

Civil Peace Service (CPS) Jordan

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

Context

Since 1946, Jordan has been a safe haven for refugees from Palestine, Syria, and other countries in the MENA region. According to the Jordanian Department of Statistics, the population has gone from around 500,000 to over 11 million. UNRWA has registered 2.3 million Palestinian refugees and UNHCR reports over 650,000 Syrian refugees and estimates that at least as many Syrians have built a provisional existence on their own. As Jordan has suffered from resource scarcity and structural challenges, with this population increase, the potential of socio-economic frustrations can rise. In addition, the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to aggravating economic inequalities and imbalances, especially among vulnerable groups.

UNICEF classifies Jordan's population as one of the youngest in the world since 63% of it is younger than 30 years old. It is crucial that these youth get the support that they need to lead the economy and society of the country.

Our approach

GIZ CPS has been operating in Jordan since 2018. A team of national and international advisors work in close cooperation with local partner organisations, they operate in often marginalised areas, where social friction and economic disparities threaten to trigger tensions between individuals and groups. The 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. Hard-to-reach urban neighbourhoods and remote rural areas are paid close attention to.

Project name	Promoting conflict resolution mechanisms and creating prospects for vulnerable groups and regions in Jordan
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Theatre, music, and sports along with other socio-cultural approaches serve as youth friendly tools for conflict transformation. Opportunities for meeting and exchanging are being created and offered in safe spaces such as youth centres and non-formal learning environments. Disadvantaged and vulnerable youth are empowered to express themselves and find entry points to work for social change in their local environments. Thus, interpersonal and social tensions are reduced in favour of trust building and community development.

GIZ CPS adheres to a multi-level youth empowerment concept that strives to link civil society organisations with state institutes and to facilitate the creation of national and transnational alliances and sector groups. The methods comprise training courses, advisory services, and the implementation of networking activities promoting social cohesion through active citizenship.



Left: An activity using theatre methods to reflect together on the active participation of youth in their lives and communities in Karak.

Right: Performance of a HipHop group at the closing event of a series of workshops conducted in Amman on the 60th anniversary of the German-Jordanian Development Cooperation.



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Left: A motivational talk being given to youth during International Youth Day in Karak about the importance of the role of youth in community political participation and social cohesion.

Right: Decoration of the entrance hall of the municipal youth centre in Ma'an as part of the programme for the official inauguration by the Minister of Youth.

Partner organisations and joint activities

Creativity Club Karak and GIZ CPS have developed the *Theatre for Change* project, the main objective of the collaboration is to promote young adults' critical and analytical thinking, create spaces to explore and understand art as a language for empowerment and conflict transformation.

Ruwwad Al Tanmeya operates in East Amman's Jabal Al Natheef as well as in Jordan's rural South. The conflict transformation methods jointly developed with GIZ CPS are enabling staff members, volunteers, and active citizens to contribute to positive change on the community level.

Al Qantara, in collaboration with the Municipal Youth Office and GIZ CPS, is operating Ma'an's first state-of-the-art youth centre. The facility's socio-cultural offers are widely youth-led and thus promote active citizenship, and the creation of youth groups and initiatives for a greater participation of young people in decision-making processes on a local level.

Arab Women Organization is a new partner of GIZ CPS and it advocates for women's rights as human rights. Uniting over 100 women-led community-based organisations from all over Jordan, their *Mosawa* network aims to empower women; especially those in marginalised communities.

IDare is one of the founding members of the National Coalition for the Promotion of UNSCR 2250. The resolution was initiated by Jordan and strives for active participation of young people in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes.

Story telling for social change – A success story

Theatre during Corona

"As we were all facing new challenges during the lock-down back in spring 2020, my personal question was: 'How to do theatre online?' I believe that theatre is a tool that involves body, mind and soul in a physical, aesthetic space including actors and audience members, so I felt lost addressing this task.

But life demands creative solutions, so my colleague from Creativity Club Karak and I invented a 'Storytelling for Social Change' - online workshop, including methods and tools of Creative Writing, Embodiment Practices and Forum Theatre. Out of that, the youth aged 15-23 invented stories, evolved from observations and awareness for community conflicts. In this safe online space, the youth had the possibility to question behavioral patterns and conflict dynamics of themselves and community members in a creative way. Hopes, dreams, and wishes were written down on paper, embedded in a story of a protagonist seeking social change, the bond among each other was kept and mental wellbeing was fostered. Sharing a story created by the youth, during a time of crisis, became a silver lining for future Forum Theatre plays."

(Lisenka Sedlacek, Advisor GIZ CPS)

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