

FOSTERING YOUNG PALESTINIAN JERUSALEMITES
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP TOWARDS MEANINGFUL
CIVIC AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



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This report describes the process and outcome of a PASSIA project entitled *Fostering Young Palestinian Jerusalemites Active Citizenship Towards Meaningful Civic and Political Participation*, which was implemented during 2022-2024. The goal of the project was to explore the barriers and enablers to youth participation and engagement, particularly within the special context of Jerusalem, and look into the kind of interventions needed to overcome these. It thus aimed at enhancing the potential of young Palestinian Jerusalemites to have their voices heard and foster a stronger sense of active citizenship.

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2. OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE	3
3. METHODOLOGY	4
4. FINDINGS	5
4.1 SWOT Analysis and Focus Groups	5
4.2 Questionnaires	6
Key Informants	6
Youth	12
5. RECOMMENDATIONS	33
6. CONCLUSION	35
ANNEX 1: Questionnaire for Youth	37
ANNEX 2: Questionnaire for Key Informants	42

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study draws from focus groups and surveys to explore the barriers and enablers young Palestinian Jerusalemites perceive or experience with regard to their civic action and political participation. Its goal was to identify entry points for enhanced participation and engagement.

Qualitative data from focus group sessions were backed by questionnaires data. Results emphasize the importance of ensuring that youth have the necessary support, opportunities and resources to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities and society at large. However, although there is no doubt that involving Palestinian youth in devising and implementing policy is imperative, there are barriers and challenges that hinder their participation. Identifying those obstacles is a prerequisite for a meaningful engagement of young people.

Over 40% of the respondents are currently not active at all, and the responses of those who are engaged underscored a prevalent trend where the majority of youth involvement is rooted in volunteerism and social groups, i.e., occurs mainly outside political institutions and public affairs. This is to a certain extent due to the fact that the occupation is present in East Jerusalem, whose annexation by Israel was rejected by the Palestinian residents. As such there remains a question of what type of participation is envisioned: is it resistance of the occupation and therefore boycotting all of its tools and institutions, or is it engagement within its structures?

A considerable number of youths seems not particularly interested in getting more involved for a multitude of reasons, first and foremost due to fears related to reprisals from the Israeli occupation and also the PA, albeit to a lesser extent, highlighting the diminishing space for youth in the political and public spheres and revealing a clear preference for less demanding and more discreet forms of activism.

However, principal disinterest seems also widespread due to the loss of faith in decision-makers and to the anticipated lack of rewards, i.e., the belief in a) not being able to make a difference, and b) not being given the chance to thrive in meaningful participation anyway. The lack of encouraging success stories and role models has created a level of disillusionment among the youth that is the main cause for their “engagement apathy” and requires utmost attention to be redressed.

Almost half of the interviewed youth felt they had no sufficient information about engagement and participation opportunities available to them, but almost two-thirds expressed interest in participating (more) in the future, with civil and political reform or change cited as their primary area of interest, closely followed by community development initiatives. The majority of respondents believed that young people’s ability to participate was good or even excellent; however, there was a recurring emphasis on the perceived scarcity or absence of opportunities.

This lack of opportunities was consistently mentioned across responses, suggesting a collective desire to foster a more inclusive and participatory environment, where the insights and perspectives of young individuals can contribute meaningfully to various discussions and decision-making processes. It comes as no surprise that the vast majority of youth does not feel represented by any entity, and over half of them believe that young people are not involved in decisions that impact their community's future. Moreover, a notable majority also felt that the transition of leadership to the younger generation was generally not encouraged by current leaders and organizations; it is still most prevalent within familial structures and the private sector, but not so in the NGO or government sector.

Results highlighted the significance of space and opportunities as paramount concerns for fostering youth engagement and deemed training in skills that empower young people to participate effectively as essential. Moreover, both key informants (KI) and youths agreed on the need to learn more about what young people think. For example, while KIs saw “local politics” as the top priority in which youth should have a say, for the youth themselves it was education, recreational activities, and employment. This suggests a tendency among the youth to place higher importance on domains such as personal aspirations, social interactions, career development, and cultural interests, relegating political engagement to a lower priority in their hierarchy of concerns. Understanding and addressing the reasons behind this perception is crucial for fostering increased youth engagement in political activities and encouraging a more informed and participatory civic culture.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The current socio-economic and political situation in East Jerusalem is dire: contending claims of sovereignty over the city, lack of political representation, little economic opportunity and potential for growth, limited access to services, weak law enforcement, efforts to wipe out East Jerusalemites' heritage and identity, settler and police violence, and a restrictive construction and zoning regime paired with home demolitions and forced evictions – all of which creates a context that leaves little perspective for the Palestinians in general and the youth in particular.

While youth constitute a major share of the population in East Jerusalem¹ and while there is a range of organizations in East Jerusalem dedicated to youth work or targeting youth in one way or another, they hardly appear as civic actors and are barely represented in decision-making processes.

Palestinian youth and young adults living in East Jerusalem do not currently use their potential as active citizens and there is still a major gap between desired and actual participation. Past initiatives that started promising in their attempts to achieve a more inclusive and participatory political role proved short-lived. Given the fact that today's youth are the future, there is an urgent need to counter this trend.

A recent public opinion poll by the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center (JMCC) showed that there is a demand for an active role for Palestinian youth in decision-making places, as 85.5% believe in the ability of Palestinian youth to play a leading role in political life, and 88.3% would like to see youth in the central committees and political offices of Palestinian parties and factions.²

Building on the importance of youth participation, this report strives to explore the reasons and obstacles for the non-engagement of young Palestinian Jerusalemites and how their capacity as civic actors can be developed, how they can be encouraged to become engaged with central issues of (their) concern, what skills are needed to equip them to make their voices heard, and what active steps are needed to give them the space to be their own agents of change.

2. OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

The goal of this project was to explore the physical, social, cultural, and political barriers to youth participation and engagement, particularly within the special context of Jerusalem, and look into the kind of interventions needed to overcome these and enhance the potential of young Palestinian Jerusalemites to have their voices heard.

The project's objectives were thus twofold:

- 1) Gaining increased information on the "state" of youth engagement in Jerusalem, including the challenges and barriers to their meaningful civic and political participation.
- 2) Obtaining a better understanding of the imperatives for future strategies and programs aiming at youth participation, including the skills development needs required to enhance youths' capacities to engage in civic and political processes.

¹ The 15-24 age group accounting for 21% of the Palestinian population in the city. JIPR, *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem 2022*.

² <http://www.jmcc.org/documents/Jmcc99En6.pdf> (August 2022).

Ultimately, the project thus aimed at contributing to improving the participation of young Palestinians so as to assist them in advocating their ambitions and concerns and taking on their role as leaders of change in the world they will inherit.

Findings resulting from the project are hoped to provide a solid fundament for further strategizing and planning and feed into future programming strategies for the organizations and agencies that are concerned with issues related to democracy, inclusion, governance, and participation.

3. METHODOLOGY

The project adopted a mixed-methods approach using both qualitative and quantitative data collection in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the barriers and enablers to youth participation in East Jerusalem. This included background desk research, a SWOT analysis, focus group discussions, and questionnaires.

- **Desk research** sifted through reports and studies related to youth participation in general and its application to the Palestinian case in particular to gather relevant background data.
- A **SWOT analysis** workshop was conducted with a group of youth who were selected based on their experience and/or interest in community engagement and advocacy regarding youth rights and needs to identify the main issues that contribute to whether youth participate and engage or not.
- Based on the outcome of the SWOT analysis, **focus group meetings** with youth and other relevant actors were held to further elaborate on the situation, analyze prospects and restrictions of youth inclusion and empowerment, and identify entry points for enhanced youth engagement.
- To further inform the research, two **questionnaires** were developed, which included both multiple-choice and open-ended questions, for interviews with
 - 1) 15 selected key informants, i.e., professionals from local civil society organizations and international organizations who understand the youth needs and dynamics in East Jerusalem, and
 - 2) 150-200 youth from Jerusalem.

The full questionnaires are included in the Annex.

Challenges and limitations regarding the questionnaires included the following:

- The small sample size, which may not be representative of the entire target population. However, the results confirm general observations and results of similar studies and are therefore still valuable.
- Participation in filling out the questionnaires proved to be a challenge for the youth, as some were either too reluctant for fear of political reprisals (although it was optional to give a name and contact) or simply disinterested in participating.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 SWOT Analysis and Focus Groups

A SWOT analysis was conducted with a group of young Palestinian Jerusalemites with the aim of gathering information on the “state” of youth engagement in East Jerusalem. Participants agreed that there was a clear lack of participation in the civic and political sectors in Jerusalem and that the reasons were manifold, including Israeli occupation policies and factors relating to the youth themselves. The table below is a summary of the SWOT analysis results:

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number of young Palestinian Jerusalemites make them a dynamic force for change. • Palestinians’ resilience and steadfastness in general and particularly in Jerusalem. • Increasing volunteering tendencies among young Palestinian Jerusalemites. • The existence of NGOs and other civic organizations in Jerusalem provides a forum for communication and debates and can be tapped into in order to increase knowledge about the importance of active citizenship and promote political participation. • A strong feeling of belonging to a Palestinian Jerusalemite society works as a driving motor towards deepened civic and political participation. • Jerusalem’s demographic composition reflects a diversity of thought and social strata. • The high number of well-educated young Palestinian Jerusalemites creates a good base on which to build for fostering a better understanding and awareness of civic and political participation. 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevalence of <i>wasta</i> and nepotism over qualifications with regard to job and other opportunities. • Decision-making is centralized in the hands of a few (and older ones). • Lack of appreciation for young people’s efforts at work, as reflected in unpaid labor, unfair payments, and/or legal rights deprivation. • Lack of opportunities to participate meaningfully/contribute to decision-making processes. • Lack of awareness among young Jerusalemites of their legal rights and how to demand them. • Absence of a representative body for youth and thus of a political/civic reference. • Lack of awareness about the importance of active political and civic participation. • High poverty rates impede participation for many whose time and efforts are directed toward having a paid job to make ends meet. • Lack of effective communication between the youth sector, youth, and decision-makers. • Lack of social clubs and a legit public sphere for Palestinians in Jerusalem.
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial funds and donor aid to better activate youth civic and political participation. • Resource mobilization throughout existing NGOs in Jerusalem to better activate political and social participation. • The role of Palestinian universities and education centers in strengthening the Palestinian identity among young Jerusalemites and instilling a sense of belonging to a larger society may lead to increased activism in Jerusalem. • Technology-savvy youth population. • Youth’s openness and keenness to learn new ideas and skills. • Opportunities for intergenerational collaboration and leadership development. 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further deterioration of the situation on the ground. • Israeli occupation strategies targeting Palestinian identity. • No interest in unpaid engagement. • No interest in participation due to lost hope/resignation due to the lack of perspectives. • Patriarchal society, cultural constraints, and persistent gender inequality. • Negative stereotypes and biases towards youth. • The lack of a representing body and of public space hinders communication among youth. • Dependence on funding limits youth’s room for maneuver, weakens their autonomy and creates competition for resources.

