



Adolescents' Participation and Empowerment



Donor report to UN Foundation/USAID

**Second Report
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Jordan Country Office

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Project Title:	Adolescents' Participation and Empowerment
Duration of Contribution:	June 2003 – May 2006
Period covered by Report:	June 2004 – January 2005

Introduction:

This is the second donor report presented to the UN Foundation and USAID. It covers the second year of the three year project funded jointly by USAID and UNF, "Adolescents Participation and Empowerment", from June 2003 to May 2006 with a total budget of \$1,816,787. (PBA Ref. SC/00/0264).

The project constitutes phase 2 of the original three year project, funded by UNF for the period May 2000 to April 2003. Therefore the current 3 year project builds on the foundations of the previous one. The first phase has increased the knowledge on adolescents, contributed importantly to an increased awareness on youth concerns among adolescents, service providers, and policy makers, and has created opportunities for partner organizations to engage in full-fledged Adolescent programmes. Many pilot activities were put to test and can now be replicated on a national scale. The programme is the first of its kind in the region, and its impact does not only significantly affect the development of Adolescent programmes within Jordan but also sets an example internationally.

The project is implemented with the overall goal of 'contributing to the development and adoption of national youth strategies and programmes to promote adolescents' development, participation and leadership and build the capacities of adolescents aged 10-18 in leadership, participation and life skills with an overrepresentation of girls compared to boys at a 60:40 ratio and with special attention to at-risk and disadvantaged adolescents.

UNICEF's role is envisaged as catalytic in mobilising awareness, and building the capacity in handling the adolescent, girls' and boys' needs and rights in the country.

The project largely focuses on capacity building for both the adolescents themselves, and for organizations in direct contact with them, mainly the Ministries of Education, Health, and Social Development, and the Higher Council for Youth and selected NGOs. The programme also focuses on service delivery and improvement of the physical learning and participation environment in identified centres affiliated to their ministries and organizations. However, the project activities were seriously disturbed by the delays in releasing the funds for this second year. The second instalment of funds has not yet been received, 8 months after the agreed date. This has negatively affected the innovative nature of the project.

UNICEF Headquarters had to help rescue the project at the end of 2004 to safeguard UNICEF's credibility vis-à-vis government counterparts in Jordan and to keep remaining staff in their posts to continue the project.

Overall objectives of the project:

Ensure that the percentage of adolescent boys and girls having knowledge of at least 10 key areas of basic life skills (BLS) and healthy life styles (HLS), and those actively involved in participation structures will increase from less than 10 to at least 20%.

Ensure that the percentage of service providers, including media, working with adolescents who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to organize and implement participatory and gender sensitive youth programme increases from less than 10% to 30%.

Ensure that the percentage of trained young girls and young boys actively involved in participation structures and the percentage of youth participating in the media as producers and consumers increase from less than 10% to 20% by the end of the project.

2004 objectives of the project were:

1. Ensure that modules and criteria for adolescents and service providers are adopted by ministries and training institutes in Jordan
2. Ensure empowering 420 youth facilitators and train 30,000 adolescents with BLS and HLS they learned
4. Ensure at least one media institute is involved in programmes for adolescents

Results achieved during 2004

The project worked at three levels during 2004. These are the adolescents and service providers personal development, the institutional development and the policy dialogue. The project outreach as well as the implementation of innovative projects with NGOs, reaching out to special adolescents groups were affected due to funding hiccups.

Adolescents development and capacity building for service providers:

1. 2300 adolescents were trained on Basic Life Skills through the summer camps, and about 600 adolescents participated in a competition by the Ministry of Education (MOE) on Youth Led initiatives. Ten initiatives were supported to come through.
2. UNICEF trained facilitators supported about 50,000 young people to participate in the Youth Voice Campaign reflecting young peoples' opinions on the strategic themes covered by the National Youth Strategy. Also about 400 adolescents from all over the country commented through workshops facilitated by the child parliamentarians, on the National Plan of Action for children.
3. The 'Peer Education' project on reproductive health and HIV prevention focused on the modules that were produced in 2003 as an experimental edition. The modules were used to train some 30 additional health workers, youth and community workers to support peer educators. Also, 28 peer educators were trained on facilitation skills and on the content of the modules. Then they were supported to hold 29 education sessions for 632 adolescents, raising their awareness and field testing the modules. Based on all the field work, the modules are revised and the new edition will be published in 2005. Over and above, coordination with UNODC ensured the development of a chapter on drugs to include in the next edition of the manual on Reproductive Health and HIV.

The modules were also presented to a subregional group of service providers from Syria and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, who started planning peer education projects. Yemen has already launched one.
4. Guidelines and training modules are being produced for the Higher Council for Youth (HCY) to ensure the integration of the notion of adolescents participation in the summer camps and youth centers and to promote youth led initiatives, among service providers.
5. One MOE teacher was supported to join a one month course in Sweden on Children's rights and participatory management of the classroom. This was granted by the Swedish Embassy.
6. Work with NGOs was limited to two themes, working with parents and reaching out to rural adolescent females. The Intergenerational dialogue was further promoted through the interactive drama that was recorded on video. NGOs were trained on the use of the video for parents session and 20 NGOs reported using the tape in their meetings with parents. In addition, Nour Al Hussein Foundation (a national NGO) was supported in working with about a 1000 rural girls on Basic Life Skills, healthy life styles and economic skills, and to launch girls' clubs in 5 villages.

Institutional Development:

In the context of institutional development and capacity building, three line ministries (the Higher Council for Youth and the Ministries of Education and Health) were addressed with technical innovations supportive to adolescents' development and participation.

