



## Lessons learnt during the first year of the Jordan Youth Peace and Security 2250 National Coalition

*This document was produced by the Jordan Youth Peace and Security 2250 National Coalition Secretariat in collaboration with the Coalition members to capture the best practices and lessons learnt during the course of the first year, and serve as a basis for informing future activities and planning, as well as a resource for other countries and youth coalitions with similar objectives or operating in similar contexts.*

CATEGORY	EXPERIENCE	RECOMMENDATION
<p><b>Youth Selection and Capacity Building</b></p>	<p>As the nomination process for the first term relied on member organizations nominating young people, the youth members of the Coalition had different levels of experience in youth participation and engagement or in peace-building projects. The youth members did have diverse expertise in topics included in the YPS agenda, such as political and economic inclusion, gender equality and womens' empowerment for example but there was a lack of peace-building work experience.</p> <p>Additionally, there were not many preplanned capacity-building opportunities throughout the year for the youth members, and the ones offered were on an ad-hoc basis and not part of a specific training or professional development curricula.</p> <p>There are several experienced young people in Jordan that are working on peace and security who are not nominated because they are not affiliated with any of the member organizations.</p>	<p>Plan and implement a comprehensive capacity-building process in the beginning of each new youth membership term, focusing on team-building and team spirit, UNSCR 2250 and its elements, peace building approaches, participatory action research, and youth led initiatives.</p> <p>Additionally, explore the possibility of amending the Terms of Reference (ToR) to engage with peace and security activists, influencers and experts all over Jordan.</p> <p>Prepare an introduction kit with different relevant materials and readings for new youth members when joining as members, as part of their capacity-building and introduction to the Coalition.</p> <p>Additionally, member organizations should work proactively to ensure the availability, accessibility and efficiency of engagement platforms, including but not limited to youth members can engage with them either through internships, mentorships, fellowships, volunteer opportunities etc, all while promoting a "learning by doing approach".</p>



		<p>As there are many experienced young people in Jordan who are working on peace and security and are not affiliated with any of the member organizations, youth nominations for the next cohort were open for all young people living in Jordan, and not only for youth nominated by member organizations.</p>
<p><b>Youth Selection and Capacity Building</b></p>	<p>The ToR states the youth membership criteria as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth aged between 18 and 29 years based on UNSCR 2250 definition.</li> <li>• Gender balance with equal representation for young men and women</li> <li>• Youth living in Jordan with a representation of all Jordanian governorates</li> <li>• Youth from different backgrounds and profiles in Jordan including most vulnerable and marginalized youth.</li> <li>• Youth active in their communities on 2250 and YPS.</li> </ul> <p>The challenge faced with the first youth cohort was youth diversity, and not all groups of young people in society were represented, for example young people with disabilities or young people with different religious beliefs.</p>	<p>For the second year, the call for applications was opened for all young people living in Jordan hence excluding the earlier condition of limiting nominations to candidates from member organizations. A selection committee was formed, consisting of youth members and member organizations. Different groups of young people were contacted directly to ensure that they had received the application form to apply for youth membership in the Coalition. The selection committee attentively worked on ensuring fair and inclusive representation of young people in the Coalition, and were very accommodating in their approach. As an example, young people living with different kinds of disabilities who could not fill out the application form were given alternative ways to apply, in order to accommodate for their specific disability needs.</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<p>All of the member organizations were requested to sign the ToR when it was endorsed. New member organizations are requested by the Secretariat to do the same upon joining. But as youth members are the Voting Body of the Coalition and equal members of the Coalition, the signatory process should not exclude youth members.</p>	<p>The ToR should be signed by the youth members as well, and this should be included in the ToR as a requirement to promote ownership and accountability for all members of the Coalition.</p>



<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<p>Representation of organisations was high level and involving seniors at the launch of the Coalition. However this started to decline with time and meetings have been attended more often by junior staff and interns who do not have the authority to commit the organization or make decisions on behalf of the organization in relation to the Coalition. The youth members have raised this as a concern as they would like to engage more with decision-makers.</p>	<p>Allocate a time-slot in the agenda in each meeting where decisions and commitments will have to be made where senior representatives from each organization can attend and participate in the discussion. Additionally, including a set day in the ToR for when the official meetings should be conducted (for example, every 4 months on the last Thursday of that month) which could help everyone to accommodate for the meetings in their schedules.</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<p>For the first year, nine new organizations joined as members. During the discussion amongst youth members, it became evident that the absence of a set criteria for selecting organizations to join as members made the selection process challenging.</p>	<p>The ToR should include a set criteria for selecting organizations to become Coalition members, as this is currently the case only for the selection of young people. A discussion with all Coalition members needs to be facilitated in order to decide on a set criteria, based on the previous selection processes and discussions.</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year, the Coalition members presented a wide range of views on how the Coalition should pursue its purpose. In all cases, participating and engaging in the Coalition needs to feel safe for all youth members to be able to express their opinions and thoughts without any fear of repercussions. The lack of safety measures to protect youth members while engaging in the Coalition can therefore undermine its purpose.</p>	<p>Safe Guardianship measures must be taken into consideration whether at the organizational level or at the Coalition level. Safety measures to protect the youth members of the Coalition need to be developed collectively and put in place, in order to ensure the Coalition and its activities do not have any negative consequences on the youth members and for it to be a safe space for all.</p>
<p><b>Meetings</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year, the Coalition meetings have mainly been conducted during weekdays, with a few exceptions on weekends. Youth members have therefore not been able to attend all of the meetings due to the timing. The Secretariat has provided supporting</p>	<p>A minimum number of meetings that need to take place during weekends each year should be decided by the Coalition members collectively, in order to accommodate both young people and organizations. The timing of activities and events should also be taken into consideration, in order to reduce barriers to participation. The Secretariat will continue to send out</p>