The exercise revealed that participants feel that the power of young people as a group is typically underrepresented in the political process and that young people are viewed as passive recipients of services rather than competent citizens.

In order to build on the SWOT analysis findings, further elaboration on the following topics was recommended and included in both the discussions of the focus group meetings and the questionnaires:

- What enables meaningful youth engagement?
- What are the issues that hinder the youth from involvement/political participation?
- How can opportunities for skill-building and leadership development be provided?
- What is needed to create accessible and inclusive decision-making processes?
- What are the best means to challenge negative stereotypes and biases towards youth?
- How to mobilize resources and support for youth-led initiatives and organizations?

4.2 Questionnaires

There were two sets of questionnaires, one for key informants and one for youth from Jerusalem.³

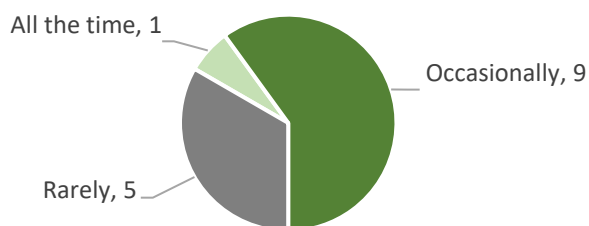
KEY INFORMANTS

The 15 key informants were directors, program managers, project coordinators, development advisors, organizational consultants, and advocacy, communications or outreach officers from 5 international and 10 local civil society organizations.

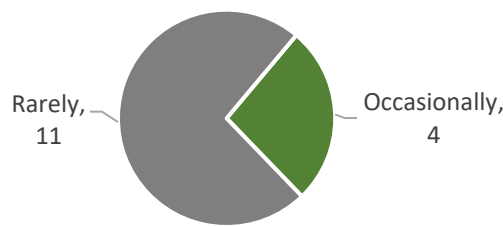
None of the KIs thought that Jerusalemite youth engage and participate socially or politically “very much”, but only “average” (7) or “little” (8). However, 13 of the 15 also said that they did not feel that youth have the opportunities to participate in decision-making or develop leadership abilities. As for their assessment of the youth’s ability to give meaningful input or make decisions, one answered with “excellent”, 7 with “good”, 6 with “poor” and one with “non-existent”.

Only one KI felt that youth are encouraged to get involved in roles that interest them, while 9 said “occasionally” and 5 “rarely”. Similarly, 11 felt that leaders and organizations “rarely” encourage a transition of leadership to the younger generation, while 4 said “occasionally”.

Do you feel that youth are encouraged to get involved in roles that interest them?

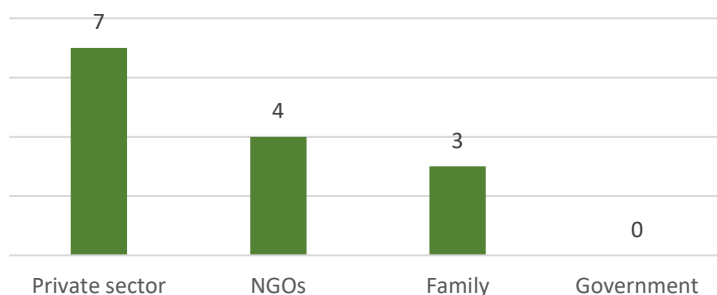


Do you feel that leaders and organizations encourage a transition of leadership to the younger generation?



³ For the full questionnaire see Annex 1 and 2.

As for the sphere in which transition of leadership to the younger generation is most likely to be encouraged, the majority of the KIs named the private sector, followed by NGOs and the family, while none mentioned the government sector:



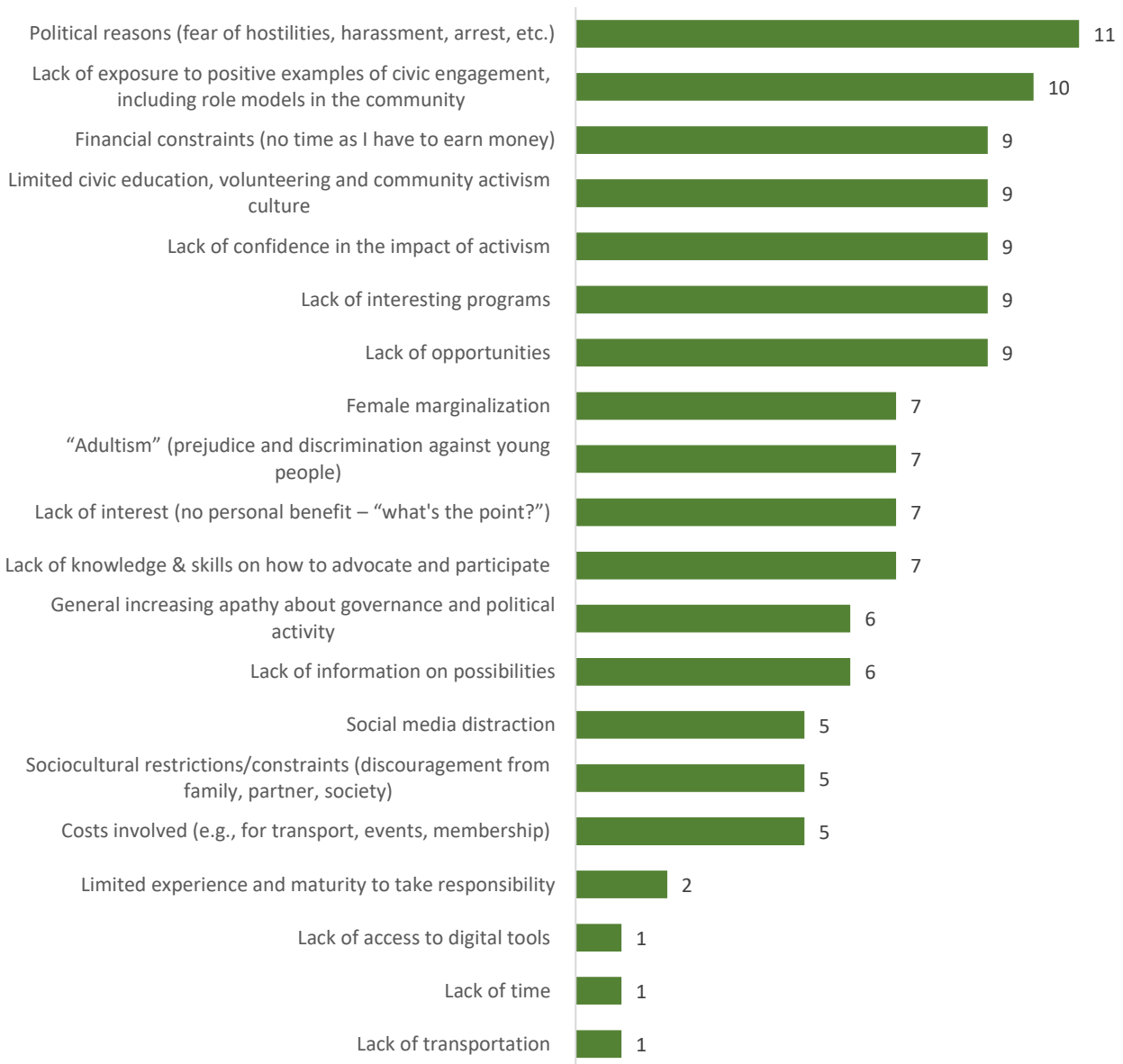
All of the KIs stated that there was a need to learn more about what young people think. Asked what they believed were the most effective actions for making young people’s voices heard by decision-makers, they stressed the need to create opportunities for youth and youth groups, give them safe spaces to build their capacities, make them part of decision-making processes, and ensure their continuity. As one KI put it: Youth need “long term interventions, working with (...) youth, listening to their needs and demands and helping them to voice them. Instead of this, there is most often a top-down short-term approach which won’t be meaningful.” Or in the words of another KI: we must “talk to them, build up their advocacy and political capacities as well as pressure older leaders in all sectors to incorporate youth in leading positions.” This requires “dialogue sessions with youth, including in marginalized communities, and Social Media campaigns”, providing initiatives and “affordable activities for youth to invest in their positive energy” as well as “educational scholarship for youth to reach out their dreams,” by “empowering them with information” and by “taking them serious” and “involving them in programming, planning, and leading.”

However, KIs also referred to the particular situation in the city of Jerusalem, where “the situation is very sensitive, as Jerusalemite youth are unable to convey their voice/message to decision-makers due to the absence of government institutions and their lack of interest in Jerusalem in general.”

According to the insights provided by KIs, foremost among the issues hindering the political engagement of youth or their meaningful youth involvement in society are political reasons, such as fear of reprisal, detention, and arrest, as highlighted by 11 KIs. Most of the KIs remarked in one way or another that “the occupation is one of the most important things that stand as a barrier to providing the opportunity for young people to reach decision-making positions.”

The lack of exposure to positive examples of civic engagement or role models in the community was cited by 10 KIs and could be an explanation for the sense of disconnection and disinterest among the youth regarding active participation in civic matters. The lack of both opportunities and interesting programs (9 KIs mentioned each), as well as limited civic education, volunteering, and community activism culture (9), financial constraints (9), and the lack of confidence in the impact of activism (i.e., not feeling to be able to make a difference (9), were also mentioned by most KIs. The weighting of additional challenges that prevent youth involvement/participation is shown in the table below. Addressing any or all of these issues is crucial for fostering an environment conducive to the empowerment and engagement of the younger generation in shaping the future of their communities and societies.

