

ASSESSING THE BROADER YOUTH ENVIRONMENT IN JORDAN

SUMMARY:



Improving youth well-being in Jordan requires an assessment of the broader youth environment in Jordan to facilitate the determination of how policies and interventions can contribute to enabling youth to develop their potential. The following provides a synthesis of pertinent youth issues across the realms of education, employment, health, civic engagement and youth welfare and governance.

EDUCATION:



The Human Resources Development Strategy (2016-2025)

Reform actions are required to encourage efficiency within the existing structure, including:

- Ensuring equal access to education for all students
- Achieving international best practices
- Empowering institutions to take responsibility for their performance by delegating responsibilities and decentralizing decision making
- Incorporating innovative and creative approaches using technology

Key Examples:

- Providing widespread student guidance and career counseling
- Expanding the national level General Equivalency Diploma System
- Modernizing and aligning the Tawjihi with other key assessments
- Unifying the admissions system for undergraduates
- Gradually phasing out University parallel programmes
- Expanding student financial assistance



Current Gaps...

- Low achievement levels of male students
- Discrepancy between boys' and girls' academic performances
- Lack of opportunities for youth post-graduation
- Lack of investment in school counseling
- Lack of online learning opportunities
- Evidence of students enrolled in private education missing out on initiatives employed at public schools



**Jordan VISION 2025 --
Education is a national asset,
linked to a strong economy**

EMPLOYMENT:

Recent policies have emphasized self-reliance and a culture of youth self-initiative



Currently, key youth policies in Jordan are focused on:

- Encouraging vocational training and education among young men and women
- Enhancing employability skills
- Providing a supportive and nurturing environment to establish businesses, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurship
- Enhancing female economic participation



Current Gaps...

- The private sector is the main youth employer
- A lack of mobility and transportation is a significant barrier to youth employment and opportunity

Tackling unemployment has become a top priority for the Government of Jordan

HEALTH:

The National Health Strategy works towards integrated, citizen-centered health services focused on:



- Supporting the implementation of the strategy for the prevention of diabetes and non-communicable diseases
- Supporting the implementation of the strategy to control cancer
- Promoting healthy lifestyles with a focus on children and youth groups
- Reducing traffic accidents and workplace injuries
- Promoting mental health programs at the primary and secondary levels

Current Gaps...

- Tackling non-communicable diseases
- Supporting mental health and working towards stronger youth suicide prevention
- Linking school health to pilot adolescents' health care services
- Increasing knowledge of reproductive and sexual health awareness for youth under 18 (currently significantly limited)
- Addressing perceptions of young men about reproductive health from an earlier age
- Youth health insurance conditions require a comprehensive review and advocacy to mobilize for universal health coverage especially with regard to children and youth between ages 6 and 18 years old



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Several recent national documents and policies have placed emphasis on civic engagement and active citizenship.



Effective youth development interventions should consider:

- Preparing youth for their entitlements
- Addressing youth vulnerabilities and risks
- Capitalizing on youth potential by providing them with opportunities, services and support to thrive as independent empowered citizens

Current Gaps...

- Lack of a nation-wide student union
- Supporting youth to run for elections
- Engaging youth through linking the civic education curriculum to such practices as volunteerism and student union participation
- While violence on university campuses received considerable public attention, no clear interventions have been initiated to mitigate this



YOUTH WELFARE:

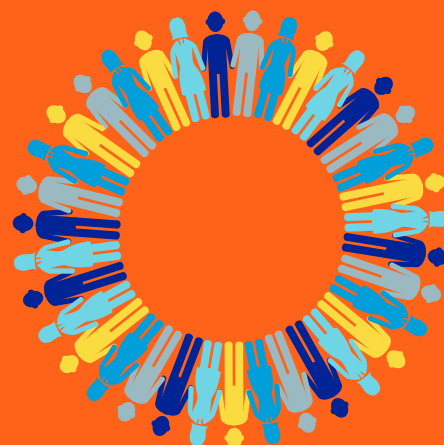
Youth development requires multifaceted coordination and cooperation mechanisms



The multidimensional nature of youth development requires action by all government entities and relevant NGOs

Current Gaps...

- The employment sector appears to demonstrate much less cooperation relations between actors in the sector in comparison with the other sectors
- Private-public sector cooperation appears to be weak in youth-focused interventions





Sustainable
Development
Goals



Funded by the European Union
بتمويل من الاتحاد الأوروبي

NET MED
YOUTH
شبكات الشباب المتوسطي



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Amman Office
مكتب عمان