

“MASARNA” – OUR PATHWAY: FOSTERING JORDAN YOUTH VISION TOWARDS EFFECTIVE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

The “Masarna” project enables Jordanian youth to demonstrate an enhanced sense of commitment towards local development through social engagement within and beyond their communities. Through the innovative method of simulation gaming, beneficiaries of the project learn about active citizenship and become more socially aware of the problems faced within different Jordanian communities. Using simulation games stimulates outside-the-box thinking which will enable participants to create a future vision for the Jordanian youth. The project embraces a practical approach by equipping participants with the tools to convey ideas, beliefs and needs from within their communities to official decision-makers.

The purpose of this project is rooted in the “Jordan Youth Vision 2030” which was developed and presented by the Jordanian youth to the Ministry of Political Affairs. The vision encompassed three main areas: Education, Participation and Employment. As such, the Vision functions in a threefold way:

1. A symbol of the unity of the youth in achieving positive change;
2. A belief in the rich capacities and resources of Jordan youth and;
3. The inclusion of diverse perspectives from youth in the decision-making processes.



The “Masarna” project is divided into three phases:

1. Creating the Jordan Youth Vision 2030;
2. Developing youth-led initiatives that support the realization of the developed vision and;
3. Establishing youth-friendly spaces in different governorates, in addition to a Civil-Society-Hub at the central level.



CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan acknowledges the importance of young Jordanians in driving social and economic development, as highlighted in its own National Youth Strategy (NYS) 2019-2025. However, enabling effective participation of youth in developing and implementing national strategies and policies still seems to be a big challenge, particularly with the current impediments in the civil society sector.

GOAL OF THE PROJECT

Enabling Jordanian youth to become active citizens through innovative approaches and techniques which will allow them to take over responsibilities within their local communities, and become key-actors in realizing and developing the future NYS.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

During 2020, “Masarna” will build on the outcomes of 2019, most importantly on the “Jordan Youth Vision 2030”. This vision was created within a series of simulation gaming workshops with more than 100 participants from four different governorates. Thus, it provides a stable platform to reach out to more youth in addition to further stakeholders from different sectors such as media, civil society organizations, business and state authorities.

In 2020/21, the project will offer a series of Capacity Building Workshops on Local Community Development which will enable youth to transform their ideas for change into concrete initiatives. These initiatives will be implemented on the community level and eventually lead to the realization of the “Jordan Youth Vision 2030”.

Furthermore, the project aims to contribute to a favorable institutional set-up for civic engagement. The goal is to create three Youth-Friendly Spaces in three different governorates. These spaces shall provide easy access to relevant know-how and provide information about civil society engagement. In addition, a Civil-Society-Hub will be created until the end of 2021 which will significantly contribute to the long-term development of Jordan’s Civil Society, by offering capacity-building-workshops, legal assistance and networking-events.

FACTS & FIGURES

Project Duration: 2019 – 2021

Regional Coverage: 5 governorates – Ajloun, Amman, Al Zarqa, Irbid, and Karak

Direct Beneficiaries: 65 civil-society activists, cross- sectoral stakeholders

Indirect Beneficiaries: Network of 100 non-governmental organizations

Youth Friendly Spaces: 3 youth-friendly spaces and 1 national Civil-Society-Hub in 2021

PARTNERSHIPS

CRISP organizes long-term projects, advanced trainings and workshops in the fields of civil conflict management and civic education. CRISP promotes confidence building between different groups and enhances the understanding of political processes. The Center for Development Services (CDS-MENA) uses innovative approaches to mobilize technical and financial support for development endeavors in Egypt, Jordan and the Middle East. Through working with local actors, the project will build on civic participation, local governance, career and skills building, and community behavior change in Jordan.



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