Issues Hindering Meaningful Youth Involvement in the Society or Their Political Engagement



When asked, in an open-ended question, about why, in their view, no youth movement has succeeded in forming a party or some other form of political alternative to date, KIs listed a range of reasons that could be divided into the following three categories:

- The general political situation:** especially the “fear of interference from Palestinian factions/PA as well as from Israeli authorities.” “A clear policy by the occupation prevents young people from forming any political body that would be their platform to communicate their voice, and the absence of systematic policies by the Palestinian Authority for Jerusalemite youth”. There is “the growing fear among young people of being subjected to harassment. There were many examples of groups that

tried to form political parties, but they were rejected and suppressed by the [Palestinian] regime because they aimed to fight rampant corruption and ensure a fair distribution of opportunities among young people, which conflicts with the interests of influential people and decision-makers.” “One of the main political reasons is the political status of Jerusalem since it is not part of PA jurisdiction and any political activity would mean trouble with Israeli authorities. At the same time, PA negligence and marginalization of Jerusalemites have further alienated them. Israeli human rights violations, in particular freedom of movement, have greatly isolated Jerusalemites which created a lack of belonging to the West Bank.” Linked to occupation policies is also the dire economic situation in Jerusalem, which “has pushed the youth to focus on earning money. Jerusalemites are in survival mode which restricts them from having hopes and aspirations as they focus on the now rather than tomorrow.”

- **Domination of traditional leadership:** “youth are not taken seriously, and not empowered nor endorsed by leaders and decision-makers”. There is “resistance from established parties” which “may view youth movements as a threat and work to undermine their efforts to form a political alternative,” and there are “no positive success stories to build upon, but lost trust in political parties which influenced youth thinking about the approach and methodology they should follow for their political engagement.” As a result, “many young people feel disillusioned with the political system and may not believe that their voices can make a difference. This apathy and disillusionment can lead to a lack of motivation to engage in political organizing and campaigning.” This was also one of the main results from a December 2022 study which found that 84% of Palestinian youth were not or not particularly interested in politics, and “being politically active” was at the bottom of a list of 11 issues that were important for youth.⁴
- **Lack of experience and resources:** Youth “lack the necessary experience and maturity to take responsibility.” “Many youth movements lack the experience and resources needed to form a political party or alternative. Political organizing and campaigning require knowledge of the political system, legal requirements, fundraising, and other logistical aspects that may be challenging for a group of young people who are just starting out.” “Limited resources make it challenging to compete with established political parties. Political campaigns require significant resources, including funding, staff, and infrastructure, which may be difficult for youth movements to obtain,” especially in Jerusalem, where the “availability of international funding” is limited.

According to the KIs, the most important **measure to foster participation** is skills development in fields related to civic engagement (e.g., public speaking, creativity, etc.), with one KI suggesting that there was even a need to “build(ing) an integrated curriculum, starting in the early school years, to highlight the importance of community participation and restore the prestige of volunteer work.” The second most frequently chosen action was “create space for youth,” i.e., some form of youth labs or venues where they can thrive, develop ideas, strategize and engage with others.

The following table shows the weighting assigned by the KIs to additional valuable or useful measures and criteria to increase youth engagement.

⁴ <https://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/fespal/20170.pdf> .

Means to Foster Meaningful Youth Engagement



When asked about the resources or support needed to get young people more involved or motivated to participate, the KIs named three in particular:

Financial resources: “funding for facilities/spaces,” “implementing ideas and strategies”, funding to enable their political and civic engagement, because “it is important for young people to restore confidence in the importance of their role in society, as well as to highlight the importance of volunteer work in light of the strong competition for job opportunities that are provided to our children at early ages, making them tend to obtain jobs with a limited future to fill a financial void, which keeps them away from volunteer work, which leads to their absence from national institutions, which results in their inability to access platforms to make their voice heard.”

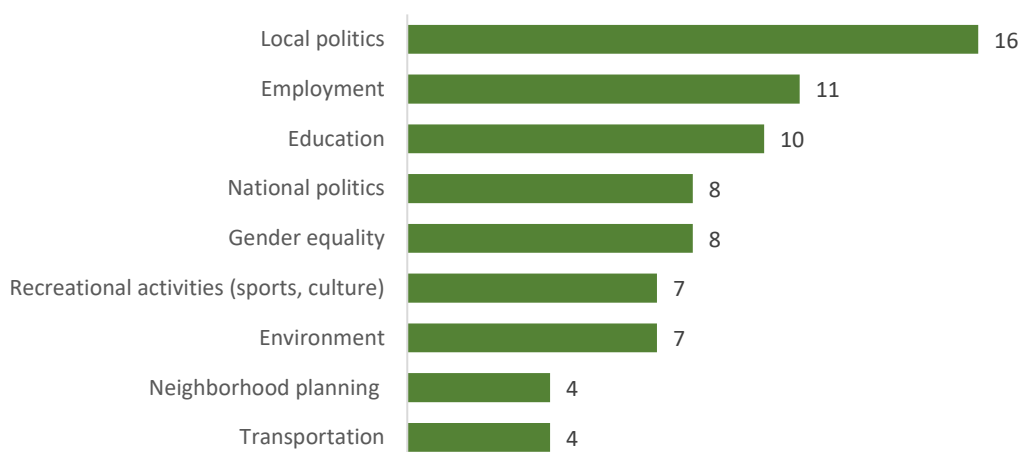
Capacity building: This includes “training and capacity building of youth in leadership skills” and “providing young people with access to quality education can help them develop critical thinking skills, broaden their knowledge, and increase their confidence. This can help them become more engaged in various issues and be more likely to participate in activities that promote positive change.”

Enabling environment: this includes encouragement, safe spaces and opportunities. Or in the words of the KIs: “give youth time, listen to them, and work with them towards enhancing youth civic participation,” “invite youth to develop their needed strategies in different sectors” and provide “psychosocial support” to “improve the self-esteem of youth.” “Mentorship and role models can be a powerful motivator for youth. Seeing other young people successful in their endeavors, whether it be in politics, business,

or social activism, can inspire and motivate them to pursue their goals.” Encouragement also means “recognizing and validating the contributions of young people can help them feel empowered and motivated to continue their efforts. This can include things like awards, scholarships, and public recognition for their achievements,” and “Adoption of youth ideas and implementing them in their communities with clear credit and acknowledgment for youth ownership,” and “providing opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles can help them feel valued and engaged in their communities. This can include things like student government, youth organizations, or volunteer work.” Crucial is furthermore the provision of safe spaces “in which they can meet and discuss with no restrictions” and “access to digital tools” as “young people are often highly adept at using technology and social media. Providing them with access to these tools can help them connect with others who share their interests, learn about important issues, and engage with a broader audience.”

Finally, the KIs were asked, in which area they think youth should most urgently have a say in, with the option to tick up to three answers. According to them, local politics is the top priority, followed by employment and education.

Areas In Which Youth Should Most Urgently Have a Say

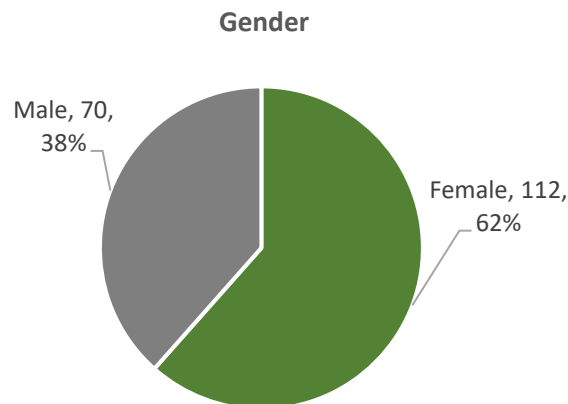
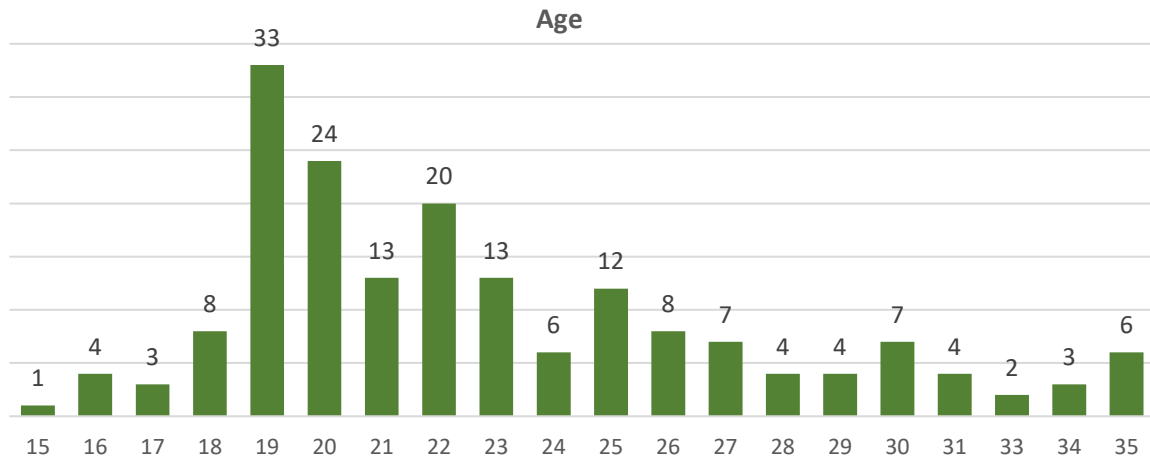


Some final remarks from the KIs included that “the situation in Jerusalem needs a serious pause and review because young people are currently suffering from a great vacuum/emptiness that is gradually distancing them from the societal fabric, which threatens the cohesion between members of society, and often results in problems that cannot be controlled.” While one KI emphasized that the low participation rate “was not a specific East Jerusalemite, but a worldwide problem”, another one stressed that “Jerusalem is a youth community. Youth needs represent the community’s needs for a better future that is free from occupation and intimidation and have opportunities to education, employment, and other means to ensure their steadfastness,” and a third adding that “Palestinian youth have high potentials if opportunities exist. The political situation and the harsh economic conditions in Palestine are pushing youth to give up their dreams and focus on gaining money.” Due to these circumstances, there was a commonly expressed belief that – in the words of one KI, “Working in partnership and synergy among NGOs and donors is key to support youth in Jerusalem.” However, “sustainable development cannot be achieved through short-term projects. All actors should work on a long-term strategy that elevates youth from political social and economic challenges.”

