The "Youth 4 Impact" regional programme supports young men and women, boys, and girls in six Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries, namely Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, and Sudan, to gain resilience against the risks posed by drugs, violence, and crime. The programme enables young men and women, including those most marginalized and at-risk, to experience healthier and safer life transitions. The programme also empowers youth to contribute to their communities becoming safer from drugs, violence, and crime.

Building on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) extensive experience and expertise in crime prevention and criminal justice, the implementation of the regional programme makes use of the vast array of tools, guidelines, and other material UNODC has developed throughout the years.

Programme’s intervention is based on the 3 main outcomes: enhancing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for drug use and crime prevention for youth; strengthening the response of relevant sectoral systems and institutions to the needs of vulnerable and at-risk youth and families; and empowering youth to be more resilient, rehabilitated and reintegrated.

UNODC has the mandate to support Member States in engaging youth in crime prevention efforts and in evidence-based drug use prevention as well as ensuring that youth and children are better served and protected by justice systems. Furthermore, the UNODC 2021-2025 Strategy highlights the empowerment of youth as a cross-cutting commitment of the Organization.

The implementation of this programme is an important enabler for the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 3 “Good Health and Well Being”, SDG 4 “Quality Education”, SDG 5 “Gender Equality”, SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, and SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goals.”
OUTCOME 1: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Enhanced legal, policy and institutional frameworks to effectively prevent crime, drug-use and violence among youth in targeted MENA countries in place and implemented

Supports implementation of the national youth policy action plan (2022-2024) under three policy sectors: social integration and political participation, education and culture participation, health and high-risk behaviors in Lebanon.

Supported a national working group to review and update the national youth and mental health strategies as well as drug treatment protocols in Palestine.

Facilitated the process of improving the national youth strategy by organizing an event for 35 policy-makers and community leaders from relevant institutions and NGOs/CSOs in Egypt.

Developed a workplan and recommendations to enhance the national youth strategy through a policy-making event for 45 representatives of relevant institutions and NGO/CSOs in Libya.

Initiated policy-making efforts concerning youth and drug treatment by organizing a roundtable for 38 relevant stakeholders in Sudan.

#For Youth With Youth

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OUTCOME 2: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Relevant sectoral systems and institutions effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable and at-risk young men, young women, boys and girls and their families in targeted MENA countries.

- 127 health professionals and law enforcement officers are better equipped to respond to the needs of vulnerable or at-risk youth.
- 326 professionals working with youth trained on the Strong Families (SF) programme.
- 352 sports councillors and teachers trained on the Line Up! Live Up! (LULU) programme.
- 118 policymakers worked on improving youth and health strategies.
- 16 frontline workers trained on anti-corruption, gender and women’s empowerment through sports.
- 40 schools received sports equipment.
- 11 master trainers on LULU are in the final stage of certification.

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OUTCOME 3: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Young men, women, boys and girls are empowered, aware, resilient and rehabilitated in regard to crime, violence, exploitation, drug use and associated health risks.

- 200 youth engaged in policy-making on crime prevention
- 13,500 school students benefitted from the sports equipment in schools
- 1,500 prisoners reached by awareness campaign on drug prevention
- 3,296 children and youth visited UNODC’s booth on International Volunteer Day
- 16 youth leaders from national youth advisory boards trained on integrity, corruption and family skills

- 3,712 youth and families reached by the World Drug Day (WDD) awareness-raising activities
- 129 youth engaged in rehabilitation and reintegration workshops in communities and detention centers
- 2,036 youth impacted by the LULU crime prevention through sports programme
- 449 families benefitted from the SF family skills programme
- 368 youth engaged in workshop sessions addressing anti-corruption

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Youth 4 Impact reached and positively impacted 34,414 people in MENA in 2022

25,206 youth

8,316 families

892 professionals

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
"I understood that if I want to achieve my goal, I need to organize myself, set rules and objectives and also accept help from others."

"My favorite part was how to have healthier relationships, how to set our boundaries with people, how to keep our distance, whom to trust and whom not to... This experience was truly empowering."

"The programme taught me to tell everything to my parents and not to hide anything to stay safe as well as how to achieve my dream of becoming a police officer."

"This experience has taught us new and creative ways of dealing with challenges and how to make life a bit easier, for example how to be more resilient to bad peer pressure and related risks."

"It gave us personal strength and improved our life skills, for example, to treat our friends and interact with others."

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SPECIAL THANKS

- To our national counterparts
- To our UN sister agencies
- To academic institutions
- To CSO/NGOs & youth boards and networks
- To our funding and development partner, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

With their support and cooperation, we were able to and will continue to pursue our programme's mission of empowering youth against and gaining resilience from drugs, violence and crime in the years to come.