers youth through community leadership initiatives and work opportunities, while improving the social services supporting youth in selected urban communities.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Implemented by: International Youth Foundation

Duration: 2009 – 2014

Total Funding: \$33.3 million

Beneficiaries: Out-of-school and unemployed youth in disadvantaged urban neighborhoods and their communities

Geographic Coverage: 15 neighborhoods in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, Sahab, Ruseifa, Irbid, Ma'an, Al Shouneh and the Jordan Valley

Youth: Work Jordan

BACKGROUND

Despite Jordan's many positive reform efforts and progress, including an economy which has performed well over the past five years, high unemployment and deep pockets of poverty persist. It is estimated that 60,000-80,000 new jobs will be needed each year for a growing young population to avoid higher levels of unemployment and poverty. Youth under age 30 comprise as much as 70% of the population and are particularly affected by poverty. The unemployment rate among working-age youth is estimated at nearly 60%.

Youth have few safe outlets for social or recreational activities, and are not adequately engaged in positively shaping the environment around them. Girls in particular have restricted mobility and opportunities. Overall, youth participation in sports, social and cultural membership activities is very low.

Despite a strong emphasis on youth by the Government of Jordan and donors, few policies and programs address the needs of the most vulnerable at-risk youth. Their situation is worsening and compounded by a variety of factors such as increasing economic inflation. Youth face complicated challenges, in which traditional expectations and fast-changing realities collide.

To more effectively address these issues, USAID convened a Youth and Poverty Working Group with representatives from each of its technical offices. This working group was tasked with developing cross-sector programs that would help the most vulnerable youth in disadvantaged urban communities to succeed. Youth: Work Jordan (YWJ) is the first of these integrated youth-focused efforts, implemented by the International Youth Foundation through an Associate Award.

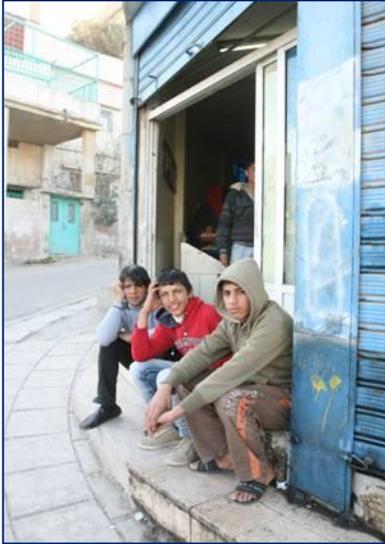
ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening the life, employability, and entrepreneurship skills of disadvantaged youth through training, job placement and mentorship programs
- Enhancing the provision of youth-friendly services, including their accessibility to disadvantaged youth and responsiveness to youth needs by providing training to service providers from different sectors and rehabilitating existing facilities to create safe spaces for youth to meet and interact
- Increasing active youth engagement, volunteerism, participation, and decision making in civic and community activities by building



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID's Youth: Work Jordan Program targets marginalized, out-of-school and unemployed youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

youth skills, and positive attitudes towards their communities and their country

- Raising awareness among key stakeholders of issues facing the youth population and empowering them to increase the capacity of youth serving institutions to more effectively serve youth at risk.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed a rapid community appraisal of YWJ's target areas; proposed interventions, activities and approaches to best address priority needs
- Built the capacity of 3 national non-governmental organizations and 27 community based organizations that are implementing program activities and providing grants and capacity building to competitively selected CBOs in targeted neighborhoods
- Provided over 2,000 youth with employability training and employed 370 youth in various sectors
- Developed a process for youth integration into all community action plans; formed youth committees to represent each YWJ neighborhood
- Worked with service providers in the fields of life skills, literacy, business English, IT, and vocational skills training to better prepare youth to face their future responsibilities and enhance their socio-economic situation
- Engaged in dialogue and planning with the Ministry of Social Development and various line ministries, private sector groups and civil society organizations in order to gain recognition at the policy level for concerns and needs of youth

PARTNERS

- International Youth Foundation
- Ministry of Social Development
- Jordan River Foundation
- Jordan Career Education Foundation
- Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development
- Local CBOs and private sector firms in the selected communities

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