	documentation for the youth members when having to take days off from universities.	the surveys prior to each meeting to collect the preferable times, dates and locations for meetings. as this has been highly appreciated by the members.
<b>Meetings</b>	Youth members found it difficult to participate in the official meetings due to transportation costs, especially for the ones living outside Amman. It was agreed collectively by the members that each organization that had nominated each youth member should cover the transportation costs for the official meetings, which has not been implemented by all, mostly due to funding/donor limitations, which resulted in the youth members facing barriers to their participation.	The option of participating in meetings virtually has been highly encouraged, as a way to decrease the financial burden on the youth members which has been very well-received by the Coalition.
<b>Meetings</b>	In an attempt to facilitate partnerships with the private sector and to make use of the available resources, several meetings were conducted in youth spaces and at the office premises of the organizations, all located in Amman. However, this has not been accessible for all youth members, since most live outside of the capital or in remote areas of Amman, making the meetings inaccessible.	A practice that is already being implemented is the virtual attendance to meetings, which allows members from all governorates to join the meetings, in order to facilitate everyone's participation in the meetings. The Coalition members will discuss and decide collectively to explore the options of conducting meetings outside Amman and to take this aspect into consideration when planning events and activities. One example of this was during the Peace Week 2019, a youth theater group from I-Dare visited 7 different locations during one week (north, middle and south) and performed an interactive theatre for children which focused on the UNSCR 2250 and its key pillars.
<b>Meetings</b>	In order to ensure inclusivity for all Coalition members and to take into consideration the members who are not Arabic speakers, the Secretariat ensured that all emails sent out to the members were written in both Arabic and English, including the reports, surveys etc. A WhatsApp group was created and is still active	Continue to ensure that all emails, produced reports and papers are available in Arabic and English, as this has been pointed out as a strength. A good practice is that several of the non-Arabic speakers have arranged for colleagues to accompany them in order to support them with translation in meetings which has been



	<p>for all members to make announcements, share documents, coordinate meetings etc. The meetings of the Coalition have always been conducted in Arabic, as it is a national Coalition with the majority of its members being Arabic speakers. However, it has been raised that there is little space for non-Arabic speakers in the Coalition who would like to participate and be engaged in its work.</p>	<p>successful so far and a way to overcome the language barrier for non-Arabic speakers.</p>
<p><b>Roles and Responsibilities</b></p>	<p>Throughout the year, the Coalition members emphasized that the first year is a learning phase for all. Part of this learning is to understand the different roles and responsibilities of the different functions of the Coalition, and it has become evident that the members have different perceptions of the set out functions. The Secretariat has often been viewed as the decision maker of the Coalition, instead of a coordinating and convening agency as stated in the ToR. A structure that is dependent on the Secretariat is not sustainable for the long-term, especially since the term of the co-chairs is only for one year, with the possibility of being re-elected.</p>	<p>A light structure is recommended in order to not create dependency on the Secretariat or any other function present in the Coalition. The concept of a Coalition and its added value needs to be addressed in the strategic framework and in the capacity-building process for the youth members in order to ensure that all Coalition members have a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge sharing and Resources</b></p>	<p>All of the members in the Coalition have diverse experience and expertise, and are in different capacities working on a national level and in communities on youth issues. For the first year, the Coalition has not collectively engaged in any production of knowledge, such as reflection papers or research.</p>	<p>During 2020, one of the main priorities is to create a community of practice amongst the members. To share information and experiences to learn from each other, in order to develop individually and collectively as a Coalition.</p>
<p><b>Strategic framework</b></p>	<p>The vision of the Coalition is to have an effective role in building and amplifying the momentum generated by Jordan's past and</p>	<p>Preparing a strategic framework for the Coalition for the next 2-3 years is an absolute priority for the new Secretariat for 2020, This will further articulate the goals</p>



