



## Opportunities to Support Adolescents and Youth Affected by Conflicts in Syria and Iraq



In consultation with young people affected by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq, the No Lost Generation initiative has isolated key challenges which the private sector, and tech sector in particular, may be able to help address.

**CHALLENGE 1: Limited access to quality post-elementary education** restricts the opportunities for young people to develop and limits employment opportunities. Young people are looking for **vocational training and training in market-related competencies**. Most certified learning opportunities are costly and inaccessible to the most vulnerable young people.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Provide young people with technical and vocational training resources that are easily accessible, relevant, and result in certifications which are recognized.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- English language training is a priority, as is IT-related learning.
- Training opportunities should be available in Arabic language.

- Where possible, learning opportunities should support and be consistent with national curricula.
- Restrictions exist on work permits and permissible vocations for refugees.
- Adolescent girls and young women may have time and transport limitations related to social norms and domestic roles. Working children also have time restrictions and challenges related to limited previous education since they may have dropped out several years ago.

**CHALLENGE 2: Access to dignified work** is a challenge across the region which leads many young people and adolescents to be subjected to exploitative conditions in an attempt to achieve financial independence or contribute much needed cash or remittances to their families. The many young people who wish to set up their own businesses, lack access to expertise and advice.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Help us create solutions that (1) provide youth with access to meaningful employment opportunities, both in the locations where they live and remote/online work, and (2) support entrepreneurship through mentoring and other means.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- The legal framework for setup of businesses differs according to context.
- Refugees face restrictions in relation to work permits, accessing financing, restrictive entrepreneurship space for refugees, and recognition of existing qualifications.
- Remote/online work is possible but specific payment modalities may be required.

**CHALLENGE 3:** Young people feel isolated because they lack a voice, they don't have a say in important decisions that affect their lives or a chance to contribute to their communities. They are also missing out on opportunities to connect with their peers in a positive way. This sense of isolation is compounded by underrepresentation and misrepresentation in the media.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Help us connect youth with meaningful opportunities to get their voices heard, contribute to their communities, engage with their host communities, network among their peers in person and online, and drive positive representation in the media.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Connections and opportunities to participate must be sustained and not one-off.
- Solutions should be led by young people themselves.
- For efforts to drive positive representation in the media, success may be hard to measure.

**CHALLENGE 4:** Discrimination against young women and girls remains widespread in homes, educational institutions and in the work place. Many girls and women are still barred from fully participating on civic, social, and economic platforms by social norms and economic considerations.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Help us provide young women and girls with opportunities to contribute - economically and socially - in their local community and beyond, including remote work.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

- Arabic language will be essential for a large portion of the population.
- Remote payment modalities may be required.
- Any solution must navigate cultural and religious sensitivities.
- Adolescent girls and young women may have time and transport limitations related to social norms and the family environment as well as their domestic responsibilities.

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