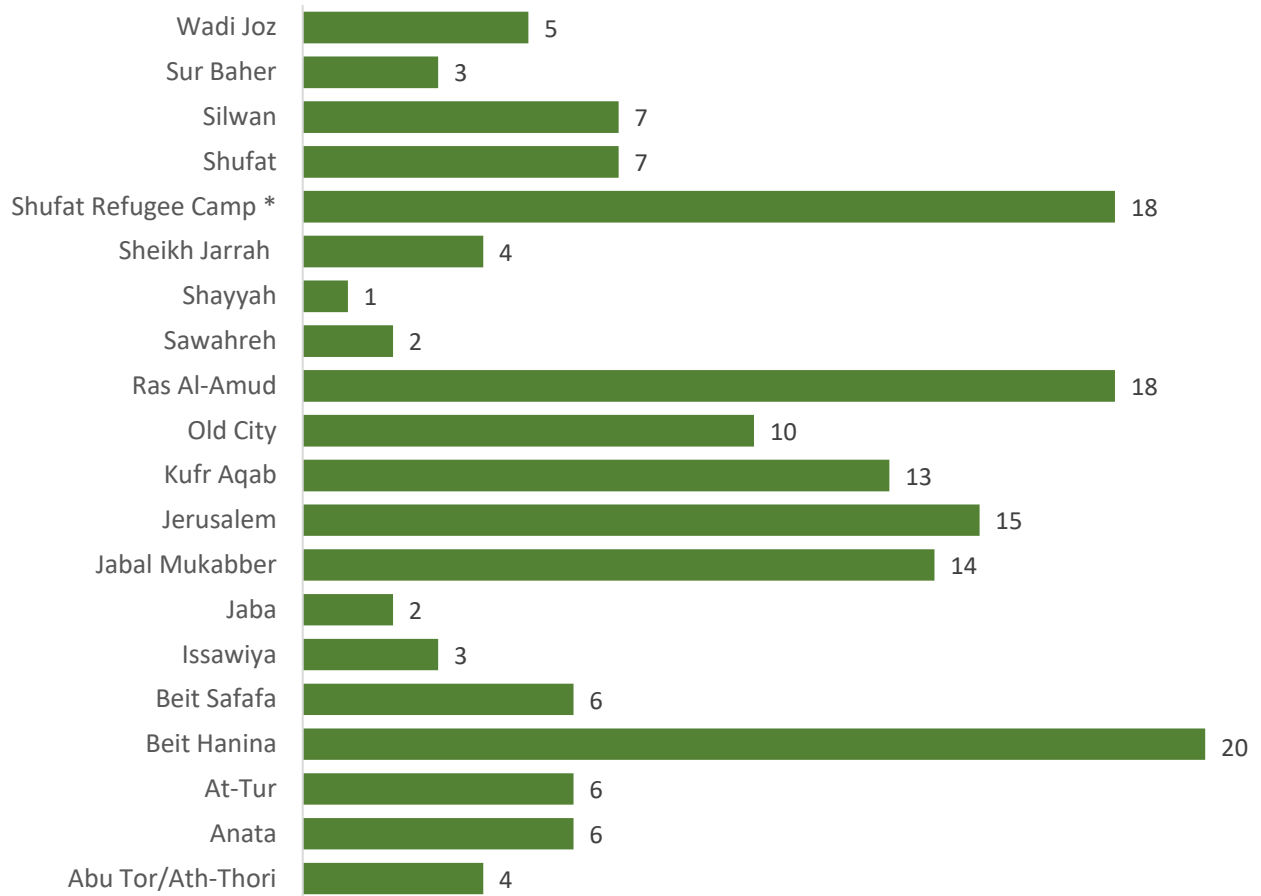
YOUTH

A note in advance: The questionnaires could be filled in anonymously for those who did not want to reveal their (real) names or contact details.

In total, 182 young people participated in the questionnaires/interviews, 62% of them female and 38% male. Their average age was 23 years, and 55% of them were university students. They came from 20 different neighborhoods in Jerusalem, with 18.3% of them only stating “Jerusalem” or “Al-Quds” as their place of residence or not specifying which part of the city they exactly were from.

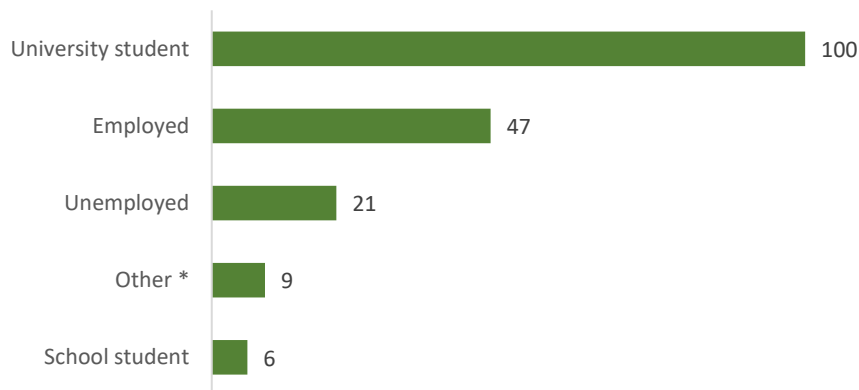


Neighborhoods



* including Ras Khamis, Ras Shehadeh, and Dahiet As-Salam

Current Occupation



* 3 answered "housewife", 2 "volunteer", while the remainder did not specify.

Youth Understanding of Active Citizenship

To begin with, youth were asked what their **understanding of active and good citizenship** was. This was an open-ended question in order to allow them to describe their opinions in their own words. Sets of replies that were part of the same notion or concept (even if worded differently) were then grouped into various response categories which are represented in the following graph.

Most respondents had a very clear idea about what active citizenship or being a good citizen means for them, with two categories sticking out clearly; namely, **civic participation** in the society with the goal to “serve the community”, “have a role in society”, “influence the society positively”, “contribute to improving the society”, and “care about the common good and the public interest”, and **adherence to the laws**, including prevailing rules and norms and the state’s constitution (“a good citizen is one who respects his rights and the rights of other citizens, adheres to the laws of the state, and tries to preserve and improve his environment”). With regard to abiding by laws, several respondents stressed the concept of reciprocity, saying, for example, “active citizenship is a reciprocal relationship between the state and its citizens, whereby citizens must observe the laws and duties, and the state must protect and respect their rights.”

Typical commentaries on the general understanding of civic participation can be summarized in the following two quotes: “Good citizenship is the individual's ability to integrate and engage with society through active and positive participation by providing opportunities and giving the right to every individual to improve and develop society for the better” or “With effective and responsible participation, citizens can contribute to building a better society and achieving progress and prosperity.”

However, some respondents said that it was difficult to say what good citizenship is as long as one lives under occupation, asking: “We are under occupation, so how can we be good citizens?” Under the category **political participation**, eight of the responses mentioned resistance, steadfastness, and defense of the country/homeland accordingly, with one young man saying, “In our case as Jerusalemites, good citizenship is political activism and participation in all levels and forms of resistance”. More general, political participation was understood in terms of “voting in elections”, “participating in democratic processes,” “contributing to political stability”, and “commitment to integrity”.

In the category **promoting rights and equality**, comments related to freedom of expression, respect for others, equality, tolerance for diversity, upholding human rights, and transparency were grouped.

Volunteerism included comments on volunteering for civil society organizations (“volunteer work is an essential part of enhancing that citizenship”), undertaking charitable work, helping others, and doing good to others (“volunteer work and support of social issues”, “dealings and participation in good things”).

Belonging to the homeland summarized answers which connected good citizenship with the “love for the homeland”, “sense of belonging to the homeland”, “spirit of belonging”, “preserving identity”, “participating in national matters”, and “defending the national spirit.”

Education and Awareness included descriptions related to “good education that follows principles and values”, a “proper upbringing”, and “Continuing to learn about social, economic, and environmental issues can enable you to make better decisions as a citizen.”

Adherence to religion was another interpretation of good citizenship – with some respondents referring to “followers of religions”, “follow religion and good morals”, and “possessing moral and religious virtue.”

Understanding of “Active Citizenship”/“Good Citizen”

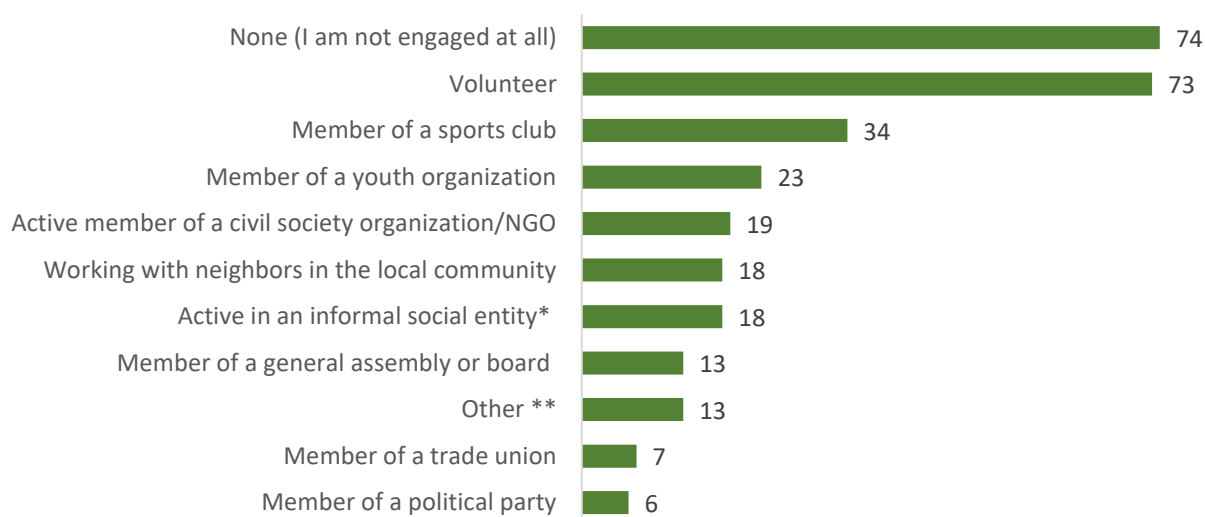


How Engaged Are Youth in Jerusalem?

The next set of questions dealt with the youths’ current “**Engagement Status**”. First, they were asked to select from a given list which kind of **social or political activity** applied to them, whereby more than one answer was possible.

The most frequently given answer was “none”, i.e., that the person is not active at all, indicating a notable lack of engagement altogether (further questions below shed more light on this). Of those who were active, the vast majority identified as volunteers, contributing their time and efforts to various causes. Membership in sports clubs or youth organizations emerged as the second most prevalent form of engagement, albeit with a considerable gap. Far fewer still were more professionally engaged as members of NGOs, CSOs, or boards and assemblies, and very few only indicated participation in explicitly 'political' frameworks, such as political parties or trade unions. This distribution underscores a prevalent trend where the majority of youth involvement is rooted in volunteerism and social groups.

