

Appendix 4: Youth NGOs in Jordan

This research argues that studying youth NGOs in Jordan is critical to determining the opportunities for youth empowerment. Youth NGOs in Jordan run periodic programmes designed to improve participants' (youth's) communication skills and team-working, and to encourage them to volunteer in local communities. As a vital democracy feature, youth NGOs are a part of civil society that reflects the views of young citizenry at large, where they adapt super-swiftly to new opportunities. In general, examining the institutional capacity of youth NGOs and their flexibility is critical to determining their capability to face the bureaucratic inertia and sheer lack of vision displayed by national governments. This research distinguished five main typologies of youth NGOs in Jordan; they are not exhaustive, but they are selected to fit the purpose of the research regarding youth empowerment in Jordan. These are as follows:

Royal non-government youth organisations (youth RINGOs)

These are the most prominent NGOs in Jordan, with the best capacity (Górak-Sosnowska, 2010). Mostly, these institutions have been established by royal decree by the current or late monarch. They have active cooperation programmes with international donors but are not directly linked to the government. The international development partners who are backing 'good governance' (e.g., the UN, the IMF, the World Bank and USAID, etc.) operate in a coordinated manner with active youth NGOs in Jordan to promote youth participation and empowerment. RINGOs have shared efforts to promote good governance in Jordan through continuous surveillance of national strategies and policies to boost youth engagement in the arena of decision-making.

Typically, youth RINGOs are sponsored or administered by one of the royal family members. For example, Queen Rania Al-Abdullah established and is heading the Jordan River Foundation, Princess Basma bint Talal is heading the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development, while Prince Hassan bin Talal is heading the El-Hassan Youth Award (Wiktorowicz, 2002). Being supported by royal family members, RINGOs are the most influential and interactive NGOs in their respective local communities. RINGOs provide a broad range of social development services. Philanthropic activities include delivery of non-formal education, community

mobilisation through community service and volunteering and advocacy (Górak-Sosnowska, 2010).

Unlike most NGOs in Jordan, youth RINGOs have a strong organisational capacity in terms of good management skills; highly trained and qualified staff; and separate budgets and sufficient funding to carry out their agenda (Górak-Sosnowska, 2010). In contrast, the other types of NGOs suffer from uncertain funding; faulty premises; limited management capacities; financial mismanagement; and poor standards and implementation skills (Coskun, 2013). In addition to institutional problems, corruption, nepotism and lack of transparency are rampant in their administrative structure. Corrupted system is also considered as one of the main impediments to youth involvement in NGOs and political parties (*ibid.*).

Identifying the most influential type of youth NGOs in Jordan will give insight into applying best practice and facilitating the institutionalisation of youth participation.

Secular, national youth NGOs

These organisational are directly linked to central government, particularly under the MoY and the MoSD. They are focused on delivering youth needs or reflecting their views (Debre, 2014; Wiktorowwicz, 2002). However, compared to RINGOs, they are smaller in scale, with limited financial and human resources. Some of the best-known active institutions are the Hannounch Society for Popular Culture and the Free Thought Forum (Wiktorowwicz, 2002).

International non-government youth organisations

This category involves internationally based innovative institutions that work with local communities in partnership with international organisations. Most of their initiatives are youth-led and directed towards providing greater opportunities for marginalised youth in the social, educational and entrepreneurial fields. There are several organisations active in Jordan: SC, Questscope and the Young Men's Christian Association.