



October 2010 Issue

Tools for Community Involvement

Inside this issue:

Media in Action	2
Youth Voices Hit the Frequencies	2-3
An Aspiring Architect	3
October 2010 Blurbs	4

As part of Ruwwad's 26th Leadership and Community Participation Training, youth from across the West Bank gathered to learn the skills necessary to be agents of change in their own societies. Three of the most popular sessions were media, collaborative leadership, and ICT in community development.

Manar Badwan, now an intern at Ruwwad's office, learned crucial leadership skills and experienced firsthand the importance of collaboration and teamwork in working toward change. She explained:

"Before the training I was trying to prove that I have better skills than the other trainees. After the participatory leadership session, I found myself giving others a space and a chance to share their skills as I also shared with them knowledge from my previous experiences. This session helped me see that if I really want to be effective, I have to share

every idea I have, because other people may build on this idea and together we can reach a bigger goal."

The media session taught trainees an effective means to get their ideas out and extend their sphere of influence. Badwan continued:

"I learned how we can use the media to our advantage if we build a network of channels that can lend a hand in spreading our ideas, projects, and initiatives."

The ICT component of the training gave participants valuable resources, such as web-

sites and programs, to facilitate the development of their projects and improve the quality of their work.

Albert Einstein said: "All meaningful and lasting change starts first in your imagination and then works its way out. Imagination is more important than knowledge." In reflecting on her experience at the training, Badwan concluded:

"At this training I realized what Einstein meant by this quote. I understand that I have to start from the inside; work my brain to imagine what my community really needs in order to have productive and lasting change. Only then does the idea for change find its way out."



The 26th Leadership and Community Participation Training





Media in Action

Ruwwad is providing youth with more opportunities to apply and enhance their media skills. During the week of October 3, 2010, 21 recent YDRC media graduates came together as part of Ruwwad's 10th Media Training. This series of interactive sessions was in preparation for their upcoming three-month media internships.



Participants brainstorm ideas at Ruwwad's 10th Media Training

There have been 174 total media interns

641 Palestinian youth have completed Ruwwad's Leadership and Community Participation Trainings

On the fourth day of the training the youth worked in teams to create short films that stressed the value of teambuilding. The group from the northern West Bank chose to focus on a blind man meandering about a city sidewalk. Passersby worked together to make sure he arrived safely at his destination. They turned sheets of metal into a ramp which led up a dangerously high curb and used bricks to create a walk-

way through a jungle of rubble and debris. The youth took this opportunity to expand upon the theme of teamwork as they also brought attention to the poor and often dangerous pedestrian facilities in Palestinian cities.

This project extended far beyond brainstorming an idea for a story. The participants applied the filming skills they had learned, choosing vantage points to shoot

from and ensuring proper lighting. At the end, the trainees gathered, along with Ruwwad's media team, to evaluate their work and give each other feedback. They watched and critiqued each film, addressing questions such as the clarity of their message and the film's ability to keep the audience interested.

Youth Voices Hit the Frequencies

Palestinian youth are sharing their views about society. As one of the Youth Development subgrants, EDC/Ruwwad launched the Youth Access Media Project with the filming of the first two episodes. Al-Quds Educational TV, with the cooperation of subgrantee Tawasul,

will film a total of 16 episodes focusing on different issues that affect youth in Palestine. The project seeks to strengthen youth participation in comprehensive media as well as in the public sphere.

The episodes will be produced in part by 10 recent media graduates,

all former interns from the YDRC Media Centers. Each episode consists of members from the three YDRCs as well as special guest panelists.

The first episode, filmed on October 21, 2010 and broadcasted a week later, explored the role of young peo-

ple in society and how youth clubs can assist in strengthening their role. The episode also detailed the aims and objectives of the YDRCs. The guest panelists were Mr. Musa Abu Zaid, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, and Mr. Husam Qaradeh, Deputy Chief of Party at Ruwwad. They discussed the MoYS' role in coordinating with international donors to develop youth clubs, including the establishment of the YDRCs and the progress that has been achieved thus far in these centers. They also covered both the challenges and successes of the clubs and plans for the future. The floor was then open for questions from the audience (members from the YDRCs and ACs), who asked about issues

such as the lack of youth representation in the government.

