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# NEWS-01

## August 2018

# YOUTH RESOLVE

**CAFOD**  
Just one world



**World Vision**





# Together

## INTRODUCTION

from Alexis Adam de Matharel,

Youth Resolve Chief of Party,

"Last April, I attended the first day (called day of dialogue with NGO) of the second Conference on the future of Syrian and neighbouring countries, which was organised by the European Union in

During the discussions, it was clear that a better future for the region cannot be possible without the youth, without a space to express themselves and tools and support in order to meaningfully and systematically being involved in decision-making that affects their lives and social cohesion in the country.

That's what The Youth Resolve consortium is aiming at. Youth Resolve is a consortium funded by the EU MADAD Trust Fund and composed of 5 organisations - CAFOD / Caritas, Generations for Peace, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Questscope and World Vision. Through livelihoods, education and peace building intervention, Youth Resolve aims at building social cohesion across Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq.

In partnership with authorities, municipalities and local communities of these three countries, and of course first of all with the active participation of the youth, Youth Resolve is working at giving the young people the opportunity to express their talent, creativity and energy in order to improve their environment and make an active contribution to the society.

This newsletter aims at sharing inspiring stories and achievements made throughout the implementation of the program in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq in order to highlight how youth are becoming strong leading actors in their respective communities to strengthen resilience and contributing to the common good, working towards a better future."

***Youth Resolve: A group of leading aid agencies responding to the Syria Crisis have launched a two-year project to ease tensions among refugees and communities in neighbouring countries, with funding from the European Union Regional Trust Fund 'MADAD'.***



Brussels. There was a real commitment from all parties present - the European Union, its member states and civil society representatives - to focus on education and increase the support for initiatives that address challenges faced by the young generation affected by the war in Syria and its impact on the neighbouring countries. This commitment was strengthening the existing support from the European Union, notably the existing EU Regional Trust Fund, one of Europe's key instruments, with contributions from 22 EU member states, to projects focusing on education, livelihoods, healthcare, water and waste-water.





# Working together to bring new opportunities to youth in Iraq

By Rebekah Price, World Vision Iraq

## - IRAQ

***"Iraq is one of the most youthful countries in the world, with over 20% of the population between 15-25 years old. Unfortunately, there are many barriers for young people in Iraq to transition to productive adulthood."***

***Gevorg Jendereredjian,***

***World Vision Livelihoods Technical Advisor,***

On 3 May 2018, World Vision and Islamic Relief came together to launch the Youth Resolve project in Iraq at the World Vision Career Centre in Duhok. The Youth Resolve project is made up of activities designed to empower youth to develop skills and knowledge through vocational trainings and apprenticeship opportunities in order to confidently participate in social and economic life.

The launch event brought together youth who are internally displaced (IDPs), refugees and from host communities with project leaders from World Vision and Islamic Relief, camp management personnel and members of local government directorates.

Local youth Areen Mshur and Burhan Hamo shared the importance and impact of vocational training in their own lives. Through attending vocational trainings, the youth not only gained technical skills, but also learned the importance of hard work, determination and persistence to network with people and pursue livelihood opportunities.

Despite a lack of support from friends and family, Areen pursued her interest in carpentry training and eventually led a group of girls to develop their skills and produce products that have sold successfully. She has used this experience to propel her to pursuing higher education to continue her growth and expand her opportunities.

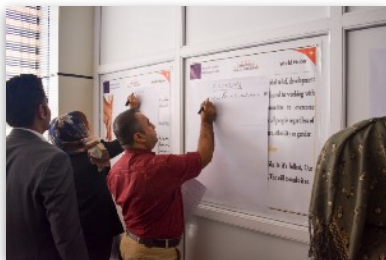
"No matter how society treats girls, we (girls) should face our fears and break the norms that says some careers are only for boys. I believe that girls have the strength and can participate in the roles that society has only labelled for boys," shared Areen as she spoke of

the importance of empowering youth to think big and accomplish success without being held back by fear.

She expressed an excitement and expectation that Youth Resolve will "encourage us and change our attitudes so we can improve our skills to become future leaders in our communities."

Gevorg Jendereredjian, World Vision Livelihoods Technical Advisor, stated "Iraq is one of the most youthful countries in the world, with over 20% of the population between 15-25 years old. Unfortunately, there are many barriers for young people in Iraq to transition to productive adulthood. Conflict and displacement engendered disruptive experiences of injustice and desperation have increased the risks of negative coping strategies, such as early marriage for girls, dangerous work for boys, radicalisation or violent extremism. Youth Resolve provides young people with positive opportunities to develop themselves, enhancing their economic wellbeing and meaningful.

This is achieved through life skills coaching, vocational training, apprenticeship placement and support services. With that available; youth display a remarkable sense of responsibility to channel these positive experiences into constructive action aimed at building a better tomorrow."







# WATCH & EXPERIENCE

<VIDEO>

**MEET ISLAMIC RELIEF's YOUTH IN LEBANON!**

## LIFE SKILLS

by Chris Khoury, World Vision Lebanon

- LEBANON

*As Socrates once said, "I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think" and this is what Life Skills program does.*

As Socrates once said, "I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think" and this is what Life Skills program does. The curriculum encourages students and teachers to think beyond academic education and stretch their limits in thinking. Life Skills program is a collaborative brainstorming incubator where teachers start facilitating rather than lecturing and students discover life techniques rather than learn them.