	<p>present leadership in actualizing the 2250 agenda, bringing together relevant stakeholders, taking stock of the current situation and exploring ways forward, and ensuring youth active participation and engagement continue to be at the very heart of these efforts. In the assessment on YPS supported by ASRO, it was highly recommended that in order to advance the YPS agenda in Jordan and to claim the space on a national level, a strategic framework for the Coalition must be developed. The lack of a strategic framework has resulted in unclear objectives and goals to move the Coalition forward. There is a lack of a common vision among Coalition members on what the Coalition is seeking to achieve.</p>	<p>and objectives of the Coalition, the expectations of the youth members and member organizations, next steps and how progress will be measured. This is a necessary step that will help stakeholders to clarify their views and expectations about the Coalition and create space for others to join.</p>
<p><b>Strategic framework</b></p>	<p>Acknowledging that the YPS agenda includes many elements and is relatively broad, not all activities were completely in line with the UNSCR 2250 and youth participation but were expanded to other areas that are linked to the YPS agenda, for example gender and unemployment. This posed the question if the Coalition wants to focus on peace-building in a narrow or a broad sense, for example inline with the Missing Peace Progress Study.</p>	<p>While developing the strategic framework for the Coalition during 2020, this will be addressed and become more clear once the long-term objectives and goals for the Coalition are agreed upon. The work of the Coalition will also be contextualized to the Jordanian context and align with the government priorities.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities for Youth</b></p>	<p>Several of the youth members participated in national, regional and international youth conferences and forums, such as a Peace Retreat, the Arab Regional Youth Forum and the ICPD25 in Nairobi with the purpose of representing the Coalition. Meanwhile, the youth members themselves did not engage in</p>	<p>In order to ensure an inclusive and transparent process, a committee can be formed for the purpose of screening opportunities before announcements. In addition to screening, the committee is to prepare communication lists categorizing each of their affiliated communities of focus in order to communicate these opportunities effectively and to the right potential stakeholders. However, this can be challenging since</p>



	selecting the representatives who benefitted from those opportunities.	such opportunities are open for all young people and have the right to apply. A good practice has been to disseminate such opportunities regularly through emails and WhatsApp messages with all members.
<b>Communications</b>	The Coalition was made visible on ROYA TV, a famous television channel in Jordan, on the UN Youth Envoy's social media, on national, regional and international youth platforms and on member organizations respective media platforms and channels. Also, a promotional video documenting the Peace Week 2019 was made with the support of UNFPA. A communications strategy was drafted by a few of the members but was never endorsed. The absence of a communications strategy and a Coalition logo made the visibility of the Coalition ad-hoc and not systematic and continuous and therefore lacked its own "identity".	Develop a communications strategy and guidelines which all Coalition members can use and share with other stakeholders in potential collaborations. Assign a Focal Point or form a committee that is in charge of Facebook, Instagram etc. It has been suggested that this could be part of the MoY social media platforms. Youth-friendly key messages should be agreed upon and shared with the public through art, theater, films, music, debates etc in order for all members to speak with "one voice".
<b>Collaborations and Partnerships</b>	The work of the Coalition is under the umbrella of the Ministry of Youth (MoY), which is also one of the founding members. The MoY has been highly supportive in the formation of the Coalition, with one representative present in the official meetings. There is still a need for youth participation in decision-making in advocacy of the YPS agenda and further youth engagement and empowerment in policy making circles.	As part of its advocacy efforts and high-level networking, the new Secretariat arranged for a meeting with the Minister of Youth to introduce H.E to the work of the Coalition and the envisioned role and nature of support/endorsement needed from H.E. and the MoY. As "Peace and Security" is included as one of the main key themes in the Jordan National Youth Strategy, the members will explore how the Coalition can align with the priorities and objectives of the National Youth Strategy.
<b>Collaborations and Partnerships</b>	As stated in the ToR, the Coalition will play a role to activate the work on Jordan national priorities working with and on youth issues within national and international frameworks and strategies. The Coalition includes member	Valuable insights can be drawn from the implementation of UNSCR 1325 over the past two decades into how the YPS agenda could be effectively realized, as well as suggesting entry points for work to ensure young women's and men's effective



	organizations that are working on the UNSCR 1325, and important linkages that could have been made between the two agendas have been left open (UNSCR 2250 and 1325).	participation in peacebuilding. The Coalition could potentially include such objectives in the strategic framework on how to implement the interlinkages between national and international frameworks.
<b>Collaborations and Partnerships</b>	The diversity of key stakeholders presents as a resource for the Coalition. While different organizations, with their diverse goals and purposes, are testament to the inclusivity of the Coalition, there is still a need to engage with more governmental organizations and donors to ensure sustainability and true influence at the national level.	Although the Coalition is under the MoY, there is a need to engage with more government organizations and ministries as members. Additionally, many countries are supportive of the YPS agenda and to make connections with the embassies that do. As a result, more opportunities to engage with decision makers. This could be for instance through involving young people in consultations about legislation and policies at national and lower government levels and by enabling young people to participate in governance at municipal and governorate levels.
<b>Events and Activities</b>	One of the major events during 2019 was the Peace Week, which showcased the UNSCR 2250 and the YPS Agenda successfully. However, this week of events was not planned earlier on the start of the year, which resulted in budget constraints and the lack of human resources. Other major events worth celebrating which the Coalition missed were International Youth Day and International Peace Day. Although member organizations had planned for activities, the Coalition did not plan for anything collectively.	Events need to be planned at the start of the year in order to allocate funding and resources, communication outreach, identify potential collaborations and partners etc. Write a one-year events calendar and create committees responsible for each event and liaise with the communications committee.

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