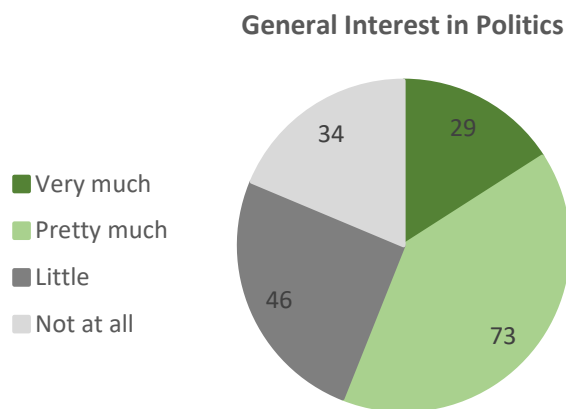
Type of Social/Political Activity



* such as student council, neighborhood community, interest group.

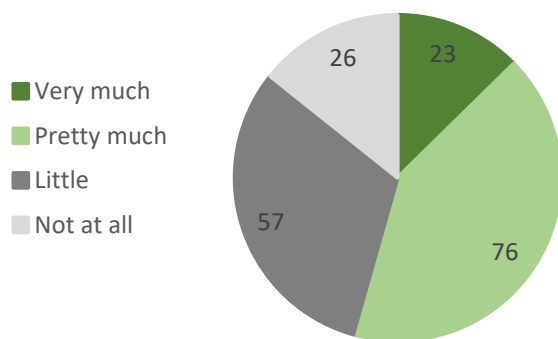
** 1 mentioned “village council member”, 4 “extracurricular activities, and 2 “Freelancing”.

The trend of non-involvement or limited involvement among many youths was further underscored in the subsequent inquiry about **general interest in politics**, where close to half of the respondents expressed either 'little' or 'no' interest. This pattern suggests a prevailing sense of disenchantment with political processes, potentially indicative of a broader disconnection between the youth and the political sphere.



Similarly, when gauging the extent to which young people were **informed about participation opportunities**, a significant proportion - almost half of the respondents - indicated being only 'little' or 'not at all' informed, emphasizing a critical need for increased accessibility and dissemination of information regarding avenues for civic engagement.

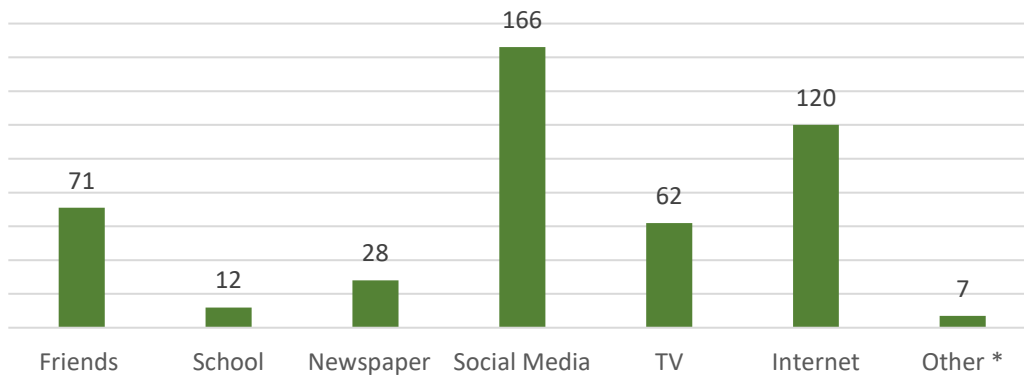
Informed About Youth Engagement and Participation Opportunities



Sources of Information

In exploring the **sources of information** used by young people for both local and international news and events, it is evident that Palestinian youth are firmly entrenched in the digital age. The overwhelming majority cited social media and the internet as their primary sources, underscoring the pervasive influence of digital platforms in shaping perspectives and disseminating information. In contrast, traditional analog media, including TV, played a comparatively minor role, as did personal connections such as friends or school. This shift toward digital sources signifies a crucial shift in information consumption patterns, highlighting the need for tailored and digitally accessible approaches when engaging with and informing the youth about political processes and opportunities for participation.

Means of Keeping Informed



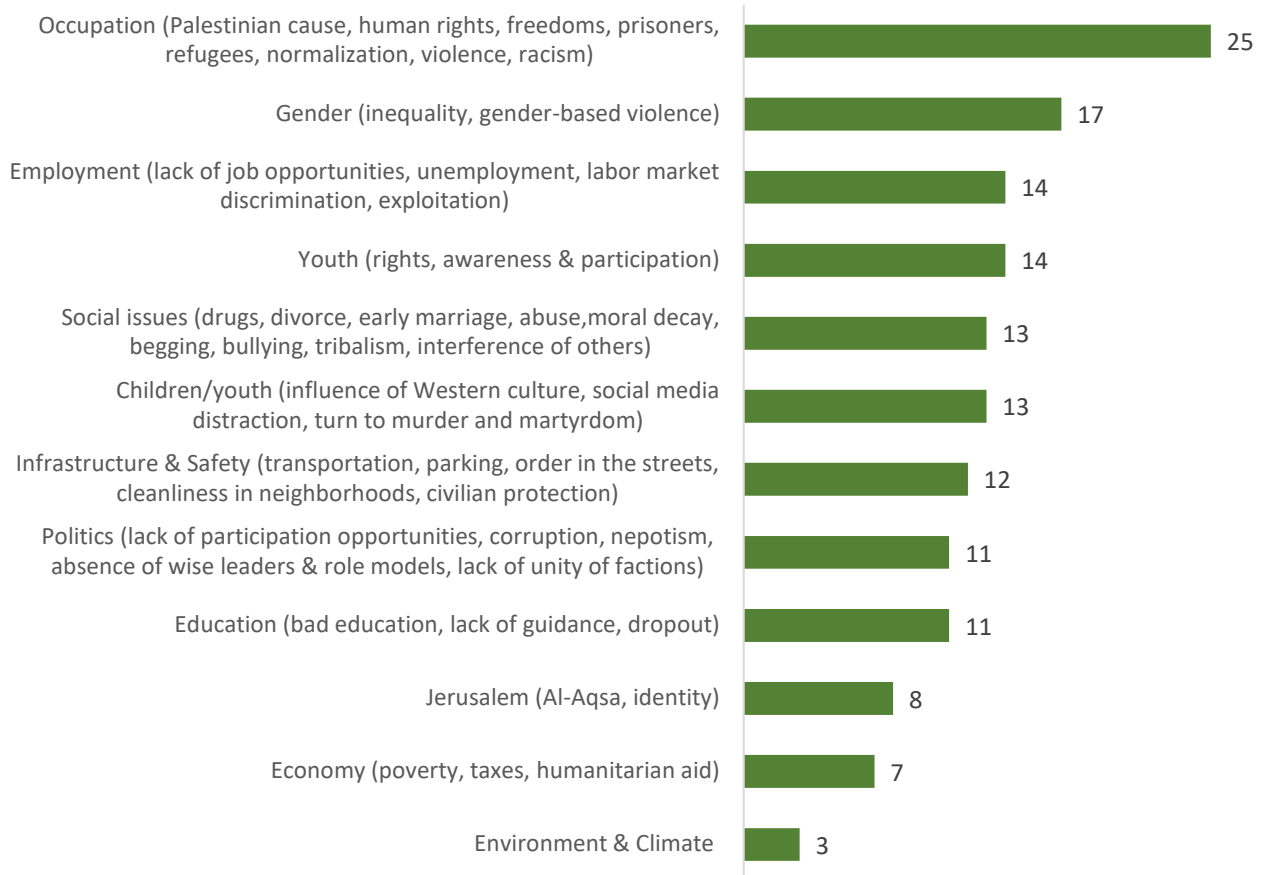
* Those who specified mentioned: the workplace, family, at workshops and trainings.

What do youth care about and what motivates them to participate?

When prompted with an open-ended question regarding **causes or issues they care about**, youth offered a diverse array of responses, which were subsequently categorized based on qualitative data analysis. Unsurprisingly, the foremost cause consistently mentioned across responses was the Israeli occupation. This prevalent theme underscores the profound impact of the geopolitical situation on the hearts and minds of Palestinian youth, highlighting the enduring significance of the occupation as a central concern in their collective consciousness.

The range of responses reflects the multifaceted nature of the issues that resonate with the youth, illustrating a spectrum of concerns that extend beyond the political landscape to encompass broader social, economic, and cultural dimensions. Understanding these varied perspectives is vital for developing targeted initiatives and policies that resonate with the nuanced priorities and concerns of Palestinian youth.

