

Y-PEER

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Palestine

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015
WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP



Y Peer is an international, groundbreaking, and comprehensive youth-to-youth initiative. It is a network of youth led and youth serving non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governmental organizations (GOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), institutions, youth activists, young peer educators and trainers who work together on youth related issues, including physical and mental health, sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, gender based violence, youth participation, civic engagement and development of culture of citizenship.

In Palestine, the network was established in 2012 in partnership with Sharek Youth Forum and support of UNFPA. The network aims to enhance coherence and synergy among youth led and youth serving organizations in key areas related to youth development, including advocacy for development of national policies and strategies for young people, as well as sectoral policies, laws and strategies addressing the needs of young people.

In 2015, Y Peer Palestine achieved numerous activities and interventions with youth, adolescents and children through innovative approaches to learning and education. This report highlights the main accomplishments and achievements for the Network in Palestine.



CAPACITY BUILDING – PEER TO PEER EDUCATION

Y Peer Palestine conducted Basic and advanced training sessions for young people in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem during the course of 2015.

- **Basic Training Sessions:** the trainings aim to introduce prospect members of the Network to the main topics and themes addressed by the Network through an interactive approach that ensures constructive team discussions over sensitive and controversial issues. The sessions addressed, in depth, issues and topics that are related to youth, those are: gender, reproductive health, and civic participation.

- **Advanced Training Sessions (Training of Trainers):** The training was designed to build the capacities of participants, and future Y Peer members, with the technical knowledge required to become a trainer and undertake individual sessions with adolescents and youth. This includes learning of innovative and up to date approaches to peer education. The ToT is considered to be the first step towards empowering Y Peer members to carry out individual orientation sessions on topics related to the needs and priorities of Palestinian youth.



Peer educators in Numbers

61

Peer Educators from West Bank, including Jerusalem

85

Peer Educators from Gaza Strip

75

Adolescents were trained on Peer Education and related topics in Gaza Strip



PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Y Peer members are active volunteers in their communities, who aspire to educate their peers and those who are considered vulnerable and marginalized. They are expected to carry out orientation sessions and community outreach activities and programmes to pass on the knowledge and ensure inclusiveness of all society segments. In 2015, Y Peer Palestine introduced new approaches to learning and education and was able to reach for young people, adolescents, and children at marginalized areas of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

Orientation Sessions at Palestinian Universities

Y Peer Palestine built partnerships with Palestinian universities to introduce the Network for youth and publicize the network for university students. The orientation sessions are a tool to introduce Y Peer Network and discuss critical issues faced by young Palestinians. In 2015, Y Peer conducted orientation sessions at An Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine Technical University - Khadouri in Tulkarem, Palestine Technical College in Ramallah, Hebron University, and Al Quds University.

634 Youth benefited from orientation sessions at Palestinian universities in the West Bank



Y Peer Summer Camps

Y Peer summer camps were organized with adolescents from Nablus and nearby villages and refugee camps. These were intended to raise awareness of and encourage healthy behaviors, provide a preventive introduction to AIDS/HIV, and community outreach. The Y Peer camps took place Balata refugee camp, Al Ein refugee camp, and Sebastia targeting 92 adolescents aged 15 – 17.





International Week for People with Disabilities

Y Peer Palestine celebrated the International Week for People with Disabilities at the Primary School for Deaf in Ramallah. Young volunteers organized an entire day of sports and recreational activities with 64 adolescents and children to stress the importance of inclusion of people with disabilities in the Palestinian society and across all segments. Y Peer members actively engaged in all activities, games, and were all learning the sign language from students at the school. The role of Y Peer was not only limited to designing and execution of activities, on the contrary, it was all about being part of those activities with students. This interaction allowed for students to identify with volunteers, start conversations, and exchange knowledge.



[youtube.com/watch?v=VCA62H6-U0U&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCA62H6-U0U&feature=youtu.be)



Y Peer Challenge

"It was the first time for me to learn valuable information on a top of a hill! I will never forget this day and will tell my class mates to join me next time " Lina, a young girl and participant at Y Peer Challenge. 50 young women, adolescents, and 35 Y Peer members and volunteers participated at the Y Peer Challenge organized at the hills of the Youth Village, located West of Ramallah. The youth village is an open space for young people to learn, explore, and adventure. It is an unprecedented initiative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and exists to provide young people with the space and convenience to enhance their capabilities and strengthen their skills. The Y Peer Challenge, then, was organized as an innovative approach to be adopted by Y Peer Palestine to communicate messages and educate peers.

Participants were engaged at different activities that are directly related to empowering skills such as team building, communication, and competition. The activities allowed for participants to learn about Y Peer through a treasure hunt game and encouraged discussions regarding ways to be an active member of the society and an active volunteer.





Y Peer Bus

"There is so much to give for our community. Y Peer Bus was one of the ideas to reach for more people, more communities and keep doing it!" Yazan Al Taweel, Y Peer member and organizer of Y Peer Bus. Y Peer members took the initiative and organized the Y Peer Bus to roam two communities in Jericho and the Jordan Valley. They prepared a full programme for adolescents and young people to release stress, express themselves, engage at group meetings with Y Peer members, play soccer, and experiment simple science adventures.

