



The Youth Forum in the Arab region

**20-22 August 2019
Tunis, Tunisia**





Preface



Youth in the Arab Region face huge challenges that limit their employment prospects and restrict their potential to become fully participating members of society. Inadequate health and education services deny them access to quality, youth-friendly health services and the vital life skills they should be entitled to, all because they are subject to the significant impact of conflicts, terrorism, instability and the myriad forms of migration. Yet, in spite of all this, youth constitute an unprecedented opportunity for their countries and the region as catalysts for a sustainable future. Enormous potential benefits stand to be realised once adequate investment is made in the Region's Demographic Dividend (DD). Youth represent the main agents of change for achieving sustainable development and promoting peace, security and prosperity in their countries and society as a whole.

Against this backdrop, UNFPA founded the Youth Forum in the Arab Region in 2018 as an impartial platform affording youth the space for open dialogue and debate and to enable tracking the development and implementation of a dynamic youth agenda in the Arab region. In organising the first forum in Morocco in December 2018, UNFPA laid the groundwork for the concept of an open space available to all young people and organizations interested in youth issues in the region.

I am pleased therefore to see the second forum organized by UNFPA and the host Government Tunisia and also fully supported by UNESCWA, UNDP, WFP, UNESCO and the Global Council for Peace and Tolerance (GCPT). Indeed, it is my hope that more partners will have joined in this process by the time the next forum convenes in 2020. I am particularly proud of the significant progress to date in establishing the Forum as an institutional fixture and that the forum outcomes include innovative flagship youth projects.

It is commendable that the theme of the second forum -- "knowledge at the service of youth in the Arab States" -- was selected by the young people themselves. We are committed to the gradual handover of the management, organization and leadership of the forum so that young people can eventually claim it as their own. We in the UN system along with our regional partners are here to support this forum as designed, organized, implemented and followed up by young people.






I hope the 2020 Forum will build on the successes achieved in 2019, that participation will expand and that the forum's substantive outcomes will serve to link youth together, bridge the gaps and span the horizon for constructive debate about what matters, especially emerging issues of concern about the rights, responsibilities, development, engagement and leadership of young people in the Arab Region.

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CONTENTS

	Introduction	6
	I. Key messages from the 2019 youth forum in the Arab region	7
	A. General messages	7
	B. An enabling environment and youth capacity to produce and disseminate knowledge	8
	C. Positive youth engagement in policies and strategies	9
	D. Knowledge & youth- -friendly programmes\ services	9
	E. Accelerators for youth contributions to achieving SDGs	10
	II. Sessions and presentations	11
	A. Opening session	12
	B. Plenary sessions	14
	C. Youth creative workshop sessions	19
	D. Change-makers space sessions and activities	22
	E. Field visits	25
	III. Participants	26
	IV. Appendix	26
	Annex I: Agenda	27
	Annex II: 2018 Youth forum in the Arab region follow-up	29
	Annex III: Youth strategic framework and the four youth forum 2019 products	32



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Introduction

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Arab States Regional Office in partnership with the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports and with the collaboration of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP) organized the second Youth Forum in the Arab Region, which was held at the Mövenpick Hotel Du Lac, Tunis, 20-22 August, 2019, under the patronage of Mr. Youssef Chahed, Chief of the Government of the Republic of Tunisia.
2. With the overarching theme "Knowledge at the service of youth in the Arab States", the second Forum gathered more than 250 participants from 20 Arab countries comprising representatives of adolescents and youth; ministers and policy/decision makers; youth and other civil society organizations/networks; academic and research institutions; artists and influencers; entrepreneurs and the private sector; media; plus, United Nations agencies and other development partners.
3. The agenda consisted of 25 sessions including nine plenary sessions plus four interactive workshop sessions devoted to each of the forum's four topics. The forum also included an interactive segment entitled "Change Makers Space" (20-21 August) featuring six special sessions, two Ted Talk sessions offering more than 15 presentations and booths where partners and youth could showcase their reports. Sessions focused on defining elements of the main forum theme "Knowledge at the service of youth in the Arab Region" through four Youth Creative Workshops (YCWs), which addressed the following topics: a) Regional Youth Platform; b) Positive Engagement in Policies and Strategies; c) Knowledge and Youth-friendly Programmes and Services; and, d) Accelerators for Youth Contributions to Achieving SDGs.
4. Participants agreed on the key messages that follow, which were categorized according to the 2019 Forum's overall theme and its corresponding topics and workshops. This report of the Forum will be widely disseminated to relevant key regional and international fora such as the ECOSOC Global Youth Forum, the 2019 ICPD Nairobi Summit, and the 2019 EURO-Arab Youth Forum. In addition, it will be widely shared with a range of partners including the Regional UN Sustainable Development Group and Country Youth Thematic Groups.



I. Key messages from the second youth forum in the Arab region

A. General messages

1. Participants acknowledged their appreciation of the progress made by the Forum since its inception in December 2018; noted how this recognition signified the need for such a platform in the region and reflected the both the high degree of interest in it and the significant efforts already made by youth and partners.
2. Participants thanked Tunisia for the able way in which it hosted this year's Forum and UNFPA, founder of the forum, and the other main partners; UNESCWA, UNDP, WFP, UNESCO and the Global Council for Peace and Tolerance (GCPT) that made the forum gathering possible.
3. Institutionalization of the Forum based on the shared operational model to be supported by a Regional Centre of Excellence was adopted and endorsed the Government of Tunisia's readiness to host this centre as announced by Dr. Sonia Ben Cheikh, Tunisian Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs was welcomed.
4. The recommendation was made to sign an MOU with the League of Arab States Board of Ministers of Youth and Sports in order to develop and promote a collaborative partnership in support of implementing the Forum's recommendations and projects.
5. Key Forum messages, recommendations and outcomes should be shared with Inter-agency regional mechanisms (RCM, UNSDG) in order to ensure that UN agencies collectively support the Forum.
6. Participating entrepreneurs and other representatives of the private sectors committed to work to launch a private sector alliance in support of the Forum and its resulting youth initiatives and proposals.
7. A regional youth-related calendar of events should be drawn up that includes key international and regional events that the Forum's youth and partners recommend attending and actively interacting with (e.g. ECOSOC Global Youth Forum, 2019 EURO Arab Youth Forum, ICPD @25 Nairobi Summit, World Youth Forum, Arab Forum for Sustainable Development).
8. Agreed that the Youth Forum should convene on a biennial basis after the third Forum which is expected to take

place in 2020. This would allow adequate time to effectively implement the Forum's resulting proposals and recommendations.

9. Called for additional time so that Forum workshops to encourage greater dialogue and potential pledges of support for proposals developed by adolescent and youth participants, in addition to capacity- building opportunities.
10. Move to engage decision and policy makers and other partners including private sector at an early stage of the Forum's workshops to effectively create space for the youth and other partners to design and develop the product together.
11. Explore utilizing a dedicated event's smart application similarly to large international events.

12. Develop an integrated action plan that regularly captures Forum outcomes and proposals.

13. Sharing the list and profiles of youth participants to encourage networking amongst them and continued connection and communication.



B. An enabling environment and youth capacity to produce and disseminate knowledge

14. Youth in the Arab Region proposed the development of the **Regional Youth Platform: MINASATY (My Platform/منصتي)** a youth-led digital space that brings youth together to join efforts and find ways and opportunities to strengthen youth development in the Arab region.
15. They issued a call for MINASATY to be the backbone of future Youth Forums in the Arab Region; that it become a place where youth can convene digitally, share ideas, and work collectively to further the youth agenda in relation to knowledge, programming and policies.
16. It was agreed that the platform would include an education and knowledge dissemination function to facilitate and en-

able webinars, seminars, information and culture exchange, dialogue and projects to support youth in their quest to work, study and/or collect data insights and infographics on youth to take place and harness the ability of online conferences and conventions to increase knowledge sharing among youth in the region.

17. Youth viewed this platform as an opportunity to create and promote their present and future contributions. It is envisaged as a Regional and Multi-Functional Platform for youth where they can make better use of opportunities and share ideas that contribute to youth development and promote overall sustainable development.

C. Positive youth engagement in policies and strategies

18. Participants in the 2019 Youth Forum called for a **Youth Charter in the Arab Region** as a reference document for youth programmes, policies and strategies. They reached this conclusion after mapping the main challenges facing youth in the region when it comes to their positive engagement in relevant policies and strategies.
19. Since the Charter stems from youth and thus reflects their challenges, needs, rights, and freedoms, it is expected to embrace the needs and aspirations of youth living in conflict zones, youth economic empowerment, and implementing national youth policies.
20. To operationalize the Charter and to enhance its contribution in projecting a new narrative around youth issues in Arab States, participants proposed accountability frameworks to accompany the Charter, giving youth a key role in the implementation and enforcement of the Charter as well as designing a robust results framework to measure progress and output of the proposed charter
21. Besides being the custodians of the Charter, this effort should place youth among decision makers in Arab States advancing collective actions for sustainable development and peace and security commitments and goals. In doing this, the Charter would support the partnership between youth, governments and other stakeholders bent on a common vision about youth issues in the Arab region.



D. Knowledge and youth-friendly programmes/ services

22. Realizing the need for youth specific friendly services and an overall programme, the Youth Forum participants introduced “**Shabab it**”, a digital solution for Youth-friendly Services designed to capture and meet youth knowledge, information, educational and health needs.
23. Their aim was to create an instrument or tool that would enable youth to gauge local implementation of programmes and services using physical and digital means.
24. They wanted to create a product that is both feasible for and attainable by young

people -- simple and inexpensive yet impactful -- that can advocate among government agencies and development actors and meet youth demand for friendly services.

25. The overall goal is to increase access to high quality, dignified and reliable youth-friendly services in the education

and health fields, in media and entertainment, the arts and culture, and in employment and entrepreneurship, as well as the soft skills. A further aim is to help youth reach all the services required while providing peer reviews of available services.

E. Accelerators for youth contributions to achieving SDGs

26. Realizing the contribution youth can provide to accelerate progress on SDGs targets and programmes, youth participants called for the creation of a centre that would channel their innovation, initiatives and projects into concrete contributions to the SDGs under the label **Knowledge and Innovations Centres (KICs)**.
27. Youth described the KICs as empowerment spaces where youth would be able to undertake needs assessments, capacity building, responsive innovation projects, and programme implementation on the full range of relevant SDG issues.
28. Youth called for a conducive and enabling environment to promote success stories about their SDG-related projects. This could entail a platform for highlighting youth contributions to achieving the SDGs.
29. Tunisia's Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs announced its commitment to set up the first Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Tunis as a building block towards achieving 20 KICs in all Arab States.



II. Sessions and presentations

1. In addition to the introductory and opening sessions, the Forum comprised seven plenary sessions and separate interactive workshop sessions devoted to each of the forum's four topics. In addition, an interactive segment entitled "Change Makers Space" (20-21 August) featured six special sessions, two Ted Talk sessions with more than 15 presentations, and exhibition booths where participating partners and youth were able to showcase their takeaway from the various forum sessions including activities inspired by the overall theme of knowledge at the service of youth in Arab States. The sessions covered the following topics:

Opening Session	Opening of the second Youth Forum in the Arab Region- welcoming remarks (by partners, youth and officials)
Plenary Session I	Setting the scene
Plenary Session II	Youth Forum AR outcomes 2018
Plenary Session III	Introduction to all workshops
Youth Creative Workshop 1	Regional Youth Platform
Youth Creative Workshop 2	Positive engagement in youth-related policies and strategies
Youth Creative Workshop 3	Promoting knowledge on/from youth-friendly programmes and services
Youth Creative Workshop 4	Accelerators for youth contributions in achieving SDG
Change Makers Space Session 1	Special Session on Youth Networking and Platforms in the Arab Region
Change Makers Space Session 2	Special Session on Youth and SDGs in the Arab States
Change Makers Space Session 3	Special Session on Social Responsibility and Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE)
Change Makers Space Session 4	Special youth debate on Harmful Practices Against Adolescent Girls in the Arab States
Change Makers Space Session 5	Special Session on youth and data
Change Makers Space Session 6	Special Session on innovative solutions to address the needs of people on the move
Change Makers Space Event 1	ICPD @25 Commitment Corner
Change Makers Space Event 2	Ted Talks by influencers and youth
Plenary Session IV	Inter-youth presentation of Flagship Regional Products

Plenary Session V	High-level dialogue session
Plenary Session VI	From Cairo to Nairobi: Special Session Celebrating ICPD @ 25
Plenary Session VII	Recommendations and closing of second Youth Forum in the Arab Region
Field Visits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SRH Youth Friendly Centre – National Family and Population Board – MoH 2. Cultural and Sports Centre for Youth – Ministry of Youth and Sports 3. Cogite Co-working space



2. Summaries of sessions and related discussions follow:

A. Opening session

3. Ms. Haifa Esdiri, youth representative from Tunisia and Mr. Hatim Aznague, the representative from Morocco, welcomed the participants, emphasizing that young people are hopeful that the second Youth Forum in the Arab Region would generate concrete measures in support of their national-level initiatives and aspirations. Speakers commended youth and acknowledged their need for a platform where they could challenge the status quo, underscoring their potential role as positive agents of change. Speaker after speaker offered their congratulations, singling out youth in states
4. The opening session featured official words of welcome from the Regional Director, UNFPA ASRO, Dr. Luay Shabaneh; a video statement by the UN Secretary-General's Youth Envoy, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake; and remarks by Mr. Abd El Monem ElShaary, Director, Department of Youth and Sports, League of Arab States, and Dr. Sonia Ben Cheikh, Minister of Youth and Sports, Tunisia.
5. UNSG Youth Envoy Wickramanayake welcomed youth in the Arab Region to the Forum, noting its designation as the main platform where they could interact with stakeholders (government, civil society and private sector) and seek to influence policies, programmes and interventions designed to address their needs. She emphasized the importance of benefiting fully from the momentum generated by the Forum to promote a new and vigorous narrative about youth in the region and that they discuss and develop initiatives\programmes\projects that would help ensure their full

rights, including the right to informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health-, and their active participation in efforts to bring about peace, security and development in their communities and countries. Ms. Wickramanayake saluted UNFPA's leadership in the area of youth, peace and security as per UNSCR 2250 given its particular relevance to the region. She also committed to support the Forum outcomes in her interactions with policy makers from the region and assured participants that she would champion the Forum and its results in global conventions for youth.

