The Three Phases of Participatory Action Research

**Capacity Building and Research Implementation**
- 121 young researchers;
- Pictorial and other easy-to-use tools; electronic tablet for audio and digital data collection;
- Data collection from 900 young people in 3 countries.

**Country and Regional Findings - Action and Advocacy Plans**
- National Workshops where young researchers conduct data analysis and prepare action and advocacy plans;
- Regional Workshop where young researchers present country and regional findings and advocate for action.

**Young People as Change Makers and Advocates**
- Expand the pool of young researchers and advocates and the scope of the research;
- Support youth in implementing civic engagement action plans;
- Support country and regional level youth advisory groups to influence programming;
- Partner with young people in programme development, implementation and monitoring.

**BACKGROUND**
In 2016, UNICEF and partners launched a participatory action research (PAR), a systematic adolescent and youth engagement project in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

This project aims to generate evidence with and for young people, empower them to lead community-based research and support them in becoming change makers/advocates on issues of concern to them.

**REACHING THE MOST VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE**

121 Young Researchers 14 - 24 years old who conducted research among over 900 peers

- 53% working
- 47% are in school
- 60% out of school, of whom 67% are Syrian

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

- August 2016 - January 2017
- March - April 2017
- May 2017 onwards

### YOUNG RESEARCHERS

- 53% in Jordan
- 9% in Syria
- 38% in Lebanon

### ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH ADVOCATES

- Of whom, 1% are Iraqi, 15% Jordanian, 27% Lebanese, 17% Palestinian, and 40% Syrian.
Evidence Generation: Participatory Action Research with Young People in the MENA Region
Regional Workshop, April 2017

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The Participatory Action Research questions were developed, refined and finalized in partnership with the young researchers, who collected data among their peers to find out more on:

- What are the key hopes and aspirations of young people?
- What is similar and different among the aspirations of young girls and boys?
- What are the key factors shaping their aspirations?
- How do young people cope with the barriers they face?
- What helps or prevents young people from engaging in their community and in issues important to them?

Young researchers collected data with Four Participatory Action Research Tools:

- Rich pictures
- Focus Group Discussion
- Interviews
- Tree Analysis

RESEARCH QUESTION

What are the key hopes and aspirations of young people?

ALL PICTURES: ©UNICEF/RICH/2017
**TOOL 1: RICH PICTURE**

The rich picture is a creative and visual technique to understand an issue through the use of symbols, sketches and keywords.

The young researchers explored:
- The NOW: Current situation of young people.
- And the FUTURE: Hopes and aspirations for the next 5 years.

The rich picture is a simple way to express very difficult situations and complex emotional and sensitive information. It was perceived particularly useful by out-of-school adolescents and girls.

“*We do not want to beg... Just give us our rights.*

Group of young people in Zaatari Refugee Camp, Jordan.

Rich picture on the NOW conducted by a group of Palestinian youth in Beddawi Refugee Camp in Lebanon.

Rich picture conducted by a group of young researchers in an informal settlement of Syrian refugees in North Lebanon.
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The focus group discussion (FGD) is a discussion that gathers a group of young people from similar backgrounds and experiences to share and discuss their views, thoughts and opinions on a specific topic/issue. The main topic of discussion was the hopes and aspirations of young people in the community.

Young people help them to discuss an issue together realizing commonalities as well as differences among each other.

“Young people from outside Syria seem to have different dreams and a broader horizon. Their visions are not limited in their countries and they do not suffer from the same circumstances we suffer from.”

Group of young males, Syria
TOOL 3: INTERVIEWS

“I only see my boss once a week when he comes to pay me my wage. He has a tough nature and wouldn’t tolerate any mistake in work. This makes me feel stressed and hate my work.”

18-year old female, Lebanon

“I live in Lebanon. I have been displaced from my country because of war. I work to live and secure my needs. I prefer to complete my education. But there are many obstacles such as money, documentation and being away from school for a long time.”

18-year old male, Lebanon

““I wish to resume my education but life circumstances have forced me to start working.”

17-year old male, Syria

“The most difficult thing for me is my disability and the society’s perspective on disabled person… They consider us helpless and unable to do any work.”

20-year old male, Syria

“INTERVIEWS

The purpose of the interview is to collect in-depth information on the participant’s ideas, thoughts and perspectives. The young researchers collected data on:

- Key hopes and aspirations of young people;
- Hopes and aspirations with regards to education, employment, family formation;
- Perspectives on migration;
- Social and civic participation of young people;
- Key supportive factors and barriers to aspirations;
- Coping mechanisms to the barriers young people face.

The young researcher found this tool very useful to probe for sensitive information. Research participants opened up to in-depth discussion.”

18-year old female, Jordan

Young females in Amman, Jordan.
TOOL 4: TREE ANALYSIS

The tree analysis is a tool that helps identify a
• A core issue;
• Its causes;
• Its effects.

In this tree analysis, participants also explored potential solutions to the identified problem.

TOPICS
Topics explored by the young researchers and participants included
• unemployment
• out-of-school and drop outs
• child marriage
• security
• migration.

Through this tool, young researchers found the interplay between several issues. It helped them understand that there are a few underlying factors that have impact on many issues, for example financial insecurity.

“I really would like to change their ways of thinking, challenge them and change the way they perceive women in the society in general.”
17-year-old girl from Manka, Jordan.

“All the young people want to live in a financially, intellectually and morally stable country. They want to live in a county where they can feel safe and protected. Eventually, young people hate immigration, but this country and its situation force them to immigrate.”
18-year old female, Lebanon.

EDUCATION
Young males and females, Beddawi Refugee Camp, Lebanon.

EARLY MARRIAGE
Group of young females in Aqaba, Jordan.

DIVORCE
Young women in North Lebanon.
EXERCISE: CIRCLE ANALYSIS

Circle analysis is an exercise that enables young people to position themselves within their family, community and peer based on their perception of how they are valued by the different groups.

It also helps young people communicate pictorially how they value peers, family, community and other key elements of their lives.

Young people perceive that community and family values them much less than how much they value them.

"If I become alone I would break down. I cannot imagine living alone without my family."

21-year old female in Homs, Syria

"Family is a major supporter in achieving one's ambitions."

21-year old male, Lebanon

"I need support from close people and people I love from my family... What makes it difficult to achieve my aspirations is the society I live in."

19-year-old male, Ein El Hilweh Camp, Lebanon, Lebanon

Circle analysis conducted by a group of young males in Homs, Syria.

Circle analysis conducted by a group of young females in Ma’an, Jordan.

Circle analysis conducted by a group of 19-year old girls in Marka, Jordan.