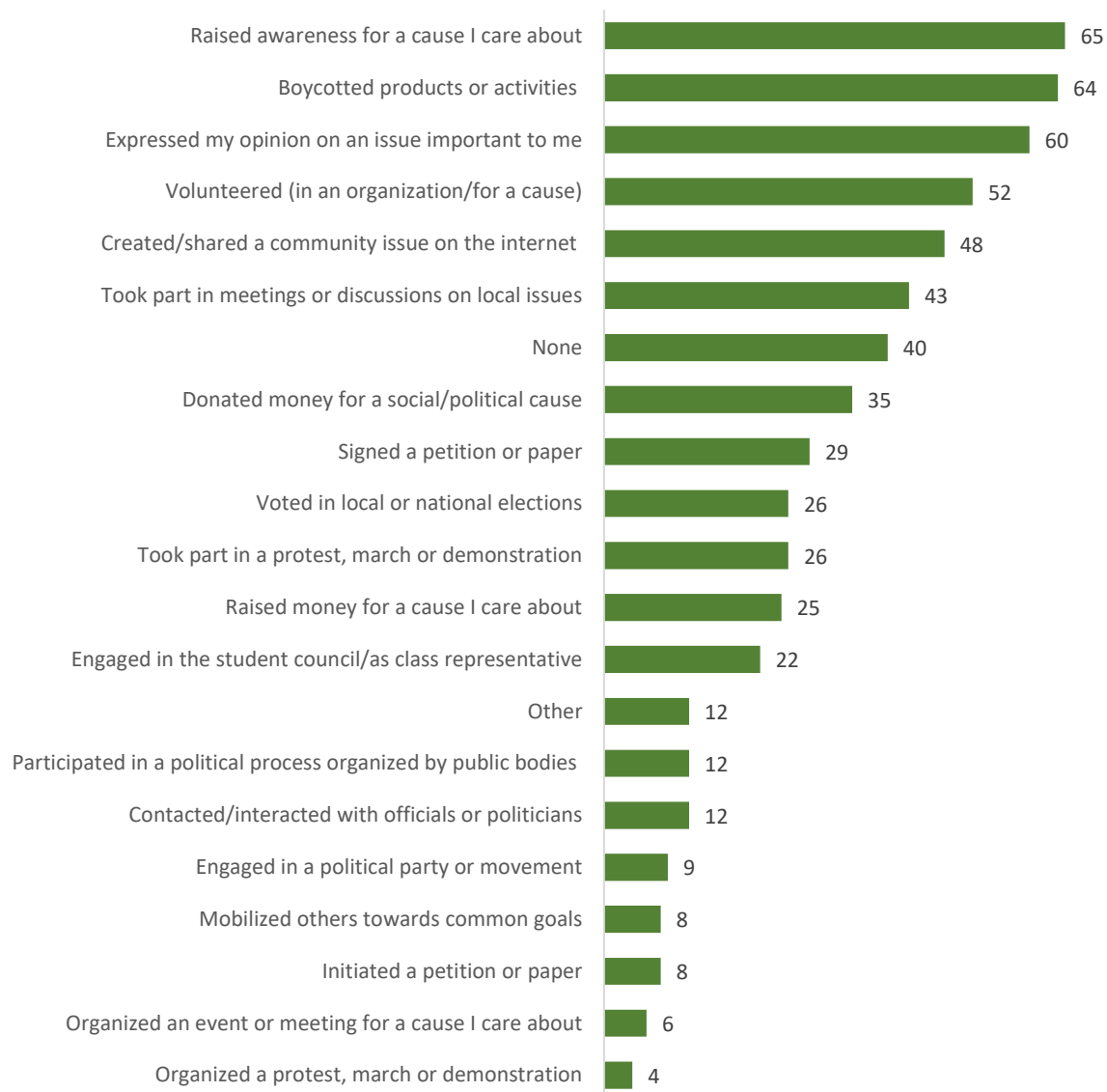
Causes and Issues Youth Care About



People were then asked what form of **civic or political engagement** they had ever participated in or been involved in, and were presented with a list of choices from which to select what applied to them (more than one answer was possible).

Notably, the top three forms of engagement cited were boycotting products or activities, awareness-raising for a cause, and expressing opinions. These choices, while impactful, stand out for their relatively passive nature, requiring less personal effort and activity. In contrast, activities that demanded more substantial personal effort and action, such as engagement in a political party or movement, mobilizing others towards common goals, organizing events, protests or demonstrations, participating in political processes, contacting officials, or initiating a petition, were markedly less frequently mentioned. This implies a preference for less demanding and especially less “visible” or more discreet forms of activism among the respondents, which is likely linked to concerns about potential retaliation from authorities. In part, it could be also influenced by the fact that the questionnaires were filled by more females than males, as women traditionally are less politically active and less involved in physically challenging and politically demanding issues.

Types of Previous Civic and Political Engagement

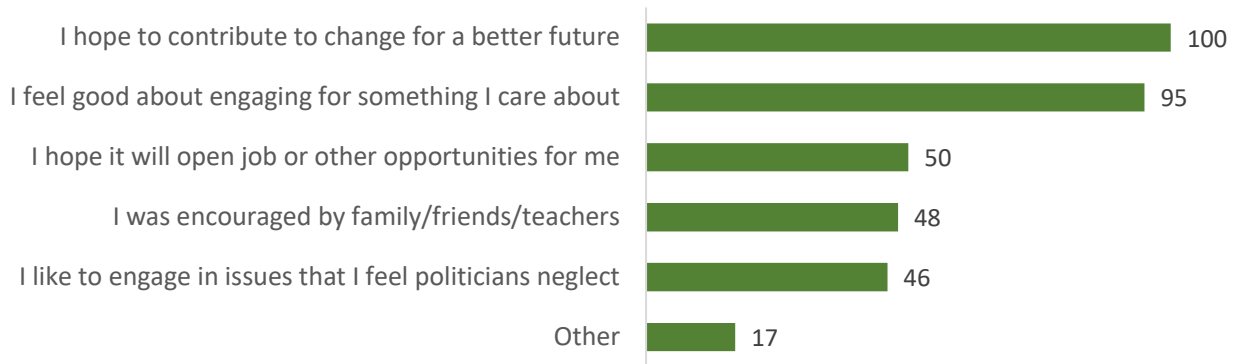


After establishing the kind of involvement that had already taken place, the respondents were asked about the **reasons for their engagement**. More than one answer was possible.

The main motivators for participation were the hope to contribute to change for a better future (100 responses) and feeling good about engaging in something one cares about (95). These overarching sentiments reflect a collective aspiration to be agents of positive transformation (if given the opportunity). Significantly behind these primary drivers of active participation were reasons such as hoping for job and other opportunities, wanting to engage in issues that are neglected by politicians, and due to encouragement by family, friends, or teachers. Most mentions under “other” were related to “involuntary participation”, i.e., due to social coercion, peer pressure, and other types of “being forced”.

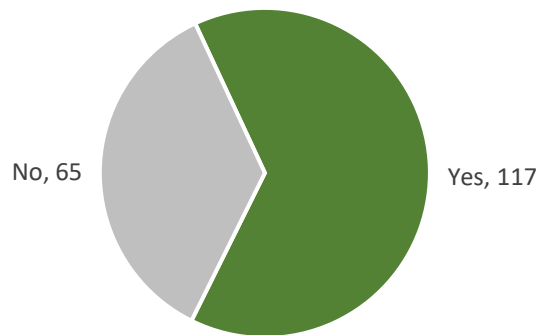
Recognizing and addressing this spectrum of motivations can inform more targeted and effective strategies for fostering sustained involvement in civic and political activities.

Reasons for Participation



Interestingly, a substantial majority, accounting for almost two-thirds of the surveyed individuals, stated that they could **imagine participating (more) in the future**. This principally positive inclination toward further engagement or involvement indicates a potential for encouraging and nurturing increased participation and should be borne in mind when strategizing for future activities or initiatives.

Future Participation



Participants who were open to future participation, i.e., those who answered yes, were then **asked what kind of participation they would be interested in** and to articulate the reasons for their current limited or lack of engagement. The purpose of this question was to gather additional information and insights about their attitudes towards participation. The graph below shows the answers given with regard to the first part of the question. Since they were open-ended responses, they were categorized into the following main same-theme groups.

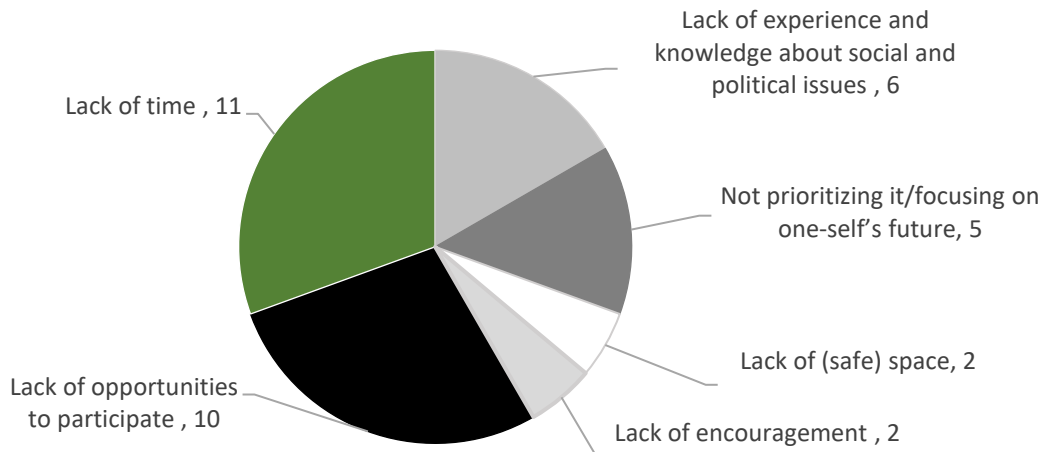
As depicted in the graph, the primary area of interest among participants was engagement in civil and political reform or change. This category encompasses diverse activities such as participating in debates, engaging in demonstrations, and contributing to the publication of articles. Following closely, the second most cited interest was involvement in initiatives aimed at benefiting and developing the community, including projects dedicated to enhancing neighborhoods and combating crime. The third most frequently mentioned form of participation that youth expressed interest in was awareness-raising activities, notably including education focused on the Palestinian issue. This insight into their preferences provides a nuanced understanding of the specific domains within which the surveyed individuals are keen on participating, offering valuable direction for designing targeted initiatives.

Kind of Participation Youth Would Be Interested In



As for the question of why they have so far not been (more) involved, the top answers of those who responded were as follows:

Reasons for Current Non-Involvement



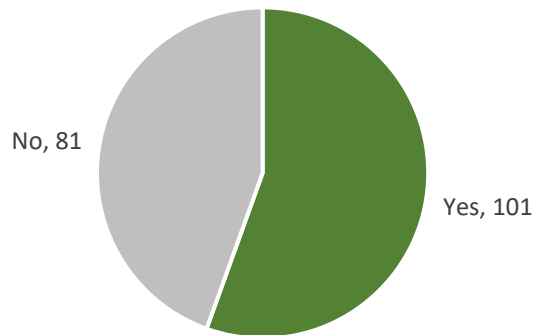
Lack of time was the most cited reason, with respondents saying that potentially available activities “do not take into account conditions of work” or “motherhood.” Almost an equal number of respondents cited a lack of opportunities to participate, while a lack of experience and knowledge about social and political issues and the fact that people do not prioritize participation but rather focus on their own future were men-

tioned roughly half as often. Moreover, participants mentioned a lack of safe spaces and of encouragement, albeit with far lower frequencies. This signifies that while time constraints and limited opportunities are primary deterrents, creating environments that foster a sense of safety and encouragement could play a pivotal role in overcoming some of the barriers to increased participation.