The second episode, filmed on October 26th 2010 and broadcasted a week later, focused on the rapid increase of technological use among youth. The guest panelists were Dr. Mashour Abu Daqqa, Minister of Telecommunications and Information, and Mr. Murad Amer, specialist in clinical psychology at the Palestinian Counseling Center. They discussed how the growing use of technology is affecting everyday life such as family and social relationships. The two panelists debated the positive and negative effects, from technology's ability to open peoples' eyes to new ideas, to the risk of technol-

ogy pulling children away from social interactions. Once the floor was open for questions from the audience, issues such as government censorship and the causes of excessive technological use were discussed.

The third episode of the series will explore youth in fashion design.



Recording of the second episode at Al-Quds Educational TV's facilities.

An Aspiring Architect

Ten-year old Raneen Mahmoud dreams of becoming an architect. Her vision is to create buildings unlike anything she sees today, characterized by creative shapes such as spheres and triangles. Mahmoud understands that in order to make her dream come true, she needs the necessary skills. "To be a great architect," she explains, "I have to learn how to use computers."

Mahmoud recently participated in Ruwwad's Intel Learn Program, where she had the opportunity to learn important computer and internet skills. Intel Learn is an after-school program which teaches children

ages 9-14 about technology, problem solving, and collaboration. During the program, Mahmoud excelled, showing a knack for leadership and a prowess in communication.

Mahmoud is not waiting to apply the lessons she learned during Intel Learn to her everyday life. She made close friends in the program, but because the training has ended, she no longer sees them regularly. Now, however, she knows how to use the internet and stays in touch with her friends via email. As an aspiring architect, Mahmoud loves to draw and sends her pictures to her friends as well.

Her enthusiasm for Intel Learn was apparent throughout the program. Soon after the sessions began, her parents could no longer drive her to the YDRC due to their work schedules. Mahmoud made sure that she would still attend: "I learned how to go by myself even though I'm very young because I love Intel Learn. Thank you very much Ruwwad."

At the conclusion of the trainings, Mahmoud had a clear message of the importance of projects such as this one. "I like to learn a lot," she explained, "and Intel Learn ended quickly so please bring us more programs so I can continue to de-

velop my skills."

Intel Learn, a Ruwwad program, is being implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc (EDC) with funding from USAID.

"I learned how to go by myself even though I'm young because I love Intel Learn. Thank you very much Ruwwad."



Al Farei Building, Floor 4
Al Balou', Al Bireh
Ramallah – West Bank

Tel: + 970 2 242 354
Fax: + 970 2 242 3544
Email: info@ruwwad.org
Website: www.ruwwad.org

Ruwwad is a Palestinian Youth Empowerment project implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc (EDC) and funded by USAID. From the Arabic word for “pioneers”, Ruwwad carries the vision of providing Palestinian youth between the ages of 14 and 30, including those in marginalized areas, with opportunities to explore their potential and contribute to social and community development in the West Bank and Gaza. It is Ruwwad’s belief that Palestinian youth are already empowered, carrying within themselves creative capacities for change; therefore, the program’s role is to provide platforms for youth to incubate their ideas and dreams and launch them into reality in their communities.

No matter who you are, an interested youth, community member, government official or organization, do not hesitate to contact us!

October 2010 Blurbs

Twenty-one Media Training graduates began their intensive three-month media internship at each of the YDRCs. The program involves activities led by the youth, as they will take advantage of their own areas of expertise to teach their peers specific skill sets. Through this opportunity, the interns will gain hands-on work experience in media production, enhancing their technical skills, getting used to the work load of a media office environment, and creating pieces that highlight social and community issues.



Participants from the 26th Leadership and Community Participation Training, which took place at Ramallah's City Inn Hotel in October.



YDRC and AC staff gather at the Mazaya kickoff meeting for the Nablus area. Mazaya is strengthening the institutional capacity of the YDRCs and ACs.

Mazaya, contracted to build the institutional capacity of the YDRCs and ACs, held kickoff meetings at the three YDRCs. Each meeting was attended by representatives from the ACs in that area. In addition, Mazaya provided the ACs with financial software and training. Staff at the centers are seeing capacity building take form, as they now have the skills and resources necessary for improved financial organization.