6. UNFPA Regional Director, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, applauded the active collaboration of all partners, including the Government of Tunisia, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP) and others promoting youth empowerment and rights. The Youth Forum should be "a regular annual meeting", he said, noting that they were "now beyond the brainstorming stage" and that the Forum workshops would produce "four practical flagship youth projects" with implementation and evaluation mechanisms "all set by youth themselves." Dr. Shabaneh added that UNFPA firmly believed in the importance of youth as decision makers engaged in making meaningful and substantive choices that affect themselves and their communities.
7. With "Knowledge at the service of Youth in the Arab States" as the theme of the 2019 forum, more than 200 youths from 20 Arab countries participated in workshops over the three days and discussed

their needs and priorities within the thematic context of knowledge. Speakers made a point of highlighting how the design and format of the second Youth Forum had been shaped to show respect for and increase youth engagement in planning, implementation and follow-up. In their turn, youth speakers invited participating partners and decision makers to work with them and facilitate and encourage innovative youth as equal partners in the sustainable development agenda.

8. In her address to the opening session of the Forum, H.E. Minister Ben Cheikh called for the institutionalization of the Forum and announced the Government of Tunisia's readiness to host the envisaged Regional Centre of Excellence on Youth. "Our country puts special emphasis on the role of youth and I am using this platform to express our eagerness to embrace this much needed youth space in the Arab region," she stated.
9. Speakers reiterated that the forum's knowledge for youth theme represented the shared hope for a better and more sustainable future for the region, where knowledge would serve as the guarantee for youth's access to information and freedom of expression and help realise their right to citizenship. Knowledge ensures youth's ability and potential to be able to influence positive social change. Yet, it may not be possible to harness this potential if youth are not afforded good health and wellbeing, if they can neither acquire an education nor have access to decent employment for a dignified life.
10. This year's forum coincided with the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development. States' commitment to adolescent and youth rights, protection, health, sexual and

reproductive health, and quality education is based on the ICPD's Programme of Action of 1994. States and partners will get a chance in Nairobi this year to renew their commitment and promises on these issues.

11. Speakers invited Youth Forum participants under the slogan of "My Body, My Life, World" of the UNFPA strategy on adolescents' and youth to renew their firm commitment to the region's youth agenda. This strategy focuses on youth engagement, participation and advocacy; youth health and wellbeing; economic empowerment opportunities for youth; and preservation of human rights in an effort to promote peacebuilding and community resilience.

B. Plenary sessions

Session I: setting the scene for the second forum

12. The session was moderated by Ms. Mazoon Al-Zadjali, Y-PEER Oman Focal Point in Charge, Mr. Ahmad AlKarak, Journalism Advocate at AlKarak voice broadcast, introduced the 2019 Forum's objectives, theme and topics as well as outlining the expected outcomes from the forum. The session kicked off with the video documentary of the 2018 inaugural Youth Forum, the aim being to encourage participants to utilize that experience and expand the reach of the forum.
13. The main objectives of the second forum are to: a) share and assess achieved progress on commitments and specific priority areas of action as defined by the 2018 Forum; b) youth are encouraged to discuss and develop the 2019-2020 "Flagship Regional Product(s)"

that might require concrete support by participating stakeholders and partners; c) discuss and validate the envisaged innovative "Regional Youth Platform" as an integral part of the Forum's *modus operandi*.

Session II: 2018 youth forum ar outcomes

14. Reporting on the main outcomes of the 2018 forum was one of the main promises by forum conveners to ensure that every ensuing forum builds on the previous one in a well-structured framework that allows for both horizontal and vertical expansion.
15. The Youth Forum in the Arab Region was established in 2018. The aim was to establish and promote an agenda emphasizing youth, peace and development. The main documented successes of the 2018 forum included: a) the establishment and support for a recurring "Youth Space" event; b) youth participants' selection to follow a transparent, inclusive, competitive and fair process; c) the success in mobilizing partners and resources in support of youth innovation and products and; d) Arab States' interest in hosting future forums and ensuring that government officials (i.e. Ministers) participate at them.
16. Eight months have passed since the 2018 Assilah Call for Action where the 2018 participants outlined ten points arising within the three areas of discussion: a) New narrative around young people in the Arab States; b) innovation and social change in the service of youth in the Arab States and; c) Youth, Peace and Security. UNFPA and partners including the Youth Forum participants managed to transform these recommendations and messages into programmes,

initiatives, events and research activities, some of which were further discussed during the 2019 Forum. More information on the progress made since Assilah 2018 is available in Annex 2.

Session III: introduction to all workshops

17. The four Youth Creative Workshops (YCWs) organized at the 2019 forum were: YCW 1: Regional Youth Platform: A recommendation of the 2018 Forum, one of the 2019 Forum's objectives was to discuss and validate the envisaged innovative "Regional Youth Platform" as an integral part of the Forum's *modus operandi*; YCW 2: Positive engagement in youth-related policies and strategies: this workshop aimed to identify concrete means through which youth can have a positive role and contribute to ensuring that youth-related policies and strategies do respond to their rights, needs and aspirations; YCW 3: Promoting knowledge on/from youth-friendly programmes and services: the aim being to identify creative ways for producing, disseminating and utilizing knowledge on as well as resulting from youth-friendly programmes and services at different levels; and, YCW 4: Accelerators for youth contributions in achieving SDGs: the aim, to explore and identify innovative knowledge-related investments that will accelerate and scale-up youth contributions to achieving SDGs in their communities, countries and region.
18. Participants were coached by a group of youth facilitators accomplished in their own area of expertise and with relevant experience in designing innovative youth-led solutions to development and/or social problems. The ideation-to-product methodology (ideation, shaping the product, product's strategic planning

and product's presentation) was the basis for the four creative workshops youth enrolled in to explore, decide, shape, prepare and finally present their proposed Regional Flagship Product to partners and policy makers attending the forum.

Plenary session IV: youth presentation of flagship regional project proposals

19. After deliberating for two days on project ideas and related strategic planning, youth participants were invited to present their proposals to each of the four workshops for feedback and suggestions from their peers, partners and representatives of the private sector in attendance.
20. The feedback helped youth refine and polish their project proposals for presentation to potential funders and private sector investors and to show how their proposals differed from or improved on existing approaches addressing similar issues/ target groups and/or using similar methods.



Plenary session V: high-level dialogue session

21. During this session, creative workshop participants unveiled their revised project proposals for review and consideration by Ministers and high-level government officials from the region as well as partners and private sector representatives with the aim of winning their commitment and support to their further development.
22. First came a presentation about the Forum's Operationalization Framework including an advisory board that would oversee implementation of viable Forum outcomes such as youth-inspired project proposals. MINASATY, the Regional Youth Platform, has been devised to serve as the cornerstone and guarantor for both the continuity of the Forum's and the projects it helps inspire. Forum outputs now and in the future are expected to expand as can be seen in the Youth Strategic Framework (YSF) diagram in annex 2.
23. Having heard the project proposals developed in the four creative workshops -- **MINASATY (My Platform/منصتي), Youth Charter in the Arab Region, Shabab it and Knowledge and Innovations Centres (KICs)** (See product pitches in Annex 2) -- Arab States Ministers and high-level officials were given the floor to comment on the presentations, provide feedback and talk about their own national youth programmes that intersect with the Youth Forum theme and main topics.
24. Some used the opportunity to propose additional initiatives: : a) The Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr. Ashraf Sobhy, proposed formalizing the partnership as well as the hosting arrangements for the Youth Forum in the Arab Region through the League of Arab States (LAS)

Council of Arab Youth and Sports Ministers by signing an MOU to hold the Forum annually in conjunction with the Council; b) The President of the Palestinian Olympic Committee General, Mr. Jibreel Rajooob, invited the Arab Youth to join their Palestinian peers for the Annual Palestinian Week event upcoming in November and jointly organized with the League of Arab States; and, c) the Director of Youth at the Moroccan Ministry of Youth and Sports, Mr. Otman Gair, expressed his country's commitment to lead efforts to implement the project that was presented proposing the Youth Charter in the Arab Region.



Plenary session VI: from cairo to nairobi: special session celebrating ICPD @ 25

25. UNFPA Regional Director for Arab States, Dr. Lauy Shabaneh, provided an overview of the planned ICPD Summit in 2019 commemorating the 25 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994, when world leaders pledged their support to the rights, health, protection and wellbeing of girls, adolescents and women. The ICPD Summit in Nairobi is expected to assemble 4,000 participants including governments, NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBO) and Youth. Many

participants from the 2019 Youth Forum will be sponsored to attend the summit where they can promote the Forum findings while representing their peers from the region.

26. In his remarks, Dr. Shabaneh noted how the ICPD in 1994 held out the promise to address the many rights limitations faced by women, adolescents and youth, yet today many Arab States in emergency situations face even harsher conditions in the struggle for adolescent girls and youth to realize their rights.
27. The 1994 ICPD Programme of Action contributed to the advancement of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, especially for young people and women globally and in the Arab World. Yet when it comes to such issues as contraceptive prevalence among women of reproductive age, contraceptive prevalence rates in the Arab States remain 10 points higher than in the rest of the world - a combined 48% in 2019 compared to 33% in 1994. Great strides have been made in reducing the region's maternal mortality rates since 1994. Then it was 285 in 100,000 live births. Today, the ratio is 162 in 100,000 live births, a drop of 43%. Nonetheless, he said, it was well to remember that many women and adolescent girls still die in childbirth from preventable causes a salutary reminder of the need for a collective commitment to prevent such deaths. One of the main rights-based achievements of ICPD and other multilateral efforts had been the decrease in child marriage. In 1994, one-in-three girls were married before age 18 compared to one-in-five today, representing an annual total of 700,000 child brides. This year's summit for ICPD, Dr. Shabaneh pointed out, comes at a time when emerging challenges in the region associated with humanitarian crises have rendered 14.4

million women and girls of reproductive age in need of life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, including an estimated 2.3 million who are pregnant.

28. The 2019 commemoration of ICPD scheduled for Nairobi aims to fulfil the promise and potential of millions of women and girls in the Arab States and capitalize on other national, regional and global events designed to amplify the voices of women and young people in need, Dr. Shabaneh said. In this context, the Youth Forum should be taken as one of the landmark events for Arab States, paving the way to Nairobi where the forum outcomes will be presented to focus attention on the region's specific needs, recommendations, innovations and the voices of youth in Arab States.
29. Following this global and regional review of ICPD progress, a panel discussion between youth and experts highlighted the regional challenges and opportunities offered by the ICPD agenda. Dr. Rym Fayala, Assistant Representative, UNFPA Tunisia, moderated a lively discussion featuring Mr. Benhassen Abdelbasset, the President of the Arab Institute of Human Rights in Tunisia, Ms. Hafidha Chekir, Professor of Law and Vice President of the International Federation of Human Rights, Mr. Mohamed Tarek Ghedira, President of IPPF's Arab Region Executive Committee, Ms. Yasmine Mjali, Founder of Babyfist, and Graffiti Artist Taha Alkindy.
30. Panelists shared insights from their work, along with initiatives and projects touching upon such ICPD themes as: a) Young Palestinian women addressing violence and discrimination against women and girls in public spaces where they are doubly marginalized both by the occupation and the overall community. Yasmine Mjali spoke of how she had launched the creative campaign labeled

“Not your Habibti” (as in “I am not your girl”) supporting girls and women seeking to reclaim their agency and to reinforce the notion that they are not owned by anyone else. Other speakers touched upon the power of education and knowledge in realizing the ICPD promise and respect for human rights such as the right to be, respect for diversity, equality and the ownership of one’s body. All points raised touched upon the recently launched UNFPA strategy for adolescents and youth “My Life, My Body, My World”.

31. Some panelists examined the ICPD commitment from a legal standpoint, noting that many laws in the region tended to reinforce practices such as discrimination against women which especially contradicts or undermines core ICPD issues about ending discrimination and violence against women and girls and upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights. Laws need to be reformed so that any violation against women and/or with regards to reproductive rights is seen as a clear violation of human rights affecting family, community, the public in general and the political sphere.
32. Discussing the role of arts in community and social change, the Omani graffiti artist Taha AlKindy mentioned how he used his talent = to share information and educate his peers about sexual and reproductive rights. His graffiti designs and paintings appealed to young people and aroused their interest in the health-related issues his work informed about.



Plenary session VII: forum’s recommendations and closing of the second “Youth forum in the Arab region”

33. The last Forum session was devoted to overall recommendations tabled by youth participants inspired by the forum theme as well as about how future Forums should be structured. Recommendations included the following: a) Tunis to host a regional innovation centre that would support the institutionalization of the annual forum concept and the proposal and projects it might endorse; b) the commitment of UNFPA and partners to launch the four main project proposals that came out of the creative workshops for youth; c) strengthening forum partnership structures through an MOU modality to be endorsed during the actual Forum; d) producing a calendar of key youth flagship events nationally, regionally and globally to be shared with and enhance youth engagement in relevant fora and; e) Forum to be scheduled every two years to allow more time for the implementation of projects and therefore to adjust the 2019 project implementation cycle from 2020 to 2022.
34. Additionally, youth participants suggested a range of issues for consideration by future Forums including: a) a first-day, set-the-scene session to inform about the status of youth, girls and women in the region; b) more sessions where youth share stories about innovations and how they address community problems; c) more space and time set aside for youth networking activities; d) dedicated time and space so youth can interact with officials and the forum in order to arrive at concrete, national action plans that can be taken forward by youth and government officials; e) more online tools for youth engagement during the forum plus timely distribution of workshop/session feedback forms. .

35. Youth participants also recommended there be more joint sessions to encourage inter-group collaboration. They stressed their need for capacity-building workshops, even if they had to conduct them themselves. Almost all youth in attendance called for the allocation of more time to enable them formulate proposals and projects.
36. Participants concluded by noting the following: a) the need for better gender representativeness among speakers that needs to be factored in the design of in future plenary discussions and forum sessions; and, b) greater engagement of youth with disabilities to enhance their representation within the forum youth space.



C. Youth creative workshops sessions

37. During days one and two of the Youth Forum, youth participants and their partners were assigned to one or other of the four Youth Creative Workshops: a) Regional Youth Platform; b) Positive engagement in youth-related Policies and Strategies; c) Promoting Knowledge on/from youth-friendly Programmes and Services; and, d) Accelerators for youth contributions in achieving SDGs. Participants assigned to each workshop attended four sessions devoted to devel-

oping project schematics and proposals for their peers to review and refine in preparation for final day presentation at the Ministerial Dialogue session.

YCW 1: regional youth platform

38. Main platform strengths include: a) matching the platform to the region in terms of language (Arabic, English, French); maintaining a presence or creating a hub for each country in the region to attract and appeal to young artists and entrepreneurs that would also meet the needs of people living with disabilities and would be led and owned by young people.
39. Participants made a point of noting that if the platform relied solely on social media accounts it would fail to capture the opinions of all young people, since public social media posting does not reflect of all social media posts by Arab youth. To offset this, participants suggested increasing the platform's data pool. They also stressed the need for attractive product for donors, noting that crowd-funding features could be original to this portal or linked to other regional and/or international crowd-funding platforms (e.g. gofundme, Zoomaal Arab Region).
40. Another suggestion was to enhance youth access to funding opportunities by connecting youth with potential donors (e.g. UN Agencies and NGOs, as well as corporate social responsibility entities within the private sector and start-ups) that have tabs featuring programmes they are willing to fund and detailing how to apply for such funding. See funders page on Wassel.io (<https://wassel.io/funders>).
41. Among the weaknesses and/or challenges identified were: a) quality assurance about the sources of data on the

platform; b) verification of opportunities by funders and users; c) maintaining high youth engagement to support the pooling of data to the platform and attracting new users; d) the platform's ability to outreach to the most disadvantaged youth as well as to cater to the needs of adolescents and; e) platform sustainability with regard to funding, institutionalization and ownership.

42. Participants listed the main opportunities a Regional Youth Platform offered: a) it can build on existing platforms and try to fill in the gaps; b) it can capitalize on different youth conferences as an opportunity to promote its outputs, networking with partners and youth; c) it can point to the availability of funding for the platform by various parties including different countries, the private sector, the UN and others and; d) it offers a niche where real-time information and feedback from youth can be catalogued and analysed to support governments and organizations responsible for pro-youth programmes and policies, which, if utilized correctly, can help adjust and align interventions to deal with real time issues raised by youth while facilitating feedback on services delivered.
43. The end result was that the workshop's youth participants were able to collaboratively realise **MINASATY (My Platform/منصتي)**, the youth-led digital space designed to connect, engage and scale up youth initiatives and collaborations. Additionally, MINASATY will also consolidate services and programmes targeting youth in the Arab States. This digital, one-stop shop designed to address the different needs of youth in the Arab region aims to: connect and network, share and develop relevant content, empower, showcase funding opportunities, provide access to mentors and be a tool for advocacy with the add-

ed value of being digitalized, data driven and regionally and thematically focused on youth in Arab States.

44. The proposed platform's features include: a) an educational centre; b) a cultural portal; c) an opportunities page; d) data insights; and, e) online conferences for knowledge-sharing purposes. MINASATY is expected to open the way for Arab youth to access information and opportunities and for those dealing with youth issues to gain insights about youth interests, activities and concerns as well as being able to promote their effort including programmes and funding for youth.



YCW 2: positive engagement in youth-related policies and strategies

45. During this workshop, participants identified the main challenges faced by youth to be: a) youth ideas, initiatives and needs are not taken seriously and so their issues are inadequately reflected in policies and strategies; b) adolescents and youth still suffer lack of access to education and knowledge services, often because of poverty, conflict and natural disasters; c) youth not united to come up with solutions to tackle challenges facing them and usually work in silos and; d) reduced financial, economic resources to support youth initiatives.

46. Youth participants took up these challenges as the starting point of the workshop to come up with a collective solution based on their positive engagement in policies and strategies and proposed the development of a **Youth Charter in the Arab Region**.
 47. The Charter, a reference document for youth programmes, policies and strategies, was drafted by the youth, and so reflects their challenges, needs, rights, and freedoms. The Charter includes content by youth living in conflict zones, economic empowerment measures, and putting national youth policies into effect. It also supports the partnership between youth, governments and all other parties seeking to build a common vision regarding youth in the Arab region.
 48. The Charter aims to be : a) a framework for policies and strategies about youth in the Arab Region; b) a clear statement by youth of their needs and aspirations; c) aligned with prevailing international standards and documents; d) a collaborative venture between youth and governments in terms of design, implementation, monitoring and review; e) a unifying vision of efforts that that would best serve youth in the Arab Region.
 49. The Charter ties in with other youth-designed, workshop outputs meant to provide structure and basis for the Regional Youth Platform. It is also intended to promote and support the expansion of youth-friendly programmes and services and is designed to complement and structure the contribution of Arab region youth to SDGs.
- YCW 3: Promoting knowledge on/ from youth-friendly services (YFS) and programmes**
50. The third workshop on knowledge for youth-friendly programmes and services proposed an improved YFS approach featuring new opportunities, fostering meaningful conversation among youth and other innovations. The proposed version should be: a) "edutainment"-based; b) evidence- informed about the youth needs it would address; c) able to create a safe space for youth including young women; and, d) capable of developing existing partnerships with different youth-led NGOs and networks.
 51. To ensure that the proposed service is feasible and accessible by young people, participants suggested it be digitally conveyed, using the region's main languages, and that it should also be simple and inexpensive. It should mix knowledge with education using digital means and it would be up to youth themselves to decide and design knowledge-related inputs for the service.
 52. Workshop participants proposed naming this content-based portal "**Shabab it**" -- a digital tool equipped with YFS knowledge and content. It would give youth the opportunity to rate different services and gauge local implementation as well as engage YFS providers and advocate for such services. The overall goal would be to increase access to high quality, dignified YFS in the fields of education, health, media and entertainment, arts and culture, employment and entrepreneurship, and soft skills.
 53. Workshop participants are expected to refine and develop the concept once the Forum ends by remaining directly involved in all subsequent stages of development and implementation as well as service provision after submitting it for peer support and review. Youth searching for services in, for example, the mental health field, should be able to source information about service providers as well as peer support groups and peer ratings of services. Portal content should be designed to accommodate online and offline dissemination in physical settings such as youth and safe spaces.

YCW 4: accelerators for youth contributions in achieving SDG

54. Problems cited by workshop participants' as impeding youth support for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 included: a) regional emergencies and stalled economic growth; b) a lack of awareness among youth about SDGs in general and the region's commitment to them resulting in reduced youth engagement in the region's development agenda; c) challenges in accessing knowledge, data, resources and opportunities that might support SDGs progress; and, d) absence of youth space facilities that might harness innovation and collective action by youth for SDGs.
55. Once the workshop pinpointed the main problem and identified knowledge-based solutions so that youth could help speed up SDG progress in the region, participants urged the following: a) awareness raising among youth on SDGs through "edutainment" and games; b) SDGs advocacy and networking, online and offline; c) promoting community and youth stories in support of certain SDG goals; d) funding SDG initiatives; and, e) setting up national and regional-level hubs or spaces for youth collaboration on SDGs solution.
56. After reviewing these functions, the youth endorsed and began framing the concept of "**Knowledge and Innovations Centres (KICs)**"¹ (already established in some European cities) as dynamic spaces where, once adapted by the region, knowledge producers and users could interact and channel innovation. The group envisaged the KICs as offering empowerment spaces for youth to accelerate attaining SDGs through needs assessments, capacity building, responsive innovation, project implementation, and the building of enabling environments.
57. The proposed objectives of the Knowledge and Innovations Centres (KICs) are: a) researching and identifying local problems and suggesting viable solutions; b) raising awareness on the role of youth in achieving the SDGs; c) supporting entrepreneurship, efficient data, and innovation for sustainability and; d) providing trainings and capacity building for youth and local communities.
58. Once the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs announced plans to establish the Regional Centre of Excellence, the youth participants proposed it also host the first Knowledge Innovation Centre in Tunis with a view to setting up similar facilities in all 20 Arab States over the next ten years.
59. This side session focused on teaching best practices for moderating culturally sensitive platforms, specifically engaging marginalized groups reassuringly in productive dialogue. Design and implementation of the platforms would be at grassroots level, since they should be context specific, keeping in mind that it takes years to generate enough content for a successful platform to gain traction with the local population, especially when dealing with sensitive topics. Radio Nederland Wereldomroep (Radio Netherlands Worldwide) (RNW media) the session moderating partner

D. Change makers space sessions and activities

Change makers space session 1: special session on youth networking and platforms in the Arab region

¹ For more information about existing KICs and examples see: <https://knowledgeinnovation.eu/about-us/>

has established credibility over time with platforms focused on SRH, FGM, unsafe abortion, and family planning by consistently publishing factual information.

60. Activity focused on how to be a responsible moderator of a social platform by achieving an equitable balance of views while avoiding inflammatory or derogatory comment. Five keys to ensuring ethical moderating all hinge on assuring inclusiveness: inclusive teams, inclusive communities, inclusive partnerships, inclusive content, and inclusive tech. Each contributes to an ethical style of moderation that is inclusive while also allowing a variety of opinions to be shared.

