The Young Speakers

*Videos were entirely done by young people*

**Young Researchers**
Participatory Action Research with Young People in the MENA Region
UNICEF MENA

- **Batool Zahra**, 21-year-old Syrian refugee from Homs living in Jordan.

*Participatory Action Research is an approach to build capacities of the most marginalized young people to conduct research, act on the findings and engage in UNICEF and partner supported programmes. 121 young researchers in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria conducted research with 985 peers.*

**Young Entrepreneurs**
BRIDGES Entrepreneurship Programme
UNICEF Syria

- **Yasmin Assi**, young entrepreneur from Deir Ez-Zor living in Damascus. Her project focuses on providing teaching to children who are out of school due to the war. Lessons in Arabic, English, Maths will be given through an interactive curriculum

- **George Khowry**, 24 years old, engineer. His project is to establish a car maintenance and training centre for newly graduated engineers
SUMMARY

• **Common aspirations** but the possibilities for realization vary significantly according to young person’s age, sex, legal status – refugees – disability, geographical location
  • **Complete education** (formal or non-formal mechanisms)
  • **Gain decent employment** to become independent adults and support families
  • **Live in peaceful and stable communities** that respect and support young people’s dreams

• **Key barriers**
  • Social and economic exclusion
    • Poverty and financial insecurity
    • Discrimination based on sex, nationality, location and legal status
  • Lack of school-to-work transition support
  • Lack of relevant and accredited non-formal education opportunities as well as poor quality of education
  • Lack of certification and documentation for refugee youth
  • Nepotism and favouritism in the job market
  • Discrimination in the job market for girls

***The most marginalized groups are refugee youth, girls, working children and young people with disabilities

• **Key supportive factors**
  • Family and friends for moral support
  • Financial support, programming and advocacy (UN and civil society partners)
How you can support refugee youth

• Partner with young people at all stages of programming and decision-making
• Expand financial support to alleviate pressure on young people and their families
• Open up pathways for inclusion: non formal, accredited education for refugees, working children and girls that can open up job opportunities
• Expand opportunities to gain relevant practical experience critical for employment – on-the-job training; internships, volunteering, apprenticeships, etc.
• Create alternative career opportunities that circumvent legal barriers and social realities of young people, especially girls and refugees
• Expand access to quality education opportunities (formal and non-formal) – vocational and technical training; entrepreneurship; e-learning etc.
• Technical support, mentorship and guidance to turn young people’s ideas and solutions into action
• Expand and support innovative solutions by and for young people – social and business entrepreneurship