The Y Peer Bus visited Al Zbeidat and Fasayel communities located in the Jordan Valley. Both communities are marginalized and lack access to basic needs. The locations are considered Area 'C' and are deprived of consistent access to water, electricity, and transportation. Y Peer's intervention in the communities aimed to highlight inclusiveness of marginalized communities and the various activities that could be directed to them. Each member and volunteer had his/her own contribution during the day. Some organized soccer games, others organized tele match games, experts danced with them to relief stress, and our science expert presented simple experiments from her home.



522

Adolescents and children benefited from Y Peer sessions and community outreach activities in the West Bank

1,000

Adolescents and children benefited from Y Peer sessions in Gaza Strip

645

Youth benefited from awareness raising and orientation sessions in the Gaza strip



Y Peer Radio Program

Y-Peer members produced a radio program in Gaza and broadcasted 6 episodes at Al-Wan and Shabab Radio stations on topics related to youth health.

Y Peer Theatre in Gaza

400 young male and females were reached through a theatre play about GBV and early marriage which was produced and presented in four different universities in the Gaza Strip by Y-Peer members



CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE AND VOLUNTEERISM

International Youth Day 2015

A press conference was organized on the International Youth Day 2015 to announce relevant activities and launch policy dialogue sessions with decision makers, Palestinian intellectuals and leaders, and International representatives. Over 50 young Palestinians from across the West Bank took part in the sessions addressing Youth Civic Engagement. Critical issues were openly discussed addressing the reality of volunteerism in Palestine and representation of youth in social, economic, and political arenas



0:05 / 4:08



Let's Dream featuring Karim Kamel, Dani Dimitrovska, Muhannad Kahlaf, Nora Abu Madi and Taysir Odeh



Launching Y Peer Palestine song "Let's Dream "

'Let's Dream' video clip was launched in Ramallah for over 200 young people to show case a successful and creative method in communicating messages to young people. The video brought together young celebrities from around the world, thus setting an example for Palestinian youth to opt for more and search for a united message to share and communicate on the local, national, and international levels. The launch was prepared as to invite representatives from: private sector, civil society, international organizations, media (local and international), Higher Council for Youth and Sports, and young activists, volunteers, and youth groups. The video and audio versions of the video clip were also distributed to local, regional, and international media outlets in an attempt to increase and sustain the reach of the music production. Nevertheless, the video clip continued to be screened at different occasions including orientation sessions, basic trainings, and workshops.



Y PEER PALESTINE SCALE UP MEETING 2015 -2016

To this end, the Network succeeded to implement and lead numerous interventions of which are developmental and humanitarian. Nevertheless, the Network face daily challenges primarily concerned with geographic distribution of members, current priorities and needs of Palestinian youth, and utilization of available human and monetary resources. The challenges could be summed up as follows:

- Organizing unified efforts in all locations and building relationships among Y Peer members in the different locations.
- Creating a unified message, and objectives, to be discussed and adopted by all Y Peer members, including alumni.
- Identifying the roles, responsibilities, and interventions of Y Peer ambassadors and celebrities.
- Changing needs and priorities of Palestinian youth and society. Y Peer activities and interventions are not in line with changing situations.



The scale up meeting aimed to address previous challenges, propose solutions, and suggest alternative intervention strategies to address the needs and priorities of Palestinian youth and society.

Y Peer members, ambassadors, and NGO representative participated at the scale up meeting; it was organized for 4 days in the West Bank (Jericho and Ramallah) and 1 day in Gaza. The meeting intended to discuss the current situation of the Network in Palestine and propose new mission, vision, objectives, and action plan.

Participants came out with clear deliverables that determined the general perspective of Y Peer Palestine. The main issue that was addressed is to formulate clear messages for the Network to communicate, which ensures a unified identity to be adopted by all members in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza.



Y PEER BIKE MARATHON – GO Y PEER!

The scale up meeting in Palestine was concluded by a Bike Marathon that roamed the city of Jericho. The marathon aimed to boost the new start and resolutions of Y Peer Palestine and create visibility among Palestinian citizens. Y Peer members were cycling and holding foam boards labeled "youth", "Health", "Volunteer", and "Y Peer" to inform the public of main Y Peer cornerstones.





Y PEER COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

In 2015, Y Peer Palestine was keen to utilizing media to communicate messages and reach for the public. Interventions and activities were highly covered by local media, and International media at specific occasions. The coverage included print (Palestinian daily newspapers), audio (local radio stations), and TVs. Social media was activated to reach young people and address youth related issues. The high exposure of Y Peer activities received positive responses and increased interest in the Network.

Numerous visibility items were produced during the course of 2015 to generate visibility of the Y Peer and its brand. This extremely contributed to branding and positioning the Network among young people, beneficiares, and partners. T-shirts and hoodies were designed and produced to be used during activities, together with other visibility items.



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