

Young Union Members are Active on Regional and Global Platforms



Hani Awad, Youth Members in the Teachers' Union.

“Several years ago, I started my activity with civil society organizations and youth movements, besides my work as a teacher in the Ministry of Education and a member teachers' union in Jordan. I aspired to contribute to improve the educational system in my country, but the more I get involved in this quest, the more I found that challenges and difficulties become bigger and bigger. These challenges centered around the teacher who suffers due to the closure of teachers' union, which represents teachers' voice Jordan, in light of the hard economic situation that teachers suffer from due to low salaries that does not meet their basic needs.” Hani Awad, Youth Members in the Teachers' Union.

In these words, Hani Awad summarize his motivation to joint the project “Youth Academy for Democracy” that is implemented by ANHRE to fully engage young people in political and public platforms. Hani, through his experiences as an activist in the community, realized that youth participation faces societal and structural challenges that make youth rights vulnerable to violation without any way to protect these rights. After engaging in several discussion sessions about the challenges faced by youth unions members with his colleagues from other unions, Hani realized that the presence of the union is not sufficient to overcome these challenges, sometimes even unions even contribute to the marginalization of youth through rigid structures. Therefore, the most important recommendation by Hani and his colleagues was to stress the necessity of intensifying programs aimed at empowering youth union members and providing alternative platforms for young people to raise their voice.

ANHRE responded to this demand the its regional programs as it implements a number of regional programs that target youth, including the project "Engaging youth in Education for Social Transformation" that aim to engaging youth in achieving SDG4. Hani engaged in the project as member of the Youth Temporary Consultation Committee which was created in order to plan the project from a youth perspective to ensure an enhanced culture of youth involvement in the structure of Arab Campaign for Education for All-ACEA and educational coalitions. In addition, the role of the Committee is to anticipate the future of youth role within ACEA and its partners in influencing educational policies; to propose national and regional policies and strategies to ensure youth involvement in the educational movement; and to develop the theory of change of the project strategically to ensure the sustainability of youth engagement. Reem joined the project along with 9 other youth from Jordan, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon who aspire to improve opportunities for youth in their countries from the perspective of lifelong learning.



The Youth Member of the Youth Temporary Consultation Committee

Hani engaged in the project besides other 10 youth from Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine who decided to form their own movement that is characterized by its youthful spirit and puts youth issues on the priorities of decision-makers agendas. This required a prompt response by ANHRE and ACEA, which was reflected by working to push the youth to hold youth-led webinars on issues identified by the youth. Therefore, they have the leading role in this framework. Although this required redoubling the efforts of the youth and the project team, it was worth it, because the demand to integrate them turned them into numbers, but they actually want to be influential.

The Youth Committee held two webinars, the 1st one was conducted on October 18, on "Youth Declaration on Transforming Education"- Critical review of the " Youth Declaration on Transforming Education " from the perspective of Arab youth, under the slogan of (Arab Youth's Vision to Contribute to Achieving SDG4). More than 50 participants from the region and the globe joint the webinar, which created a strong launch of the committee's work and show youth efforts.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064654333148/videos/485176320205144>

The other webinar was conducted on Nov 15, on " Education and environmental citizenship, the role of youth in addressing climate change. More than 70 participants from the region joint the webinar that was held in conjunction with COP 27 summit Sharm El-Sheikh and aimed at raising youth awareness of the importance of taking action to confront the impact of climate change on development sectors.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064654333148/videos/649958453278253>

Based on the success of Hani's participation in this project, ANHRE invited two other youth unions members who to join the "Educational Youth Academy", which will be held in January 2023. the Academy will be engaged the youth in national, regional, and global movement to advocate for education.