Arab youth volunteering for a better future

Over the past two years, the Arab world has experienced a series of popular uprisings demanding change. Spearheaded mostly by youth, these protests drew attention to the power of peaceful engagement for change. People exercised their civil rights to express their views and call for social justice and democratic governance. In several countries, attitudes towards youth and state governance changed, providing opportunities and creating expectations for greater participation of youth.

The wave of youth-led transformational change processes in the Arab region has highlighted youth as a positive asset for peace and development. To address the challenges and aspirations of youth, volunteering provides a viable sustainable mechanism that can turn their grievances and frustrations into positive energy and a social asset. Youth volunteering can engage young men and women in a range of activities that can improve their participation and positively harness their energy to contribute to the achievement of local, national and global development goals, while enhancing their life, citizenship and work-related skills.

“There are moments when historic transformational change is possible. This is one of those moments in the Arab States.”

Helen Clark, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future Programme is an initiative led by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and is in line with regional strategies of the United Nations (UN) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This regional initiative aims to harness the power and energy of youth through volunteering, drawing on the inherent core values of selflessness, solidarity and social cohesion. The programme will strengthen the infrastructure necessary to build the skills and capacities of youth in the region. It will thereby enhance their social inclusion and active participation in the socio-economic development of their countries. The programme will be implemented in five countries: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen.
UNV Arab Youth Volunteering for a better future

Through volunteerism, young people are given the chance to contribute positively to sustainable development, while building their own skills and experience. Volunteerism also creates channels for young people to participate positively in civic life, facilitating the inclusion of their voices in decision-making processes.

Arab Youth Volunteering for a Better Future is a flagship project of the UN Youth Volunteers Programme, which aims to facilitate the engagement of youth in global peace and sustainable human development through volunteerism, bringing the voice of youth into the development discourse and helping young people to realize their full social, economic and human potential.
Sustainable Development Goal: