

## ADOLESCENT-FRIENDLY YOUTH CENTRES

According to a field research conducted in 2005, youth centres that are affiliated to the Higher Council for Youth (HCY) were found to be managed mainly by adults, providing traditional and limited activities to adolescents. This year, HCY and the Adolescents' Programme at UNICEF worked to implement a model project in six centres (3 boys' centres and 3 girls' centres) where new approaches and strategies were introduced. Lessons learned in this model will be used in the overall restructuring of the HCY youth centres in 2007. HCY is a key service provider for the sector of adolescents and youth in Jordan. Using the peer-to-peer approach to empower adolescents and promote their knowledge and skills is one of the key strategies introduced in

the HCY centres. A similar approach was adopted in promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents. These trainings have enhanced the quality of activities offered by the youth centres. Furthermore, this raised the profile of adolescents in their local communities, improved their self-confidence and their social interaction (especially girls). Consequently, increased attendance in youth centres was observed, coupled with an increased trust in the youth centre and its activities by parents.

Other strategies focused on creating an enabling environment through the capacity building of service providers working in the youth centres, as well as awareness raising of parents of adolescents on the concept and importance of children's participation in decisions that influence their lives.

This project has partnered HCY with Princess Basma Youth Resource Centre (PBYRC) throughout all its activities, opening the channels of communication between a governmental and non-governmental organization, that work on similar goals. This



Using the Peer-to-Peer Approach

provided both with a wide range of opportunities for exchanging experience. PBYRC and HCY have collaborated in most of the projects' activities, mainly in the Basic Life Skills, Healthy Lifestyles and adolescent-led initiative components of the programme.

This project has activated adolescent boys' and girls' participation in the management of the youth centres including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. It also led to increasing the number of adolescent girls and boys who attend to the youth centres and who are empowered to express themselves, lead a healthy lifestyle and influence their environments to act as positive agents of change!



### Upcoming Events

- International Children's Day of Broadcasting (December, Global)
- State of the World's Children 2007 Report (December, Global)
- UNICEF's 60th Anniversary (December, Global)
- Awareness activities on HIV/AIDS (November & December, Jordan)
- Training of members of Parent Teacher Associations and student councils on the functioning of participatory structures in school life ( November & December, Jordan)



Adolescents Exchanging Experiences

## COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN GRANT FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The Embassy of the Netherlands granted UNICEF approximately JD78,000 to continue strengthening responses to combating violence against children in the country.

“With the funds received, UNICEF will support its partners, mainly 480 doctors, judges, social workers and police to be able to correctly detect and respond to child abuse cases. Furthermore, this will support the established Child Protection Committees at ten public hospitals in the Kingdom to improve the capacities and streamline child abuse procedures in the Kingdom,” said Anne Skatvedt, UNICEF Representative in Jordan.

Why is it so important to have such Committees in place?

There is a good chance for abuse cases to be detected by doctors and nurses when physically abused children are brought in for routine check-ups and treatment. However, the health sector in the Kingdom needs support in the field of providing diagnostic services to abused children.

The funds will also support the training of social workers from the Ministry of Social Development,



Johan Verboom, Charge D’Affaires at the Embassy of the Netherlands and Anne Skatvedt, UNICEF Jordan Representative, Signing the Grant

non-governmental organizations, and police officers from the Family Protection Department. UNICEF will continue to provide the Family Protection Department with specialized forensic equipment.

“The Embassy is very proud to be part of this project and to be of real benefit to Jordan,” said Johan Verboom, Charge d’Affaires at the Embassy of the Netherlands, to the directors of the judiciary institutions and forensic services in Jordan, members from the Ministry of Health, police and the media, at the signing ceremony.

### WORST TIMES FOR PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

Since 1 November, UNICEF estimates that 68 Palestinians have been killed, including 14 children. The deaths during the last seven days, including the children killed in the Beit Hanoun shelling, add to the steady deadly toll on Palestinian children since the Intifada broke out in 2000, with 113 children killed so far this year. This is more than double the total figure for 2005.

Children and adolescents, who make up more than half the population, are living through a terrifying siege that will likely have enduring impact. They have seen family members killed and their communities destroyed. They are confined to their homes, in many cases without access to food, water or electricity. They cannot go to school, to their health centres, and they certainly cannot go out to play.

All children have rights which must be safeguarded irrespective of the environment they happen to live in. Protection of civilians is an obligation under international humanitarian law.

### COMMUNICATION FOR BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

While awareness campaigns and advocacy have better informed people and increased their knowledge, there has been less success with actually getting the desired behavioural responses from the “targeted” groups to have the social impact hoped for in health and social development.

To this end, an Integrated Marketing Communication for Behavioural Impact (COMBI) workshop was organized by UNICEF for its staff and partners. This COMBI approach was developed at New York University, WHO/Geneva and Tunisia, and is now adopted and adapted by Indiana University.