Assessment of Opportunities for Participation

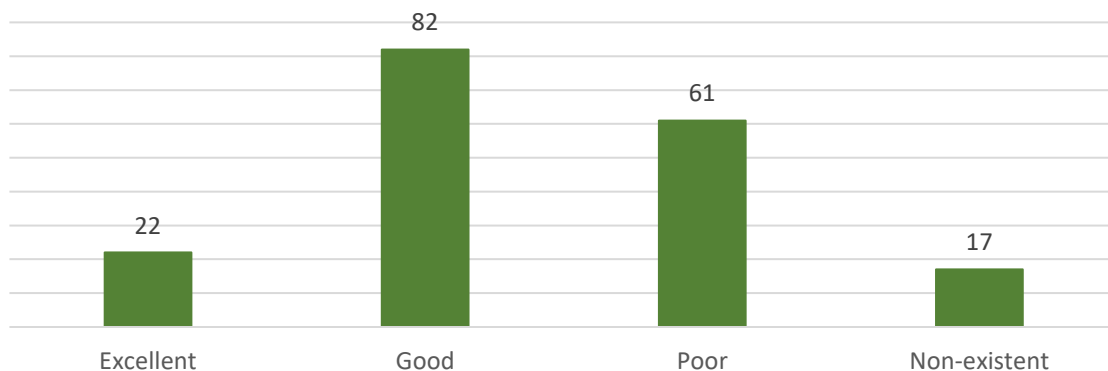
A second block of questions dealt with **assessing opportunities for participation**. First, youth were asked if they feel that young people have **opportunities to participate in decision-making processes** and develop leadership skills. Slightly more than half of the respondents felt there were opportunities, while the remainder did not think so. It should be mentioned here that in some of the open-ended questions that were subsequently asked, there was a recurring emphasis on the perceived scarcity or absence of opportunities, shedding light on a noteworthy concern among a significant portion of the participants.

Availability of Opportunities to Participate in Decision-making and Develop Leadership Abilities



Asked about the general **ability of young people to participate** and/or make meaningful contributions or decisions in Jerusalem, the majority of respondents (around 57%) believed that it was good or even excellent, although it must be said that a large part related to volunteering opportunities rather than political participation.

Youth's Ability to Participate and/or Make Decisions in Jerusalem



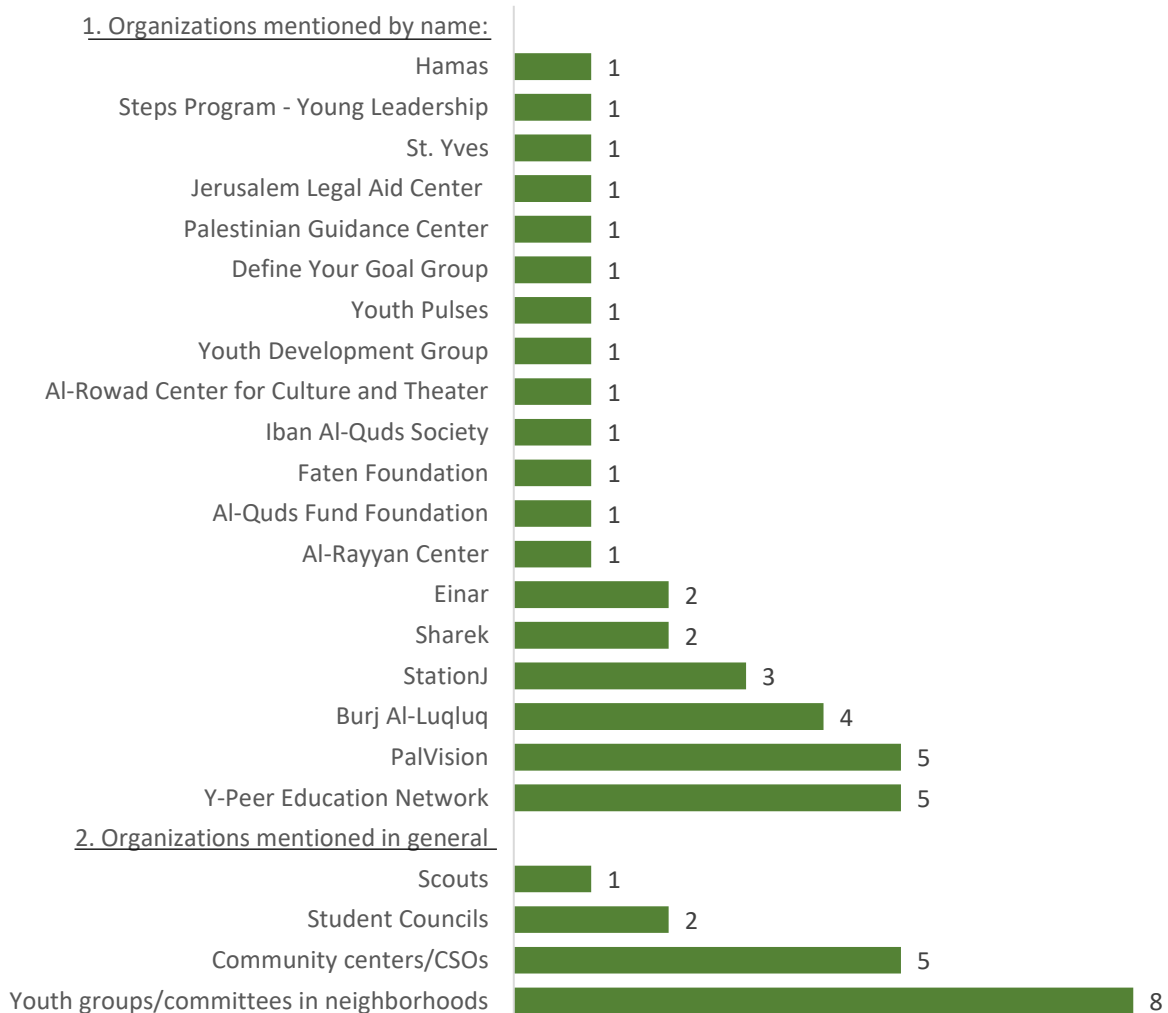
When asked if they knew of an **organization or group that represents young people**, almost three-quarters of the youth respondents said that they did not.

Knowing an Organization/Group Representing Youth

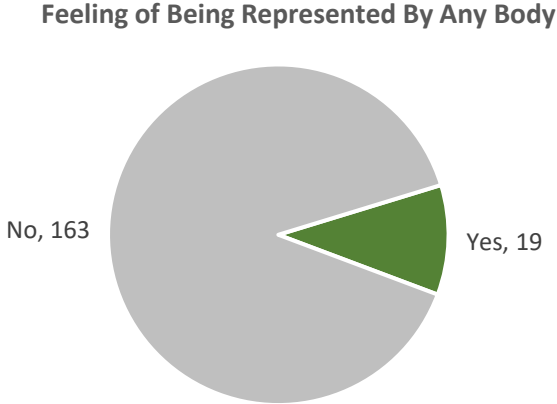


Those who answered yes were then asked to specify a particular group or organization they had in mind. Most responses were rather general, citing “youth groups”, “neighborhood committees”, “civil society organizations”, “community centers” or “student councils” and “scouts”, while others provided the names of specific organizations, as can be seen in the following graph.

Organizations or Groups Known as Representing Youth

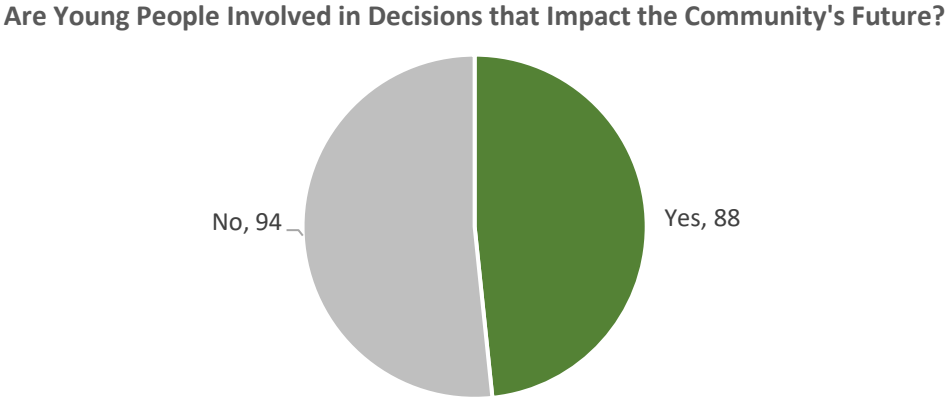


When queried about their sense of representation, nearly 90% of respondents expressed that they did not feel represented by any entity. On the one hand, this is not surprising, as there is no official political representation for Palestinians in Jerusalem, but on the other hand, this is somewhat thought-provoking given the many CSOs that exist, raising questions about the effectiveness and visibility of those organizations in addressing the concerns and interests of the youth.



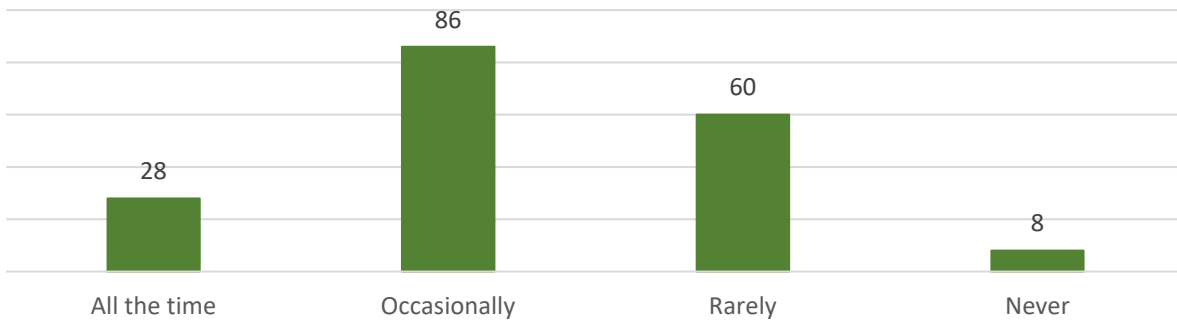
Of the few who said they did feel represented, most did not elaborate or name a particular body; some answered generally with something like “organizations that deal with societal issues that concern young people”, while others mentioned the following specific organizations: Markaz Al-Mubadarat (Initiatives Center), Palestinian Guidance Center, Hamas, Y-Peer, Burj Al-Luqluq, and Khazayen.

Over half of the respondents felt that **young people are not involved in decisions that impact their community's future**. This perception suggests a need for increased involvement and inclusion of young voices in discussions and actions.

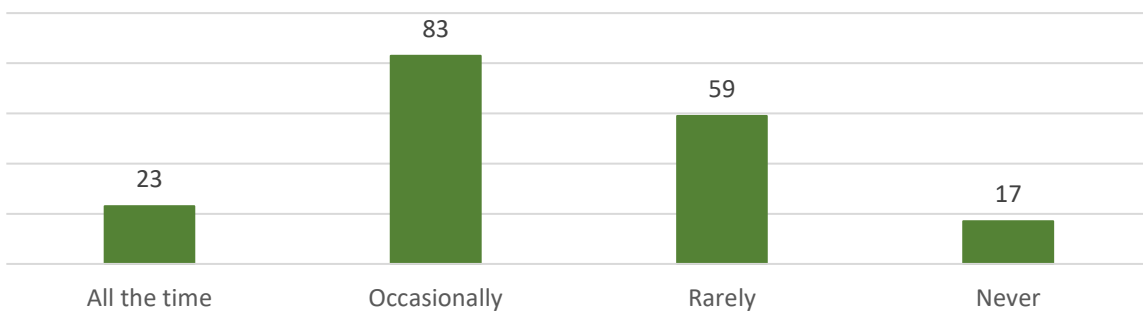


When prompted with different aspects of engagement on a never-rarely-occasionally-all the time scale, the majority of the respondents believed that there are **leadership opportunities** provided for youth, that they are **encouraged to get involved** in roles that interest them, and that they are encouraged to **make decisions collaboratively with older ones** when working on projects or initiatives. The following three graphs illustrate this.