Change makers space session 2: special session on youth and sdgs in the arab states

61. ESCWA organized a capacity building session on youth and SDGs. The workshop was kicked off by an interactive presentation introducing the 2030 Agenda and the role of youth in accelerating the achievement of its goals. The presentation was followed by a simulation exercise that aimed to increase the participants understanding of the holistic approach of the SDGs to development thinking and the concept of leaving no one behind. Participants were divided to four groups, each group representing a different ministry or non-governmental body. The groups then reported on their findings resulting from the exercise.
62. The workshop was concluded by an open discussion on means to increase regional collaboration among youth on the SDGs and avenues for their participation at the national, regional, and global levels. The youth agreed on the need for a regional group/network that would organize efforts and create spaces by the youth and for the youth in regional and global

events such as the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) and HLPF. Youth participants shared some of their national and regional experiences such as the Arab Youth Platform for Sustainable Development. Participants emphasized the need to increase synergy and avoid duplicity of work.



Change makers space session 3: special session on social responsibility and life skills and citizenship education (LSCE)

63. The LSCE and Social Responsibility session was created through a partnership between WFP and UNFPA. The session began with setting the scene by introducing what children go through in humanitarian setting and how LSCE contributes to building resilience and enhancing social cohesion, especially in the crisis. The session followed by providing insight on youth's social responsibility on civic engagement and citizenship education which then led to the presentation on the background of youth peer education. This session aimed to bring social responsibility to youths to be engaged in LSCE, especially to the younger generation.
64. The session crowd-sourced ideas about what being a member of society means. Youths participated in a simulation activity that youths had to come up with possible lunch time programmes that can foster healthy relationships between the host community and refugee children in school settings. The activity gave an insight into the School Feeding Programme contributing to education

by acting as an entry point to provide citizenship education. Just by providing safe and shared space among different communities and sharing food can lead the students to acquire positive civic attitudes. The youths were very engaged with the activity and provided fresh and applicable ideas which World Food Programme will be sharing with the Lebanon Country Office to be implemented in the Health & Nutrition Summer camps.



Change makers space session 4: special youth debate on harmful practices against adolescent girls in the arab states

65. This session focused on harmful practices such as child marriage and FGM in the region. The session began with trends and facts about child marriage and FGM - there are 37,000 child marriages per day and in the next ten years over 140 million will be married. Once the figures were shared, child marriage and FGM became the subject of an animated debate sparked off by selected youths and UNFPA staff members who role-played as proponents of such practices. The wide-ranging discussion touched on culture, religion, medicalization, and social norms.
66. A short video created by the UNFPA Palestine country office about child marriage was screened and youth participants expressed outrage at laws that fail to protect girls. They spoke of why child

marriage is wrong, citing how it ends childhood, increases the risk of GBV, its negative impact to the economy, and of children being neither mentally nor physically ready for marriage. They agreed that it was necessary to support and help build up the resilience of girls to address and resist child marriage.

Change makers space session 5: special session on youth and data

67. The UNDP-sponsored Youth and Data side session explored the value of data and how it can be utilized to address issues facing youth in the Arab region. The unfortunate dearth of data on youth in the region was a matter of concern among participants, though note was taken of steps being made to address this. The Arab Development Portable, accessible at arabdevelopmentportal.com, is a user-friendly platform created by UNDP to harness all available data in one place. Currently, the portal includes 14 topics complete with international and national data and an SDG tracking tool. During the Forum, UNDP, in partnership with UNICEF, officially launched the Youth Data segment of the portal, focused on youth data, activities, statistics, and related information in the region.
68. The panel discussion continued to support the need for accessible data, especially for young people. Youth represent the largest percentage of the region's population. Yet, while eager to be active in problem solving and policy formulation, they are consistently neglected in decision-making processes. Now, with the revolution in artificial intelligence (AI), the growth of smart cities, and the belief that data properly used can transcend different sectors, there is hope. In situations where data and information are hard to find, youth must work together in a determined effort to find,

extract, clean, and analyze the data before releasing it for presentation since its quality and veracity is crucial if it is to successfully gain support and trigger mass engagement.

69. Data must be utilized to address the gaps between education and employment, a serious issue facing youth in the Arab region. The lack of data about the job market and available work positions is contributing to the growing gap between youth finishing school and securing employment. The session emphasized that there is always a use and a need for data, and that further efforts must be made to make it accessible and helpful to youth in the region.

Change makers space session 6: special session on innovative solutions to address the needs of people on the move

70. The special session was jointly facilitated by UNFPA and WFP and tackled the main factors behind youth migration and movement which include but not limited to lack of security, climate change and loss of livelihood.
71. WFP presented hydroponics and blockchain as innovative solutions implemented in their operations for humanitarian response. Hydroponics mitigate the effect of the climate change and prevent people from being forced to change their habitat. Blockchain help the most vulnerable going through food insecurity, including the people on the move.
72. UN agencies and partners are currently exploring the potential of innovative techniques for humanitarian response purposes. WFP presented a case where Syrian women in Jordan are trained to use hydroponic farming techniques for sustainable employment and livelihoods. Other case studies presented included harnessing blockchain technology to enhance the ability of humanitarian actors

to provide effective and efficient assistance to the people on the move.

73. Participants were then divided into groups to role-play the different user profiles from every component of the supply chain such as, farmers, retailers and consumers in scenarios requiring them to map out the challenge faced by users in times of emergency and to come up with quick and innovative solutions.

E. Field visits

74. After the closing sessions, participants registered to attend one of three different field visits offering a chance to interact with youth service providers in Tunisia and to experience the types of services available to adolescents and youth providing employment, health, education and civic engagement-related services. These were: a) a Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Youth-Friendly Centre, which, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Population National Family and Population Board, operates in one of the most marginalized areas in greater Tunis, offering marginalized groups of adolescents and youth access to a number of SRH services and information covering sexuality education, and medical care plus counselling and social support; b) a Cultural and Sports Centre for Youth recently renovated and run by the Ministry of Youth and Sports as a modern, youth-friendly space offering a range of cultural and sports activities (plus a co-working space) to a very marginalized group of youth; and, c) the Cogite Co-working space, a social enterprise, ranked third best of its kind in the world by Forbes Magazine, which offers a friendly, safe space to a community of impact-driven youth entrepreneurs and organizations that, to date, have organized some 80, mostly entrepreneurial, events in the course of the year.



III. Participants

75. The Forum was attended by 270 participants from 20 Arab countries, more than half of them adolescents and youth (aged 10-29). Also attending were high-level representatives of Arab Governments including Ministers, Secretary Generals and Director Generals ; as well as MPs , representatives of youth networks and other civil society organizations, business leaders from the private sector and academics s, UN agencies and other international and regional development partners, plus experts and influencers, many of them actors, musicians and social media bloggers.



IV. Appendix

76. The report appendix includes annexes on the Forum's Agenda, 2018 Forum progress on commitments; and highlights from endorsed youth projects' presentations.

Annex I

Agenda

Day One: Tuesday 20 August 2019	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration
9:00 - 9:30	Introductory Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hatim Aznague (Morocco) and Ms. Haifa Esdiri (Tunisia), Youth representatives • Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, United Nations Secretary General's Youth Envoy • Mr. Abd El Monem ElShaary, Director, Department of Youth and Sports, League of Arab States • Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Arab States Regional Director • Dr. Sonia Ben Cheikh, Minister of Youth and Sports, Tunisia
9:30 - 10:00	Session 2: Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video on the 2018 Forum • Objectives • Theme and topics • Expected outcomes of the 2019 forum
10:00-10:40	Session 3: 2018 Youth Forum AR outcomes: Progress made VS. commitments (including reporting from Youth on their participation in key global and regional youth events since last forum)
10:40 - 10:50	Group photo
10:50 - 11:10	Session 4: Introduction to All Workshops
11:10 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 14:00	Session 5: Youth Creative Workshops (YCW) - Part 1 "Idea Generation, Screening and Concept Development" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Youth Platform • Positive Engagement in Policies and Strategies • Knowledge and Youth-friendly Programmes/Services • Accelerators for Youth Contributions to Achieving SDGs
14:00-15:00	Lunch
15:00-17:00	Session 6: Youth Creative Workshops (YCW) - Part 2 "Shaping the Product" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Youth Platform • Positive Engagement in Policies and Strategies • Knowledge and Youth-friendly Programmes/Services • Accelerators for Youth Contributions to Achieving SDGs

17:00- 19:00	Change Makers Space Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Session on Youth Networking and Platforms in the Arab Region • Special Session on Youth and SDGs in the Arab States • Special Session on Social Responsibility and Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) • ICPD @25 Commitment Corner
Day Two: Wednesday 21 August 2019	
08:00 - 10:00	Session 7: Youth Creative Workshops (YCW) - Part 1 "Product's Strategic Planning" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Youth Platform • Positive Engagement in Policies and Strategies • Knowledge and Youth-friendly Programmes\Services • Accelerators for Youth Contributions to Achieving SDGs
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee break
10:30 - 12:30	Session 8: Youth Creative Workshops (YCW) - Part 1 "Preparing the Product's Presentation" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Youth Platform • Positive Engagement in Policies and Strategies • Knowledge and Youth-friendly Programmes\Services • Accelerators for Youth Contributions to Achieving SDGs
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30- 14:30	Session 9: Inter-Youth Presentation of the Flagship Regional Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flagship Regional Product 1 • Flagship Regional Product 2
14:30 - 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 - 16:00	Session 9 Cont'd: Inter-Youth Presentation of the Flagship Regional Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flagship Regional Product 3 • Flagship Regional Product 4
16:00- 18:00	Change Makers Space Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Special Youth Debate on Harmful Practices Against Adolescent Girls in the Arab States • Special Session on Youth and Data • Special Session on Innovative Solutions to Address the Needs of People on the Move • ICPD @25 Commitment Corner
Day Three: Thursday 22 August 2019	
09:00 - 11:00	High-level Dialogue Session (including presentation and discussion of the developed Flagship Regional Products)
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	From Cairo to Nairobi: Special Session Celebrating ICPD @ 25
12:30 - 13:30	Forum recommendations
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 - 15:00	Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth representatives • Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Arab States Regional Director • Dr. Sonia Ben Cheikh, Minister of Youth and Sports, Tunisia
15:00 - 17:00	Field visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-working space (s) • Youth-friendly Service Centre(s)

Annex II

2018 Youth forum in the Arab region follow-up

Youth forum in the Arab region: 2018-2019

- ✓ The **traction this Forum received in such a short time**, which truly shows **how much needed this space is** in the region.
- ✓ **High demand of youth for such an inclusive space** (e.g. nbr of eligible applications; participation in online surveys and workshops' groups)
- ✓ Maintained **track record of open, fair and competitive selection of youth participants**
- ✓ Successful **mobilization of partnerships and resources** in support of the Forum (including financial contributions)
- ✓ High **interest of countries** (e.g. hosting offers + high level participation)
- ✓ Based on the First Edition of the Forum, **Swift implementation of youth requests both in terms of format and content:**

Youth forum in the Arab region: 2018-2019

FORMAT	CONTENT
Dedicated youth space representing most of the Forum	One overall theme for each new edition of the Forum: "Knowledge at the Service of Youth in the Arab Region"
Concrete outcomes in the form of actionable flagship projects	Vertical and horizontal expansion
Mostly workshops led and implemented by youth	Clear operational model supported by multi-functional regional platform
Developed and diversified "Change Makers' Space"	Special Sessions, TED Talks, Booths + Field Visits

2018 Youth forum in the Arab region outcomes

Assilah's call for action: Key messages from the Youth Forum in the Arab region

New Narrative around Young people in Arab States

1. Young people in the Arab Region should be considered as **equal partners** by being informed, consulted and empowered to contribute to sust development
2. The strong need for a **new positive narrative** around young people that spans across the spheres of family, society, politics, culture and medi to promote youth as positive change makers in the region
3. It is important to recognizing the role of **young people as change makers and innovators** so that governments and communities provide you with access to opportunities, skills, and information about all matters related to young people's rights and well-being.