The five-day meeting provided an introduction to the COMBI planning process. It was attended by 22 participants drawn from various government departments, non-governmental organizations, partner agencies, and UNICEF.

## AVIAN FLU COMMUNICATION

The Jordanian Ministry of Health and the UNICEF in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) organized two workshops on Avian Flu communication for Jordanian Government spokespersons and the media in Jordan in July.

Decision makers and spokespersons from line ministries as well as journalists participated in these workshops to ensure the interactive flow of accurate, timely, and consistent information about epidemic prevention. Topics included communication strategies during an Avian Flu outbreak, and communicating during a pandemic.

The aim is to ensure constructive interaction between spokespersons and media, the use of accurate and effective audience-based communication approaches, and to respond to the needs of journalists.

The Government of Jordan is taking the issue of Avian Influenza very seriously with top-level concern from HM King Abdullah II, the Prime Minister and line ministers. In order to minimize the effect of Avian Influenza and a potential influenza pandemic on the population of Jordan, the Ministry of Health in collaboration and coordination with related ministries and stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, prepared the Jordan Avian



Dr Muhammad Khan, WHO-CEHA Director, Dr Adel Belbissi, Deputy Under Secretary General at the Ministry of Health, and Nasser Moeini, UNICEF Officer-in-Charge, Launching the Workshop

Influenza Preparedness Plan.

UNICEF's primary role as defined in the UN System strategy is in communication and social mobilisation to change behaviour. At the country level, and as part of the UN Country Team, UNICEF, with technical guidance from WHO, supports national efforts to inform and mobilize people to promote behaviour change; provide advice and support on managing media relations; and support the implementation of national plans during a pandemic.

## JORDAN'S AIR FORCE CARRIES ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES TO LEBANON

In July, UNICEF sent humanitarian supplies to Lebanon on Jordan military aircraft. The flight carried boxes of family water kits and water purification tablets. It also carried medical supplies for WHO, including urgently needed insulin.

The shipment was organized in cooperation with Jordan's Crisis Management Center, which also organized for a mobile hospital and medical equipment to be airlifted.

Essential drugs were also sent by land and reached the southern towns of Sidon and Jezzine.



In collaboration with the World Food Programme cargo arrived in Tyre, including water purification tablets, soap and other necessities.

UNICEF saluted the Jordanian gesture of extending humanitarian assistance at a critical moment and appreciated the effective and strong leadership of the Kingdom in support of ongoing relief operations by the UN.

## EFFECTIVE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL LIFE

**S**tudent Councils and Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are two main forums through which adolescents and their parents can influence, improve and interact with school life.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Education are focusing on activating these two participatory structures with the intention of strengthening them.

A study was conducted early this year to analyze the present situation of Student Councils and PTAs in Jordanian schools. Results of the study were presented at a national workshop organized by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF in July 2006 to discuss students' participation in the school life.

The study, the first of its kind in the Middle East, reviewed relevant rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Education, investigated the composition and functions of student councils and PTAs, and



Adolescents At the Launch of the National Workshop on the Situation of Student Councils and PTAs in Jordan

provided suggestions for strategies and interventions that would improve their roles in enhancing children's participation in the school system. According to this study, decision-makers, administrators, educators, students and parents have expressed concerns that the roles of Student Councils and PTAs are limited, and do not fulfill their functions.

Major findings showed that the current situation of student councils and PTAs in Jordan is not much different from those described in other country studies. The involvement of parent and student representatives in the implementation of decisions remains limited, and representatives have little ongoing contact with their electorate. Students and parents feel that these bodies do not represent them, their rights and responsibilities are unclear, they are not taken seriously by teachers and the school administration, and they have limited freedom and limited access to resources.

Recommendations provided by the study, as well as recommendations made at the workshop, are currently being used as a corner stone in the joint planning between UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to enhance student participation in school life. Such recommendations focused on:

- Creating a general culture of participation in schools between students, parents, teachers and principals.
- Providing special training programmes for student councils and PTA members on communication, problem solving and planning skills.

### MANAGING FOR RESULTS

**T**he importance of results-based management in designing programmes and monitoring and evaluation plans was the focus of a meeting between national partners and UNICEF in August. Results-based programme management is currently becoming widely used and promoted by organizations to ensure better results in the development process.

Counterparts representing the ministries of Education, Health, Social Development, Higher Council for Youth, and non-governmental organizations such as the Jordan River Foundation, Queen Zein Institute for Training, and the Greater Amman Municipality attended this meeting in August.

Discussions focused on a pilot manual being tested by UNICEF. The idea for developing this manual came in response to the need to present these concepts in a simple and clear manner to be used by programme managers.

The manual presents both theoretical and practical material in a systematic and user-friendly way which helps the reader to relate concepts, approaches and tools to planning and managing monitoring and evaluation.

**We would like to hear from you, please contact us at:**

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