YOUTH4IMPACT
ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT
2023
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

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 that UNODC has developed throughout the years.

The programme's intervention is based on 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.

In line with its Strategy 2021-2025, meaningful participation, empowerment, and protection of children and youth is an important part of UNODC's work. The Office's Regional Framework for the Arab States (2023-2028) reiterates UNODC's commitment to involve, support, and empower youth and children across the region to build resilience from, and be agents of change against drugs, crime, terrorism, violence, and corruption. In particular, UNODC is mandated 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.

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.”
brought together policymakers from all participating countries and youth, enabling them to follow a unified and coordinated regional approach to youth prevention strategies, in line with international standards and best practices.

such as “Line Up! Live Up!”, crime prevention through sports, “Strong Families” family skills programme; “GRACE” (Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment) initiative; and “Unplugged” prevention of drugs, violence and crime at schools programme were implemented with youth.

on innovative youth- and community-led initiatives to empower young people, strengthen their resilience and provide social and economic alternatives to drugs, violence, crime, and corruption by actively participate as agents of change in addressing these important issues.

such as World Drug Day, International Youth Day, and International Volunteer Day and campaigns such as 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which allowed to raise awareness on drugs, violence and crime and organize activities for/with youth such as sports competitions, art workshops, and interactive activities.

Following its commitment to leave no one behind, UNODC reached and impacted vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), people who use drugs (PWUDs), orphans, youth in detention, people in marginalized areas, refugees and youth with disabilities.

UNODC developed the innovative “Words Matter” game, co-created with young people, addressing stigma and discrimination, especially against those impacted by substance use. By playing, youth grasped the significance of seeing the person beyond stigmas and expressing empathy.
Outcome 1
Enhanced legal, policy and institutional frameworks to effectively prevent crime, drug-use and violence among youth in targeted MENA countries in place and implemented

- Regional policymaking event for policymakers with the inclusion of youth groups to support national responses towards enhancing youth resilience to drugs, crime and violence compliant with international prevention standards
- Development and refinement of National Youth Strategies (Egypt, Palestine)
- Support to the National Youth Policy Action Plan (Lebanon)
- Development of National Mental Health and Substance Use Strategies (Egypt, Palestine)
- Establishment of a Youth 4 Impact national Steering Committees (Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan)

Outcome 2
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

- Regional webinar on international drug prevention standards and eradicating stigma
- Procurement of educational materials and sports equipment for the implementation of the “Line Up! Live Up!” and “Strong Families” programmes (Algeria, Libya, Palestine)
- Training of trainers on the “Strong Families” programme (Algeria, Lebanon, Sudan), the “Line Up! Live Up!” programme (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan), and the “Unplugged” programme (Egypt)
- Certification of national master trainers on the “Line Up! Live Up!” programme (Egypt) and the “Strong Families” programme (Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon)
- Training for youth leaders on good governance, advocacy, strategic planning, and managing youth initiatives (Egypt)
- Training on integrity and anti-corruption under the GRACE initiative for governmental sectors (Lebanon)
- Capacity building for health professionals working with people who use drugs (Palestine)
- Supported CSOs’ engagement and networking (Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan)

Outcome 3
Young men, women, boys and girls are empowered, aware, resilient and rehabilitated in regard to crime, violence, exploitation, drug use and associated health risks

- Supporting the implementation of winning initiatives from the #Participate4Impact Regional Competition at national level
- Women’s football match as a part of the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence” campaign (Algeria)
- Sports activities, art workshops, educational games, and awareness sessions on World Drug Day (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine)
- Implementation of the “Line Up! Live Up!” programme with youth, including IDPs, orphans, refugees and etc (Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Sudan)
- Implementation of the “Strong Families” programme in communities (Lebanon, Palestine)
- Implementation of the “Unplugged” programme in schools (Egypt)
- International Youth Day celebration (Lebanon, Sudan)
- Rehabilitation and reintegration of youth in detention (Lebanon, Libya)
- Psychosocial activities for youth and families to cope with stress in conflict setting (Lebanon, Palestine)
I think the biggest impact that can be achieved through these initiatives is [for youth] to become leaders and bearers of hope within their communities.

I faced challenges in dealing with others and I overcame them. I learned about equality and my rights, and now I am able to express myself clearly, and I learned how to face peer pressure, defend myself, and not succumb to any pressure.

We learned how to do rapid assessment, brief interventions, and cognitive behavioral therapy, these all are the treatment [of drug addiction] tools to provide better and faster help to those in need.

It’s important not to judge others without understanding their stories and the factors that contributed to drug dependence and to respect others as they are. From now on, I’ll speak to others with more humanity.

Through the LULU programme, I learned to be selective in my relationship and when to say no, respect myself, and others, and how to protect myself and my friends.

I call upon the youth to engage in sports, as it will keep them away from harmful behaviours within the society.

Ahmed (25), the winner of the #Participate4Impact Regional Competition from Libya

Lamar (13), a participant to the LULU programme from Palestine

Marwa, drug treatment service provider from Egypt

Al-sir Mubarak (15), LULU participant, IDP from Sudan

Rami (14), a participant to the “Words Matter” game from Lebanon

Iman (13), winner of the sports competition on WDD from Algeria
SPECIAL THANKS TO

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

UNODC expresses its sincere gratitude to the abovementioned partners for their unwavering support and cooperation throughout the implementation of the programme. The robust partnerships forged have been instrumental in enabling the programme to achieve the milestones highlighted in the report, laying solid foundations for continued and impactful interventions aimed at empowering youth to gain resilience against the risks posed by drugs, violence, and crime in the MENA region in the years to come.

UNODC WAY FORWARD

- In 2024, UNODC will continue to support winning youth initiatives from the #Participate4Impact competition;
- Launch the UNODC MENA Youth Network in April to empower youth as active agents of change against drugs, violence and crime, and train them on the GRACE Initiative to promote further the role of education and youth empowerment in preventing and countering corruption;
- As part of the follow-up to the regional policymaking event, assist participating states to youth-focused develop policies;
- Organize a regional workshop on the UNODC Treatnet package to enhance drug treatment capacities, focusing on youth, women and vulnerable groups. #ForYouthWithYouth
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