Innovation and social change at the service of youth in Arab States

4. Promote **social entrepreneurship by youth** in region to addressing the different needs in areas of unemployment and education, rural develc and other social issues
5. **Building adolescent girls assets** is central to the development of the region and initiatives and programmes are needed to mitigate the chall risks facing girls such as the harmful practices of FGM and child marriage and empowering them with the power of choice including reprodu health and rights in all economic, social and political spheres
6. Suggested the development of a **Regional Youth Platform** that would act as a repository for youth voices and concerns, promote and showc development contributions and innovations and

Youth, Peace and Security:

7. Commended the regional effort on Combating Terrorism and operationalization of UN Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419 on Youth, Pea Security (YPS) through the launching of the **Regional Strategic Framework on YPS in Arab states launched during the 2018 Forum;**
8. Today's generation of Arab youth (largest cohort the region has witnessed) is **most vulnerable to armed conflicts**; and are constrained by unemployment, lack of education and training opportunities, inability to access information, skills and opportunities and further challenged l increasing violent extremism and illegal migration in the region.
9. Recognize that today's generation of Arab youth (largest cohort the region has witnessed) is **most vulnerable to armed conflicts and emerge contexts** and consolidated regional and national efforts are required to address the needs of this affected population.
10. Reaffirm **education's protective and empowering role** for young men and women and the key role that educators and educational institutor addressing the root causes around violence, extremism and the risks associated with irregular and illegal migration.

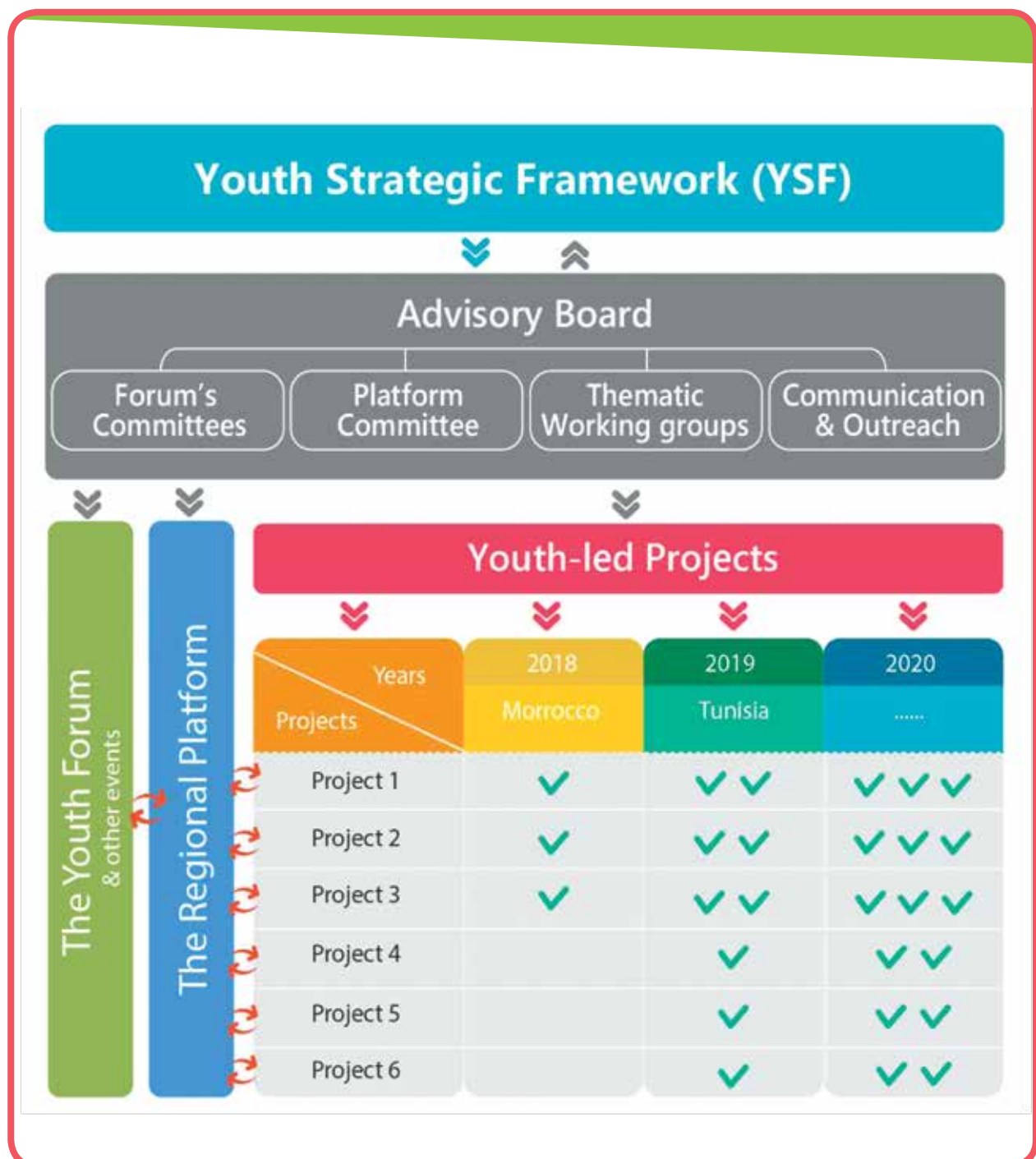


#	Recommendation	Action/Project	Progress to Date	When?
1	Youth in the Arab Region should be considered as equal partners in sustainable development	To emphasis and promote examples of youth contributions to SD in the Arab Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arab Forum for Sustainable Development 2019 featured a special session on “Ensuring the engagement of adolescents and youth in achieving inclusive sustainable development in the Arab region” - Regional Flagship Product outcome of YCW4 from the 2019 Youth Forum: Accelerating Youth Contributions to SDGs 	9-11 April 2019 20-22 August 2019
2	New positive narrative around young people	Define the elements of the envisaged new narrative around youth in the region and its promotion at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Brief (Youth, AUB, UNFPA) + Youth Charter for the Region - Regional Flagship Product outcome of YCW2 from the 2019 Youth Forum: youth positive engagement in policies and strategies 	August 2019
3	Recognizing the role of youth as change makers and innovators	Ensure contributions of innovative and social change makers from the region in global and regional Youth events	Special Regional Session on Youth Champions of Change to Expand Sustainable Impact in the Arab States at the 2019 ECOSOC Global Youth Forum as well as the “ Regional Dialogue: Shared views on Key Issues in the Mediterranean ”	8-9 April 2019 22-23 May 2019
4	Promote social entrepreneurship by youth in region	Creation of a private sector alliance in support of youth projects and initiatives in the region	Engagement of private sector partners in the 2019 Youth Forum + support through funding opportunities for the 2019 Flagship Projects + core group for the “ Private Sector Alliance in Support of Youth in AS ”	August 2019
5	Building adolescent girls assets	Evidence-based policies and programmes targeting the needs and potential of Adolescent Girls in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situational Analysis (SITAN) on Women and Girls in the Region (UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UN Women and Plan International) - UNFPA Adolescent Girls Assets-Based Approach roll out - Arab Girls Summit in October 2019 (UNFPA, LAS, Countries) 	2019-2020
6	Regional Youth Platform	Development of a Regional Youth Platform to ensure commitment and implementation of the Youth Forum in the Arab Region outcomes (e.g. modus operandi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Consultation + Conceptual/Operational Model and Paper developed - Regional Flagship Product outcome of YCW1 	March – August 2019
7	Operationalization of UN Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419 on Youth, Peace and Security	Activation of the Regional Strategic Framework on YPS in Arab states launched during the 2018 Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Coalition on YPS meeting - Inter-Regional Formative Assessment on YPS - YPS as one of the main Pillars of the Interagency framework on Young People 	2019-2020
8	Education's protective and empowering role for young men and women	Roll out of the Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) in different settings and sectors at country level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National LSCE Manuals developed/updated + ongoing regional partnership - Update of Y-PEER Manuals - Regional Flagship Product outcome of YCW3+ Special Session at the 2019 Forum 	2019-2020
9	Addressing the needs of Arab youth affected by armed conflicts and	Regional and national programmes enhancing the role of youth in humanitarian settings	Localization of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action in several crisis affected Arab States (e.g. Jordan, Palestine, Yemen)	2019-2020

Annex III

Youth strategic framework and the four youth forum 2019 products

1. MINASATY (منصتي): The online youth platform for the Arab region





MINASATY

The online youth platform for the arab region

2nd Edition, 20-22 August 2019 in Tunisia

What is the Problem?



Scattered Efforts Across the Arab Region have been resulting in **Slow Development** & Growth for youth.

+100,000,000

That's how many young people aged 18-29 are in the arab region making up more than 32% of the total population

What is the solution?



An Online one stop shop platform for all things youth in the Arab region that aims to :

- Connect/Networking
- Engage in relevant content
- Empower
- Showcase Funding opportunities
- Provide access to mentors
- Be a tool for advocacy

what is the added value?

1 Purely Digitized

2 Data Driven

3 Only regional platform focused on youth issues

Few of The Platform Features



1 Educational Center

- Webinars
- Seminars
- Crash Courses

2 Cultural

- Brief about each country's culture
- Videos
- Tourist destinations
- Programs
- Projects
- Innovative

3 Opportunities

4 Data Insights

- Statistics
- Infographics

5 Online Conference

- Regional Conferences
- Discussions
- Knowledge Sharing



محتوى المنصة



افرص

منطقي

منصة إلكترونية في المنطقة العربية

... منطقي إلكتروني

التسجيل

التخصص

نوع الفرصة

مكان الفرصة

التصنيف حسب:

منحة التميز العلمي الدولية
في كلية ANU في أستراليا في
مجال الطب والعلوم
آخر موعد للتقديم: 12 سبتمبر
الدراسي الأول لعام 2020
2019 التقديم للفصل الثاني لعام
2020، 10 مارس 2020. مكان الفرصة:
أستراليا (مفوضية درزيا)

قدم على منحة Vanier 2019
وأكمل درجة Canada Graduate
الدكتوراه بكندا
آخر موعد للتقديم: 31 أغسطس 2019.
مكان الفرصة: كندا. (مفوضية
الدرج)

اربح 500 دولار في منحة البيث
للنساء في مجال العلوم 2019
آخر موعد للتقديم: 1 ديسمبر 2019.
مكان الفرصة: أستراليا. (مفوضية
الدرج)

Melbourne Mobility
للطلاب الجامعيين والخريجين
بجامعة Melbourne
آخر موعد للتقديم: 31 ديسمبر 2019
مكان الفرصة: أستراليا. (مفوضية
الدرج)

Are we tackling any SDG's?



Section in Platform	SDG
Educational Center	<div>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</div> <div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div> <div>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div>
Cultural Center	<div>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div>
Opportunities Center	<div>1 NO POVERTY</div> <div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div> <div>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div> <div>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div>
Event Calendar	<div>1 NO POVERTY</div> <div>5 GENDER EQUALITY</div> <div>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div> <div>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</div>

Are we tackling any SDG's?



Section in Platform	SDG
Data sections	
Online Conference	
Experience Sharing	
Innovation	
Quizzes	

Competitor analysis



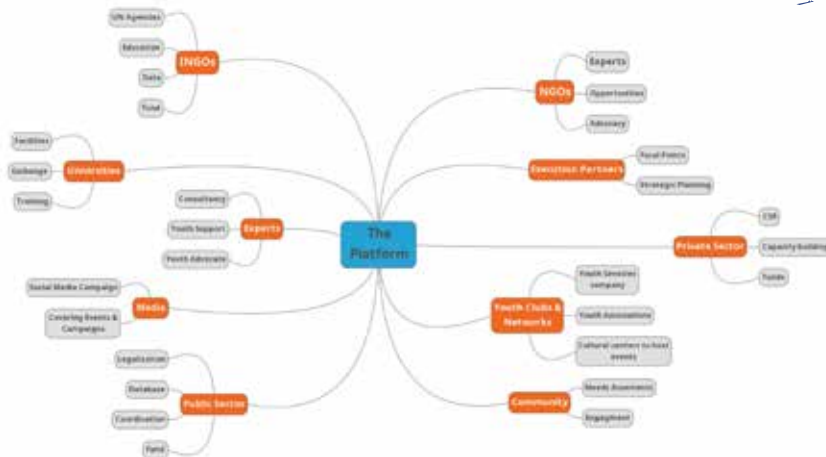
	All language	Articles	Videos	Opportunities	News	Live streaming	Even Calendar	Networking	Visually presented Data	Culture
Edraak		X	X				X			
Marj3		X		X	X	X				
Forsa		X	X	X			X			
Beit.com	X	X	X	X						
Rwaq		X	X	X		X				
Minasaty	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Project Timeline



Phase	KPI's	# Features	# Key Partners
Phase 1 5 months	500K Youths Outreached	Start off with our 2 main features: • Opportunities • Calendar	2
Phase 2 9 months	Expected Growth	2 New Features	10
Phase 3 2 years	Over a million outreach	Rest of features	30

