

Civil Peace Service (CPS) Jordan

Promoting conflict resolution mechanisms and creating prospects for vulnerable groups and regions in Jordan

Background

Since its independence in 1946, Jordan has been a safe haven for refugees from Palestine, Syria, and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The population in Jordan has increased from around 500,000 in 1952 to almost 11.5 million in 2023, according to the Jordanian Department of Statistics. 2.3 million Palestine refugees have been registered with UNRWA; UNHCR reports over 650,000 Syrian refugees, they estimate that at least as many Syrians have built a provisional existence on their own.

As Jordan has suffered from resource scarcity and structural changes, with a population increase of over 11 million in the span of 70 years, socio-economic frustrations can rise. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have also contributed to aggravating inequalities, especially among vulnerable groups.

The Jordanian Ministry of Youth identifies individuals between ages of 12 and 30 as youth, making youth around 40% of the population, based on reports by the Jordanian Department of Statistics. Moreover, a report by UNICEF states that the kingdom has one of the youngest populations in the world with 63% of the population being below the age of 30. Youth are at the forefront of economic, political, and societal leadership. It is crucial they receive the needed support.

CPS Jordan approach

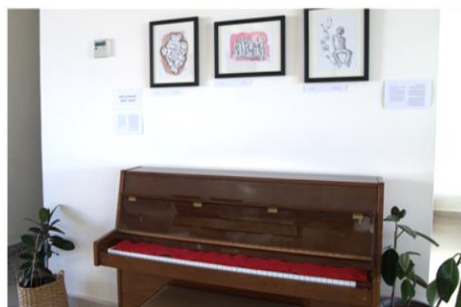
GIZ-CPS has been in Jordan since 2017 and operational since 2018. A diverse team of development and national advisors closely cooperate with local Partner Organisations (POs). These POs operate in often marginalised areas in the kingdom where social friction and economic disparities threaten to trigger tensions between individuals and groups. Jointly developed change processes, conflict transformation and resolution measures, contribute to strengthen

the resilience of vulnerable groups, especially women and youth in refugee and host communities. GIZ-CPS Jordan focuses on hard-to-reach urban neighbourhoods and remote rural areas.

Project name	Promoting conflict resolution mechanisms and creating prospects for vulnerable groups and regions in Jordan
Funded by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – Special Initiative on Displacement (SIF)
Project region	Jordan
Lead executing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	2017 – 2026

Performing arts, dialogue, neighbourhood mapping, sports, life skills training, and even robotics, are among the youth-friendly methods used for conflict transformation. Opportunities for meeting and exchanging are offered in safe spaces, such as youth centres and non-formal learning environments. Disadvantaged youth are encouraged to express themselves and participate in change processes. Tensions are transformed through trust-building and community development.

GIZ-CPS Jordan implements a multi-level youth capacity development concept where young people can articulate their needs and assume responsibility for their actions. The methods include trainings, advisory services, and networking activities.



*L: Youth during a Drum Power workshop conducted in collaboration with GIZ-CPS Palestinian Territories and Jordan programmes.
R: Artwork displayed during International Day of Peace 2023 which shows art as a language for peace-building in Jordan.*



Gabriele Curtacci
Programme Coordinator

gabriele.curtacci@giz.de

L: A design workshop, conducted at the partner organisation IDare, to support in identity creation that combines professional and personal passions.

R: A figure developed during the shadow theatre workshop, She Act, with the partner organisation CCK in March 2023.

CPS Jordan impact and partner organisations

Joint activities

In Ma'an, a city in the south of Jordan, the youth centre **Al Qantara** is situated. The youth centre engages youth in volunteering and language programmes, a youth council, and an early childhood programme. GIZ-CPS cooperates most closely with Al Qantara in the activities carried out in the youth centre's 'Safe Space'. This space brings youth together to share perspectives and develop understanding and inclusive identities through a variety of activities including visual arts, socio-emotional learning games and exchanges with youth across the country.

Creativity Club Karak (CCK) is in the southern city Al-Karak. CCK and GIZ-CPS have developed the *Theatre for Change* programme where particularly youth and women coming from vulnerable areas are encouraged through creative cultural work approaches to develop perspectives within their means and experiencing recognition within their community. An objective is to expand a component of the Art and Kids Department on peace education, script-writing, stage, and costumes design.

In the capital, Amman, **IDare** and GIZ-CPS are focusing on building resilience as a prerequisite for youth agency. GIZ-CPS is contributing to an advocacy strategy aimed at building the capacities of youth suffering or at risk to suffer from mental and emotional stress. By strengthening their emotional intelligence and capacities for mindfulness and self-care, young people are better suited to meet the challenges of today's world.

Ruwad Al Tanmeya operates in East Amman's Jabal Al Natheef neighbourhood, as well as in Jordan's rural south where the NGO is managing youth centres in Tafileh and the Bedouin village of Beidha near Little Petra. The conflict transformation methods jointly developed with GIZ-CPS are supporting staff members, volunteers, students, and active youth to contribute to positive change through enhanced community participation capacities.

The field

Jordan is full of young people with numerous experiences, skills, perspectives, and an enormous potential, which has remained largely untapped. Therefore, the GIZ-CPS Jordan programme is focusing mainly on youth through working together with a network of partner organisations on the ground.

Our partner network

During the Asia, Middle East, and Ukraine Regional Conference of GIZ-CPS in October 2022, a panel discussion session was dedicated to youth living in Jordan to discuss topics and issues that affect them. One youth member from each of the POs joined the panel discussion under the topic of *Youth and Peace*. It was a great opportunity to bring engaged youth from the POs together and pave the way for future exchanges.

Since then, there have been many activities where members of the POs met to learn from each other and with each other. Among the activities that took place was a dialogue training in November 2022; in March 2023, a *Drum Power* workshop was conducted for the POs in the south of Jordan and with the collaboration of colleagues from GIZ-CPS Palestinian Territories programme.

At the beginning of the exchange, IDare shared some of their resilience building activities, such as the adaptation of the *Emotion Wheel* to the Jordanian context. These kinds of inspiring exchanges are increasing in frequency. They are also leading to the POs meeting on their own to work and learn together. The work that is being done with the POs is constantly evolving based on the needs of youth in Jordan as well as the ever-changing regional conditions.

With the active involvement of youth, their unifying characteristics gain in importance and the recognition of inclusion as a value, and as a practice, grows.

Published by

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Ziviler Friedensdienst / Civil Peace Service
GIZ Office Jordan
Thaqqafeh Street, 19, Shmeisani, Amman, Jordan
Email: gabriele.curtacci@giz.de
www.giz.de/ziviler-friedensdienst

As at

Amman; January 2024

Photo credits

Page 1: L: GIZ-CPS Jordan R: GIZ-CPS Jordan

Page 2: L: IDare R: CCK

Text

GIZ-CPS Jordan

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of

Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with

Civil Peace Service