In the training workshop, the teachers are encouraged to promote positive interaction and encourage the students to participate in all the activities in school. The teachers receive a certificate for participating themselves in this initiative and being part in the change we strive

for as World Vision in vulnerable schools. Every Life Skills session has a unique objective and a clear lesson the students learn eventually; the students are given the chance to share their skills in front of their class and talk about it. Most of the schools facilitating Life Skills program rarely give an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and ideas. Throughout the year, students are working together more during other class periods and they are more eloquent which is more evident in the end-of-year initiative. Moreover, teachers are satisfied with the change they see in the students' behaviour during the academic year.

# YOUTH's VOICES ABOUT YOUTH RESOLVE

compiled by Farah Hamam, Generations For Peace

## - JORDAN

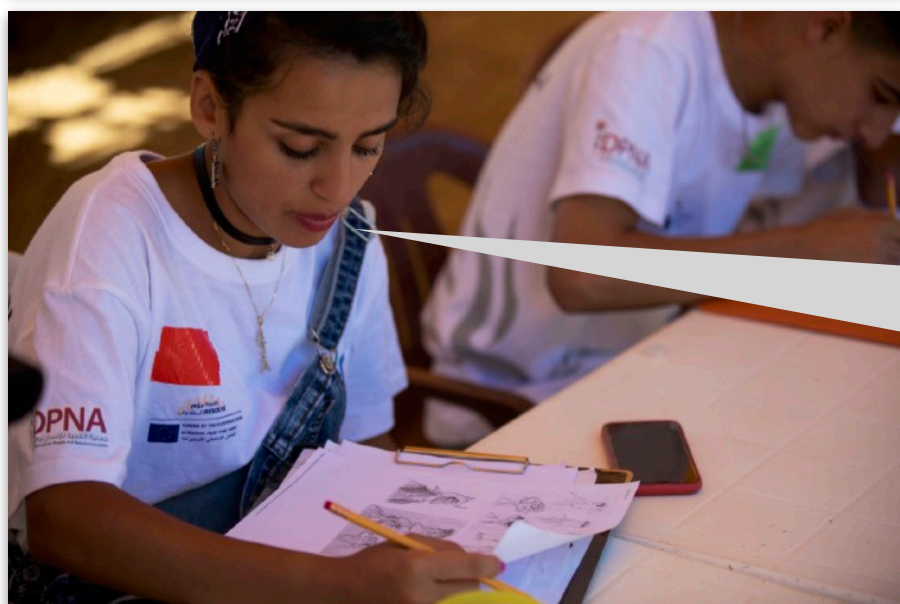
"Youth Resolve helped me to understand that, It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences. I m so thankful for being part of this programme I consider it as an eye opener for me. Thank you to Generations For Peace"

**Lebanese Youth, 16yo**



"The arts sessions are amazing in general and the trainers are really interacting with us. They have been able to [...] make a positive change on our talents and personal life through arts."

**Palestinian Youth, 17yo**



"At the beginning of the Youth Resolve programme I was afraid that some people will not accept me because of my nationality but actually the programme helped me to engage with Lebanese and Palestinian youth which I would never think that I will be even talking to them one day"

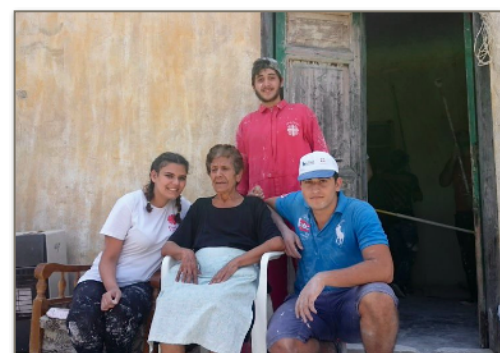
**Syrian Youth, 16yo**



# STORIES FROM LEBANESE YOUTH

compiled by Hombeline Dulière, Elouise Hobbs (CAFOD) & Sandy Esber (Caritas Lebanon)

## LEBANON



In early July, under the project of Youth Resolve funded by EU Madad, implemented by CAFOD and Caritas Lebanon, youth helped to renovate a number of houses in several regions of the territory. Some of these young people visited a house owned by two elderly sisters. The house is very old - likely to get cold in wintertime and clearly very physically isolated as it stands alone, apart from all neighbours.

As the young people began isolating and clearing the walls, they were also able to make one of the sisters, Marie, cups of tea and keep her company, so she did not feel lonely.

"The house was beautiful after we renovated it! After we finished the project, I can see the change we bring in people's lives."

"I participated in activities I never thought I'd do. Since I am the only girl at home, my parents did not push me too much and preferred that I'd stay home.

"I have a stronger personality now. I was very shy to talk to people I did not know before. Not anymore."

"My parents are very proud of me and always tell their friends about what I do."

*Jessica, 16, from Dar Baachtar, in Northern Lebanon.*



### FOCUS ON A YOUTH RESOLVE CONSORTIUM STAFF

*Youssef, 19, Caritas Lebanon Field Coordinator in Jbeil:*

I have been a youth leader in Jbeil since 2015 and I chose to work on the Youth Resolve project because I believe it is an essential and beneficial project for Jbeil.

During my time as a youth leader, I was able to identify the needs in Mount Lebanon and this project meant we finally got the funds to meet these needs.

Initially, we had some challenges with the project around a tight timeframe, the big load of activities, along with the unavailability of many young people because of other personal commitments. But, with hard work, we were able to overcome these challenges and deliver many successful projects.

My favourite part of the project so far is the overall positive impact, especially the effect of the quick impact projects - such as rejuvenating a house or public space - in the vulnerable, far out areas such as Ain Kfaa.

I really enjoyed the moments during the quick impact projects when you could see that the young people felt like they were changing the environment and atmosphere of an area by rehabilitating public spaces like the sports playground and public garden. I am looking forward to continuing with the project in the future and hope that next year's project will have an even greater impact.