Partnership Strategy



Initial Costs

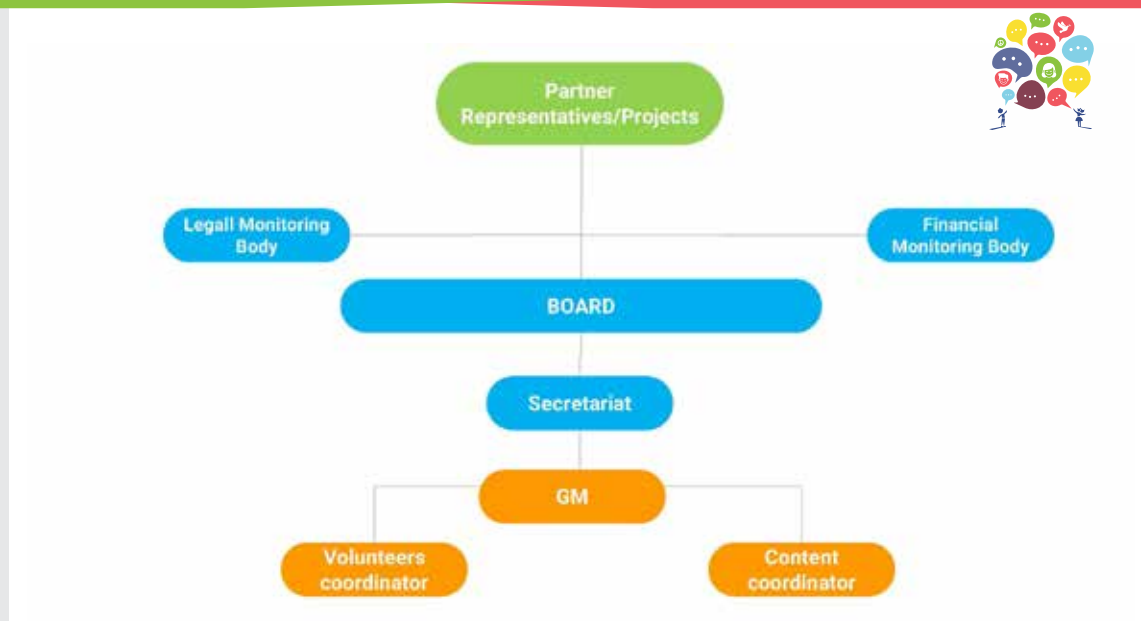


Criteria	Components	Cost
Cost Implications	GM	\$100,000/ 2 years
	Volunteer Manager and minor team costs	
	Content Manager and other team	
	Development cost	\$30,000
	Marketing Cost	\$15,000
Project Activities	Seminars & Webinars	
	Interactive Content	
	Opportunity Hub	
Business Value of Planned Activities		
Increasing Youth Participation Across the Region through connecting Communities		

Revenue Stream



- Initially focus on acquiring users in order to have a substantial user base to get revenue through **Ads and Insights**.
- Partnership contracts** with entities that want their network to be included in the platform.
- Pay as you go model** with any body that wants us to showcase a certain program or opportunity to our network in order to increase its reach



منطقي

منصة الشباب في المنطقة العربية

... منطقي الشباب

اشركات

التصنيف حسب: مكان الشراكة ▼ نوع الشراكة ▼ لأكبر

للإتصال بنا :

الهاتف: +٩٨٧ ٦٧٦ ٧٣ ٢١٦

فاكس: +٩٨٧ ٦٧٦ ٧٣ ٢١٦

بريد إلكتروني: ciy@sdg.net

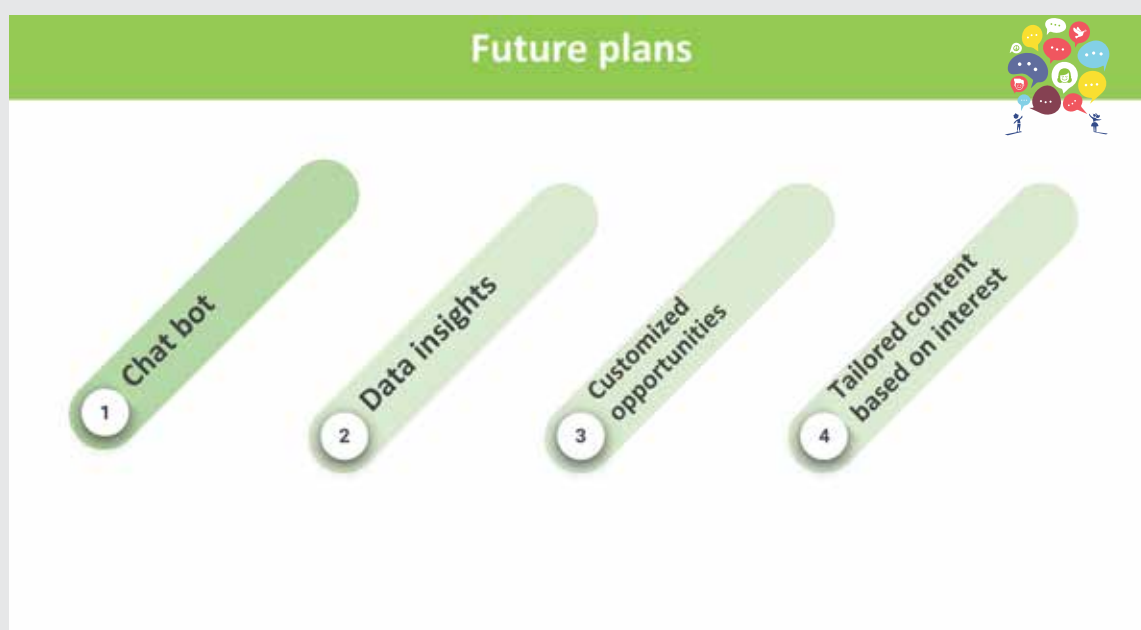
شبكات التواصل الاجتماعي:

مركز ابتكارات الشباب

للتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة

مركز ابتكارات الشباب
للتحقيق أهداف التنمية
المستدامة
المركز يهدف لتدريب
الشباب وبناء مشروعات
تنموية مستدامة
للمزيد

CIY





I am looking for
funding
opportunities.

Thanks for
reaching out,
please
choose from
the following
options to
better help.

Thank you



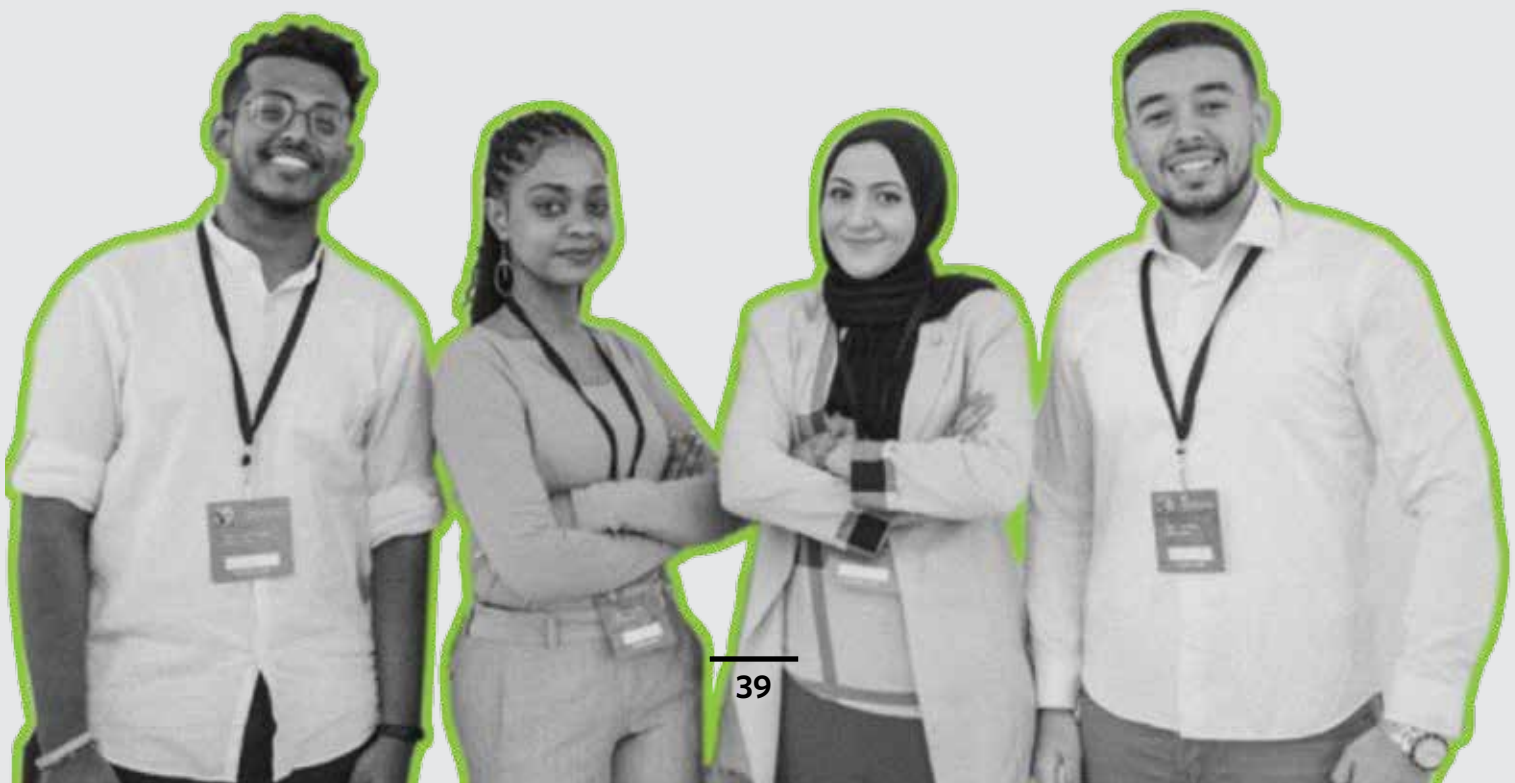
USERNAME

PASSWORD



Thanks!

Let the Questions begin!



2. The youth charter in the Arab region

The Youth Charter in the Arab Region is intended to serve as the guideline-cum-reference tool for promoting a new positive narrative on youth and enhancing positive engagement by young people in the development of youth-related policies and strategies in the Arab Region. Inspired by youth, The Charter reflects the rights, needs, challenges and aspirations of young people and is based on youth input and views. Special attention is paid to the needs of the most vulnerable (e.g. youth caught up in conflict and other humanitarian crises or youth suffering from disability). The Charter seeks to build and strengthen a healthy partnership between youth, governments and other stakeholders and promote a common vision and commitments about youth in the Arab region.

The problem:

Young people in the Arab region face multiple challenges which restrict their ability and their opportunity to bring about positive social, psychological and economic change in their lives.

The Solution:

Forty youth participants from 22 countries at a creative workshop in the Youth Forum in The Arab Region developed and designed a "Youth Charter in the Arab Region".

Why the charter?

A new narrative that constitutes a reference framework for programmes, policies and strategies related to youth in the Arab region.

Stems from young people themselves, therefore reflecting their aspirations and needs.

Provides realistic solutions to the challenges youth faces in the region.

Responds to and complements international standards and conventions.

Supports a purposeful partnership between youth, governments and other stakeholders working with youth in the Arab region.

Synergises efforts and helps strengthen a common approach to youth issues in the Arab region.

What are its components?

I- Foreword and general provisions

(Definition; Amendment of the Charter; Signature, ratification and accession)

II- Youth and economy

(Employment; Training and Empowerment; Economic Development)

III- Youth rights

(Equal opportunity for all without discrimination and equitable distribution of resources; right of ownership)

IV - Youth and society

(Education; Sports; Health; Entertainment; Culture; Participation in social life; Gender equality/non-discrimination on the basis of gender; Access to information)

V- Youth and politics

(Youth participation in political life; Freedom of opinion and expression; Establishment of political parties and affiliations; Providing opportunities for youth leaders; Political education; Elections and candidacy)

VI- Youth and technology

(The right to innovate; Access to the digital world; Right to own technological mechanisms; Right to train young people in the technological field; Manufacturing rights)

VII- Youth and the environment

(Waste and recycling; Pollution; Bio-diversity; Seas and oceans; Protection of natural resources)

VIII- Youth at risk

(Youth in conflict zones; Natural disasters; Minorities and vulnerable groups; Disability)

How to ensure the sustainability of the charter?