1. The HCY capacity is systematically addressed through a capacity building exercise, working at assessing and building the capacities of three central directorates at the Higher Council for Youth, namely the directorates of Management and Training, Communication and Public Relation, and the Youth Affairs. The consultant is working with the directorates on setting strategic objectives that ensure

Regional Model:

The Adolescents project in Jordan presented a model for the region. The project was presented to a number of other countries to learn from, the modules were widely circulated and the officer's experience was shared in regional fora:

1. A delegation of 8 Moroccan government officials was organised by UNFPA to visit and learn from the UNICEF adolescents project in Jordan.
2. Presentations were made to delegations from Iraq and Yemen coming to Jordan to get exposure to the way programmes could be designed
3. The modules on HIV/AIDS were presented regionally and 4 countries started using it.
4. A session on media and sex education was led in Bahrain supporting the UNICEF Gulf Area Office.
5. Close coordination was done with Quakers Service Regional Office that are leading a discourse on the assessment of adolescent participation.

Indicators defined for the objectives:

At the launch of the project, the following indicators were defined to assess the project objectives against:

- Percentage of trained young boys and girls aged 10-19 who have knowledge about a minimum of 10 out of 15 key areas of basic life skills and healthy life styles
- Percentage of trained service providers who are implementing youth projects that meet a set criteria for participatory gender sensitive projects
- Percentage of young boys and girls aged 10-19 who are actively involved in participation structures

Implementation rate:

The Original available budget which was rolled-over from 2003 was \$446178.02. The second tranche of funding was expected in May 2004, but was not received. Funds available during 2004 were thus the roll-over from 2003 (\$446,178). This was not enough to meet the commitments. Accordingly, implementation plans had to be reviewed and implementation was slowed down to end up at 86% with available unutilized funds (\$99,540) which was rolled-over to 2005.

Assessment of progress made and results expected

The project contributed to the cognitive and psychological development of 4230 adolescents, 65% of whom are girls, through providing them with Basic Life Skills. These are psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills that help adolescents gain self-understanding, make informed decisions and choices, resolve conflicts, communicate effectively with others, take personal responsibility for their actions, think critically and creatively, empathize with others, and cope and manage their lives in a healthy and productive manner. In addition, adolescents with these skills contribute to validating their talents and potential contribution to national development.

The project also contributed to the active participation of adolescents in public life. This is reflected through the involvement of thousands of adolescents in the Youth Voice Campaign of the National Youth Policy Development process, in the development of the National Plan of Action for Children and in the development of their own initiatives.

But, the project suffered enormously from the funding problem, which made it impossible to achieve the annual project objectives and even more difficult to contribute to the fulfilment of the overall project objectives. In addition, the project is losing in terms of the following opportunities:

- a) It is based on a solid knowledge base, a National Survey (Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views).
- b) The commitment and interest of the political leadership at the highest levels (King, Queen, Prime Minister and government) has been gained, as well as that of the NGOs.
- c) Acceptance of the participation of youth in public life has reached a level, but it is still too fragile to withdraw life sustaining support.
- d) Jordan has assumed a leadership position in the region in programming with and for adolescents. Many countries look to the project for guidance and inspiration to develop their own interventions.
- e) The focus on youth is a pillar of UNDAF in Jordan. Several UN agencies are cooperating around the theme of youth and adolescents, and UNICEF is chairing the UNDAF working group on this.
- f) Most school level youth development and youth strategy is in its final stages, but it needs quality improvement and advocacy to make it fly on its own.
- g) A wide range of activities were planned for 2004 to ensure that youth participation and development could be taken to a new level of expansion.
- h) Our main partners in the current plan are the Ministries of Education, Health and Youth. They were kept waiting and ready, assuring them that certain legal language to solve certain challenges at the global level will soon be found. UNICEF's credibility is now at stake.

Challenges:

The unexpected freezing of funds was the main and most serious constraint facing the programme, it made it impossible to keep the plans on and reflected negatively on project activities with the resource centers, NGOs, media and IT. In addition, it made the outreach of government organisations very limited.

Keeping the momentum and discourse on Life Skill Based Education with the MOE Curriculum Department in view of the high pressure they are experiencing to incorporate notions and concepts in the curriculum development process, was a real challenge.

An additional challenge was to generate funds that allow further development of training capacities for the main resource centers, and ensure the extension of the project activities through schools, thus a

Generating funds that would allow to catch up with NGOs on innovative projects addressing gender and intergenerational dialogue, presents an additional challenge. Out of 14 projects with NGOs, only 2 normal and 2 minor projects were implemented.

A set of proposals were prepared and submitted to donors and funding bodies in an attempt to find other sources of funding. \$200,000 dollars received from UNICEF HQ is formed a rescue fund, and awaiting the release of the UNFUSAID funds.

Plans for 2005:

The following sets of activities are included in the Annual Work Plan for 2005:

Follow-up on the UNF/USAID committed funds and on fundraising.

Revitalise cooperation with resource centers and with NGOs in order to refresh the capacities of national trainers and increase their numbers, and to work on creative projects addressing adolescents' development, participation and health and promoting parents involvement and awareness.

Catch up with the 2004 plans for a wide outreach with Ministry of Education

Pending receiving original funds, work closely with media for a different image of adolescents and to include IT for a wider promotion of notions of adolescents' development and participation.

If full funding is received, focus will be on reviving the role of NGOs to ensure outreach and innovations, at the same time of ensuring wide outreach through ministries' programmes. If minimal funding is received, the focus will be on ensuring main counterparts keep going, but with a limited outreach.