- Formation of administrative and supervisory structures to follow-up implementation of Charter provisions
- Maintain mechanisms to modify and add items

Who are the beneficiaries?

- 12 million young men and women in the Arab region by 2025
- 22 Governments
- More than 200 youth and youth-led organizations

What is the process of implementation?

1. General perception (via the Forum)
2. Electronic consultation addressed to all young people in the Arab region
3. Regional workshop for drafting the Charter
4. Legal review and translation.
5. At a later stage:
 - Advocacy of the Charter
 - Adoption of this new narrative by governments and international bodies
 - Adhere to application of content

Estimated budget of implementation:

°N	Activity	Cost
01	Electronic consultation (preparation, publication and processing of results)	\$40,000
02	Regional Drafting Workshop	\$60,000
03	Legal and linguistic review and translation by experts	\$35,000
Total		\$135,000

Synergy between the charter and other YCW products:

- Contributes to furnish the content of the electronic platform.
- Promotes youth-friendly programmes and services.
- Advocates SDGs.



Youth Forum in the Arab Region - Tunis 2019



YCW2: Positive engagement
in youth-related policies and strategies

المشاركة الإيجابية
في السياسات و الإستراتيجيات المتعلقة بالشباب

المشكلة

يشهد واقع الشباب في المنطقة العربية تحديات عديدة تحول دون تمكّنهم من القيام بدورهم الريادي و تقديمهم للإضافة المرجوة منهم, كما كان لها انعكاسات إجتماعية, نفسية و اقتصادية جعلت تمكّن الشبان و الشابات من إنجاح مشاريعهم الحياتيّة أمرا صعبا.

الحل



ميثاق الشباب في المنطقة العربية

Youth Charter in the Arab Region



إستجابة المقترح للمشاكل المطروحة و قيمته المضافة



وثيقة جديدة	تشكل إطارا مرجعيا للبرامج و السياسات و الإستراتيجيات المتعلقة بالشباب بالمنطقة العربية
مصدره	الشباب أنفسهم و بالتالي فهو يعكس تطلعاتهم و احتياجاتهم
يستجيب	و لا يتعارض مع كل المعايير و المواثيق الدولية
تشاركي	بين الشباب و الحكومات و كل الأطراف ذات الصلة بالشباب
يؤخذ	الجهود و يبني نظرة مشتركة فيما يتعلق بالشباب في المنطقة العربية



مكونات الميثاق



أرقام مفاتيح

200+

جمعية و منظمة
تعنى بالشباب
 بالمنطقة العربية

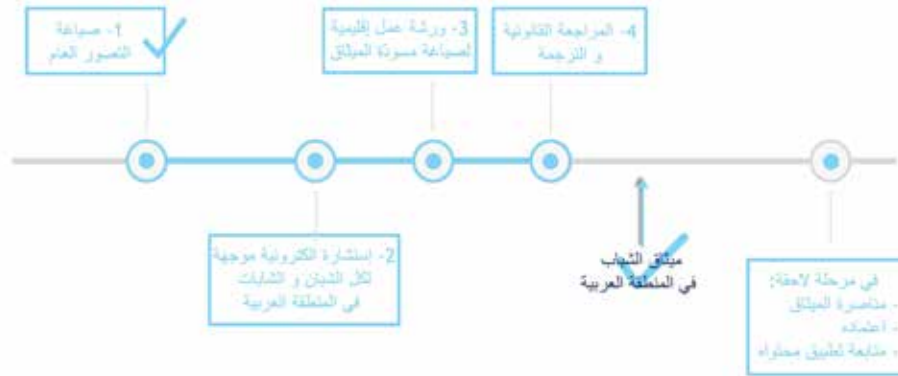
22

دولة
 بالمنطقة العربية

12
مليون

شباب و شاب/ة
 بالمنطقة العربية
 بحلول سنة 2025

مراحل الإنجاز



مشروع ميزانية الإنجاز

\$

ع/ر	النشاط	التكلفة الجملية
01	الاستشارة الإلكترونية (الإعداد و النشر و معالجة النتائج)	40,000 \$
02	ورشة العمل الإقليمية لصياغة مسودة الميثاق	60,000 \$
03	المراجعة القانونية و اللغوية و الترجمة من قبل خبراء	35,000 \$
	المجموع	135,000 \$

علاقة الميثاق بمنتجات الورشات الثلاثة الأخرى

- ✓ يساهم في تأثيث محتوى المنصة الالكترونية.
- ✓ يشجع على إنجاز البرامج و الخدمات الصديقة للشباب.
- ✓ يناصر مبادئ التنمية المستدامة.

3. Shabab it: youth-friendly services (YFS)

Background:

YFS in the Arab World: Over the past three decades, the Arab population has increased from 215.5 million to **428.3** million people, with more than half of this population under the age of 24.

(UNDESA, 2019). By 2050, the number of children and young people is expected to reach 217 million (Mirkin, 2010).

Many civil society-led initiatives currently underway trying to overcome challenges created by social exclusion of youth in the region.

These initiatives tackle unemployment, educational needs, and promote democratic activism as a way of increasing civic engagement and participation by young people so that they can play an active role in society. Besides youth-friendly health services, mapping of non-health youth-related initiatives and services in the Arab region reveal examples on Education, Employment and Financial Services and even entertainment and creativity.

Shabab It: The Digital tool (available for Web and Mobile browsing) with offline consultation capacity designed to provide YFS for youth across the region.

It features well categorized educational content about YFS in general (institutionally created and/or crowd-sourced). Each thematic sub-category lists existing services provided to youth by public and private partners, rated by their peers and including comprehensive usage testimonials.

Three categories of use:

Online Personal Use: Youth with direct access to internet anywhere in the region can browse the platform through the Web or Mobile Version for educational content and, listed Youth Friendly Services, and share their feedback and ratings.

Offline Personal Use: Youth with limited physical internet access can download an offline version of educational content for subsequent offline use.

Offline Group/Youth Space Use: Youth in underprivileged communities (e.g. refugees, immigrants, rural dwellers etc) lacking internet can access the Web version of Shabab It at Youth and Sports Centres, NGOs, Youth Initiatives and other local partner-run locations.

Business model:

The Shabab It Business Model aims to become sustainable in the long run, following its donation-based development and launch phase. As soon as it hits critical user mass, two other models will kick in:

- Conscious Advertising (thematically relevant, sane product/service advertising on the platform)
- Service Provider Partnership Distribution Agreements offering private sector partners the chance to promote affordable and suitably youth friendly services to the region's youth, (As the distribution affiliate, Shabab It will be entitled to commercial margins that will help ensure its sustainability).
- Donations/funding will still be required to help market penetration and growth.





Youth Friendly Services



Shabab it شباب it



Why ???
شباب it

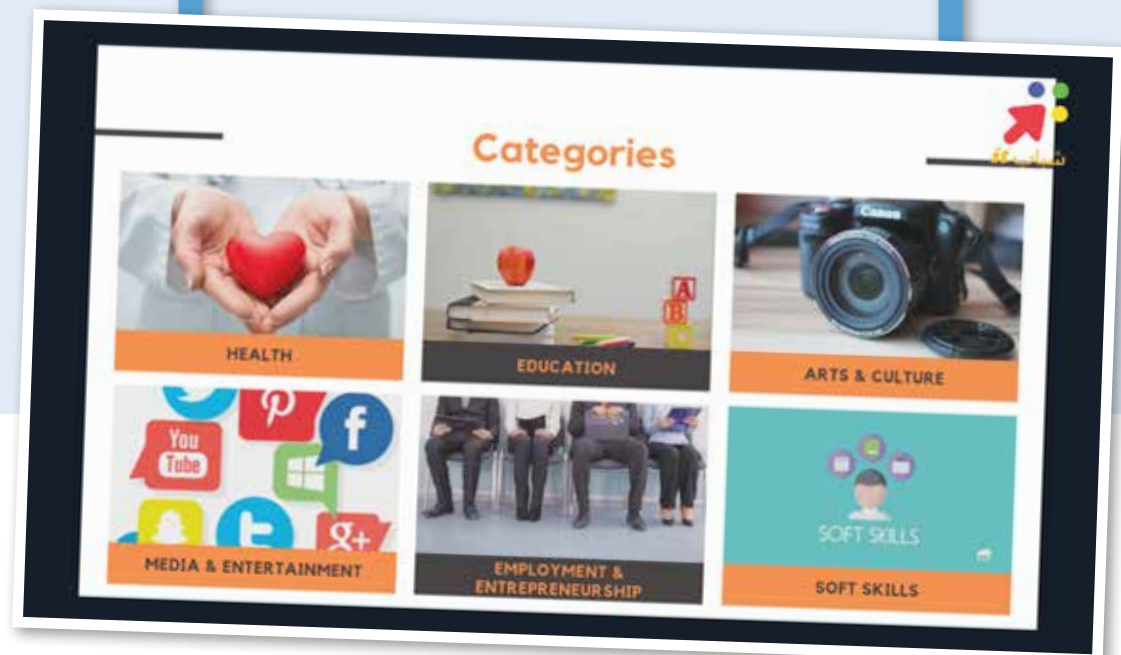


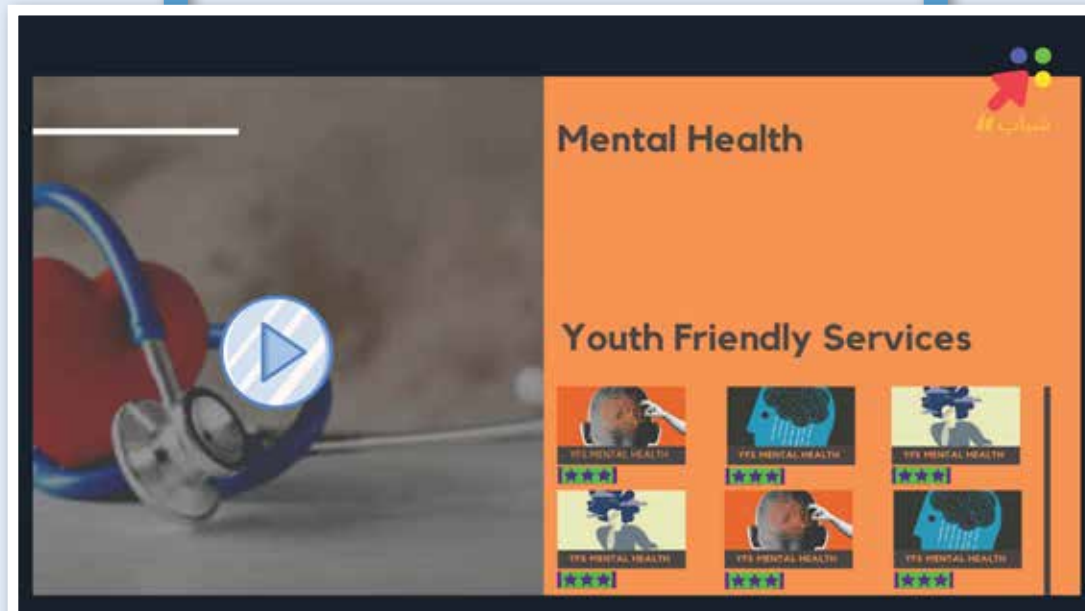
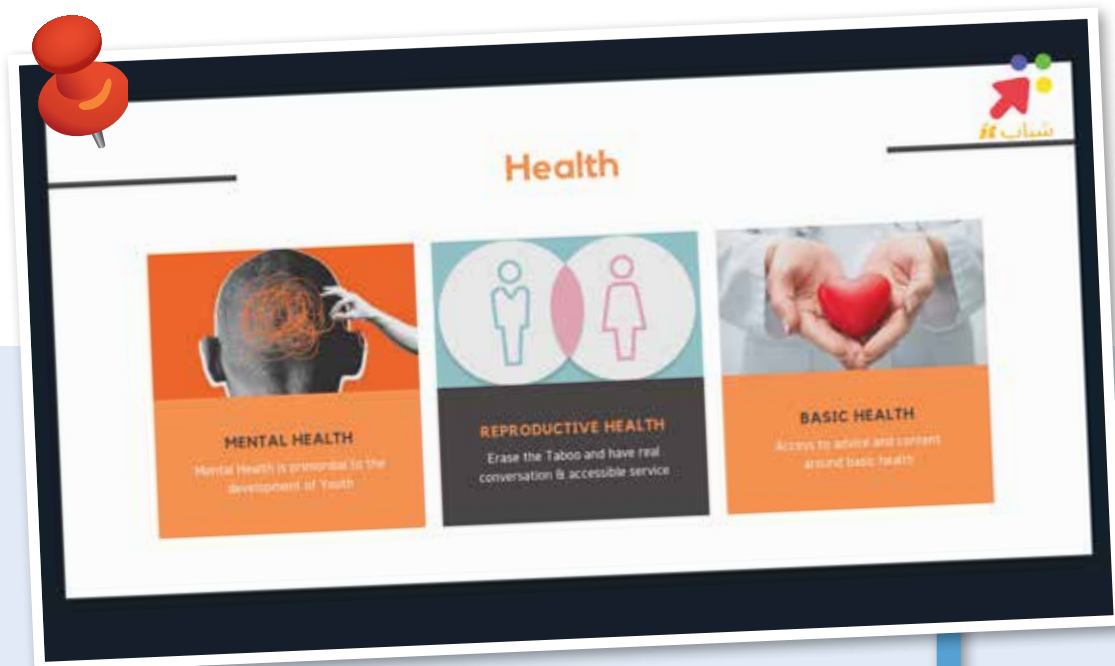
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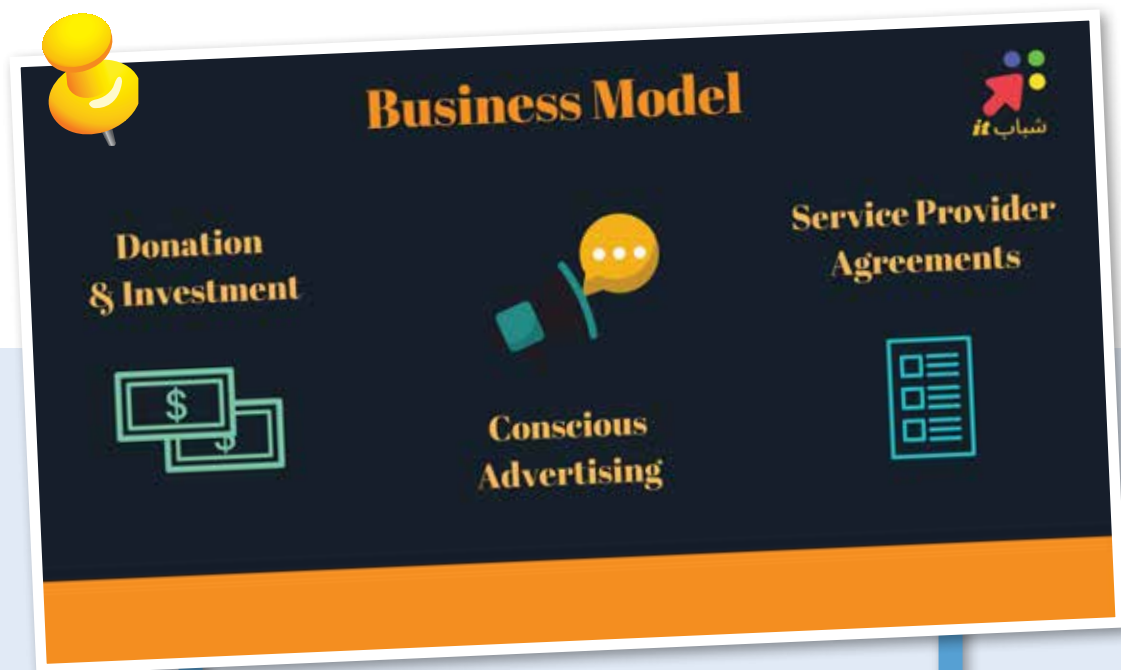
شباب it

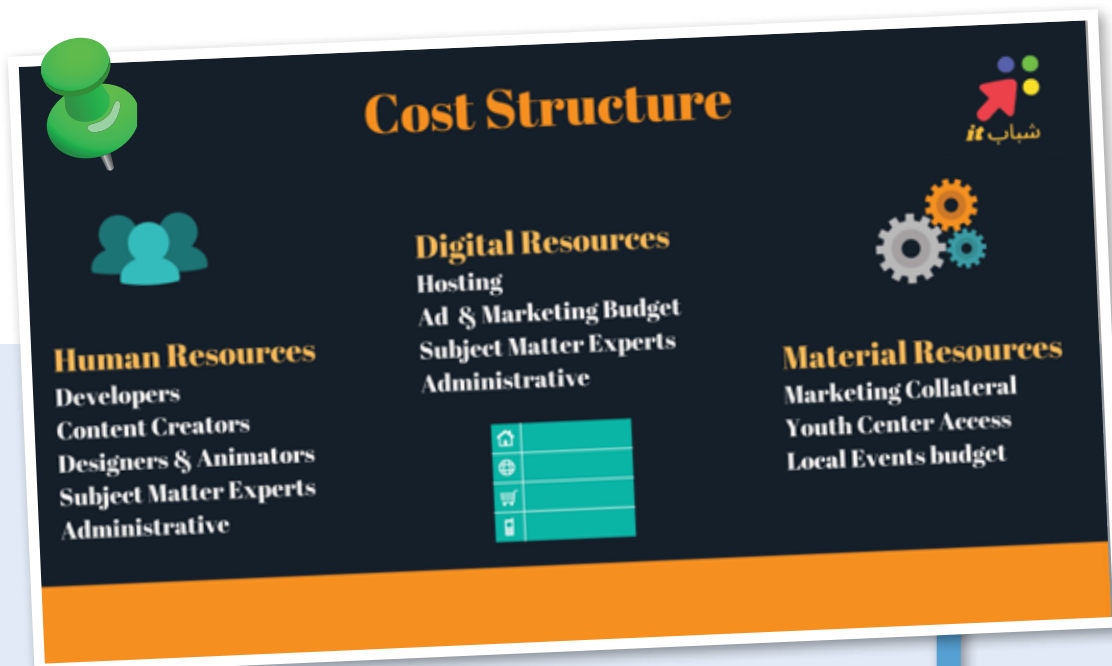
What You Should
Expect

???









4. Knowledge and innovation centres (KICs) for SDGs

The **Knowledge and Innovation Centres** are empowerment spaces where young people can help speed up attaining the SDGs through Needs Assessment, Capacity Building, Responsive Innovation, Project Implementation and/or by building Enabling Environments.

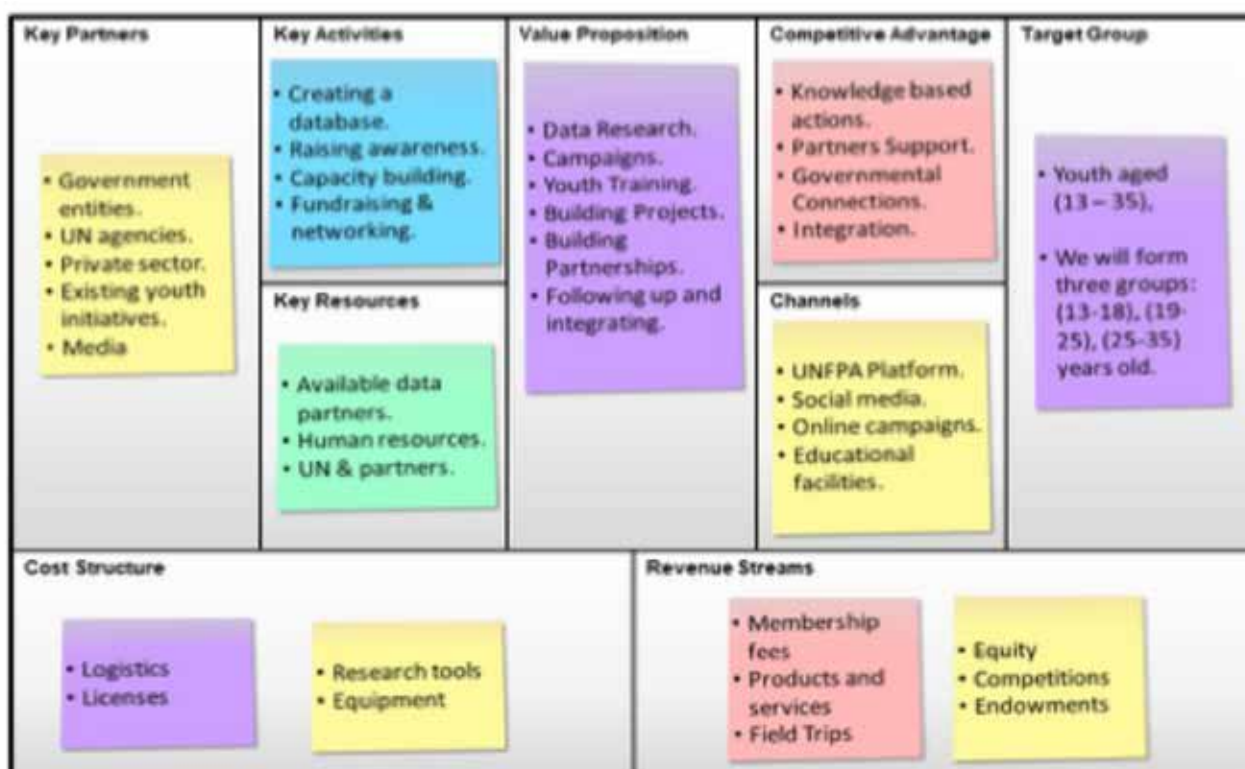
Objectives of the KICs:

- Researching and identifying local problems and suggesting viable solutions.
- Raising awareness about the role youth can play in achieving the SDGs.
- Supporting entrepreneurship, data that can be of effective use, and innovation for sustainability.
- Providing training and capacity building for youth and local communities.

Description of the KICs:

The KICs should be composed of six distinct yet inter-related units, each unit to have one or two responsible persons working on specific tasks within the unit's area of focus. Units should work also in a non-linear and inter-dependent mode in alignment with overall goals to ensure coherence between work process and outputs. Some units should work closely together on common goals. For example, the Awareness and Outreach Unit could team up with the Capacity Building Unit to enhance the knowledge as well as the skills of youth on specific themes. Similarly, the Fundraising and Partnerships Unit could work with Social Business Incubation in order to identify suitable stakeholders and potential partners for projects. The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit's function remains essential for the duration of a project's to make sure that problems and/or adjustments are identified early on in the process and also to capture and record lessons learnt and good practices.

Business model:

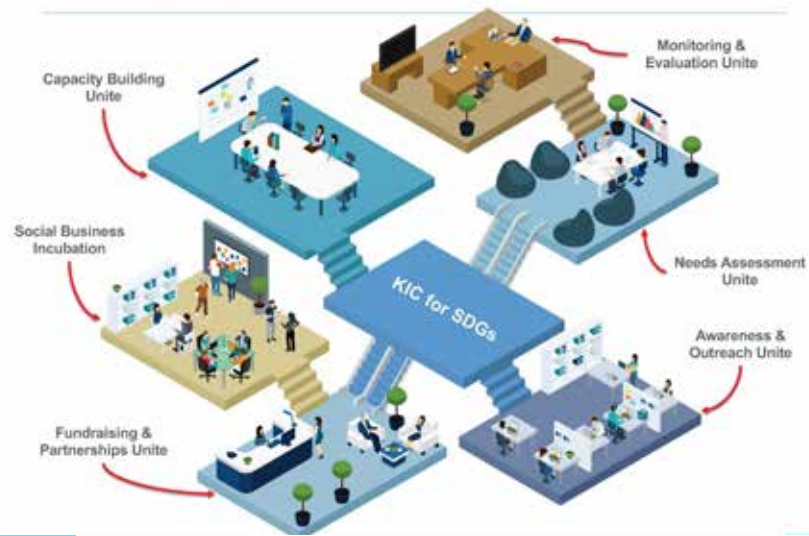




Lack of youth spaces to empower them and support their actions toward sustainable development.

Empowerment spaces for youth to accelerate achieving SDGs through Needs Assessment, Capacity Building, Responsive Innovation, Project Implementation and building Enabling Environments.

02. Our Solution



03. Business Model

Cost Structure:

Logistics
Licenses
Research tools
Equipment

Revenue Streams:

Membership fees
Products and services
Field Trips
Equity
Competitions
Endowments

Value propositions:

Key Advantages:

04. Growth Strategy

2019-2020

Starting the Regional Office. (Tunisia)
Starting at 5 pilot countries.

2020-2025

Expanding to 10 more countries. (Overall 15)

2025-2030

Expanding to the last 7 countries. (Overall 22)







UNFPA

Arab States Regional Office

70 A Al nahda street

intersection with street # 22
New Maadi, Cairo, Egypt

Phone: +20225223900

Web: arabstates.unfpa.org

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