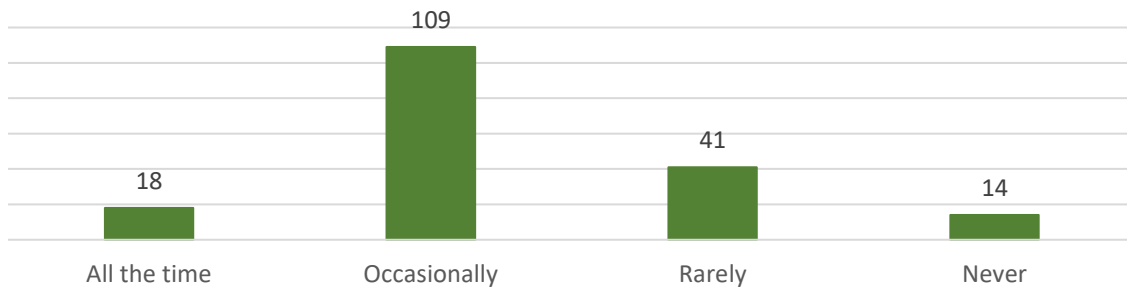
Availability of Leadership Opportunities for Youth



Youth Are Encouraged to Get Involved

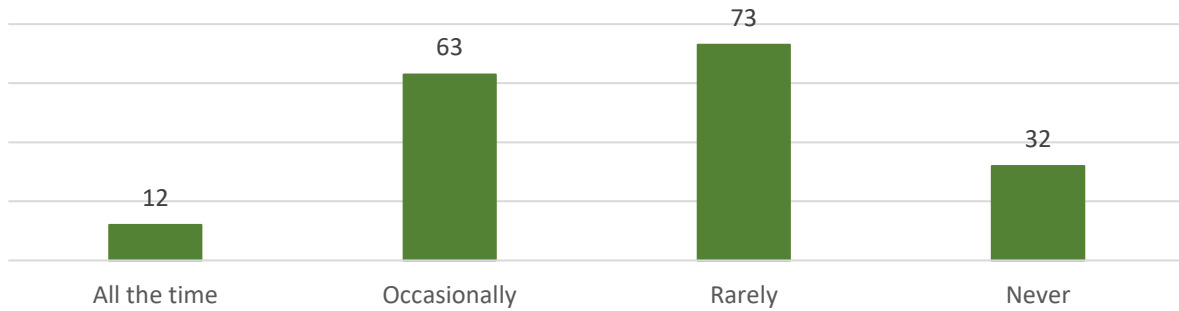


Young People Are Encouraged to Make Decisions Collaboratively With the Elder



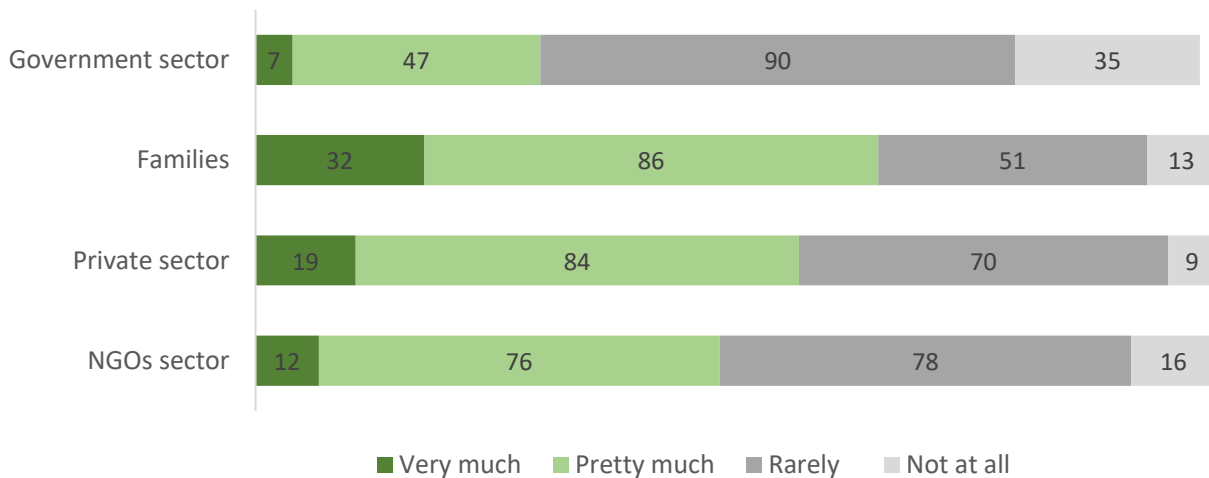
However, on the other hand, a notable majority also felt that the **transition of leadership to the younger generation** was not encouraged by current leaders and organizations. This suggests a potential discrepancy in perceptions and practices related to leadership succession, pointing to an area that may benefit from further exploration and consideration. Understanding the factors influencing this sentiment could be valuable for fostering intergenerational collaboration and ensuring a smoother transition of leadership roles within the community.

Feeling that Transition of Leadership to Younger Generation is Encouraged



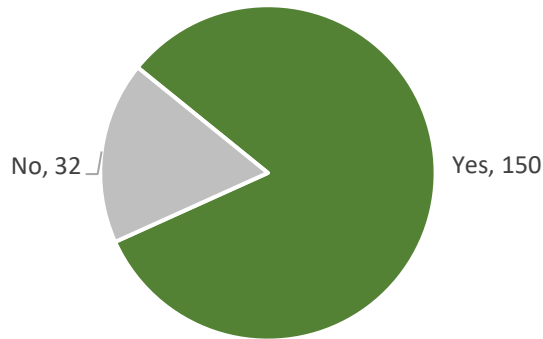
Asked more specifically, to which extent, in their opinion, **different sectors encouraged the transition** of leadership to the younger generation, most respondents stated that this was mostly the case within families and the private sector, to a lesser extent in NGOs and community centers, and much less likely on the government level. Exploring the reasons behind these perceptions could offer valuable insights for fostering more inclusive leadership practices across various sectors.

Encouragement of Leadership Transition to the Younger Generation Across Various Sectors



A large majority of respondents felt that there was a need to create more **opportunities to find out what young people think**. This reflects a widespread belief that there is currently a gap or insufficiency in platforms or initiatives designed to capture and amplify the voices and thoughts of the youth. Addressing this perceived gap could be a first step toward more representative approaches to engaging with the younger generation.

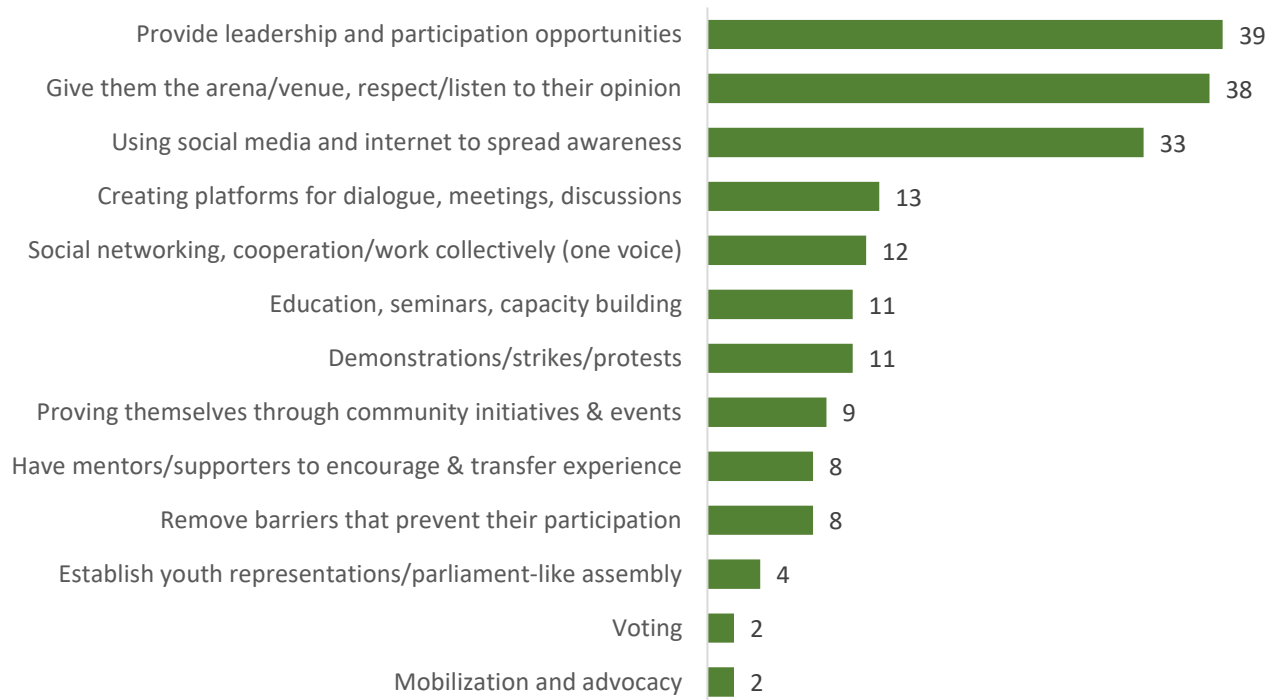
Need to Have More Opportunities to Find Out What Young People Think



Asked in an open-ended question about the **most effective actions for making young people’s voices heard** by decision-makers, a thematic analysis (grouping similar answers) revealed three primary categories of responses, which were (1) provision of leadership and participation opportunities, (2) having venues/arenas in which their opinions are respected, and (3) using social media and the internet to spread awareness.

However, there were also voices expressing a sense of resignation, saying, for example, “youth are not interested in participating in such activities, as they have lost faith in the decision-makers,” or that “active youth are exposed to danger and risk of arrest” and thus refraining from voicing their opinions.

Most Effective Actions for Making Young People’s Voices Heard

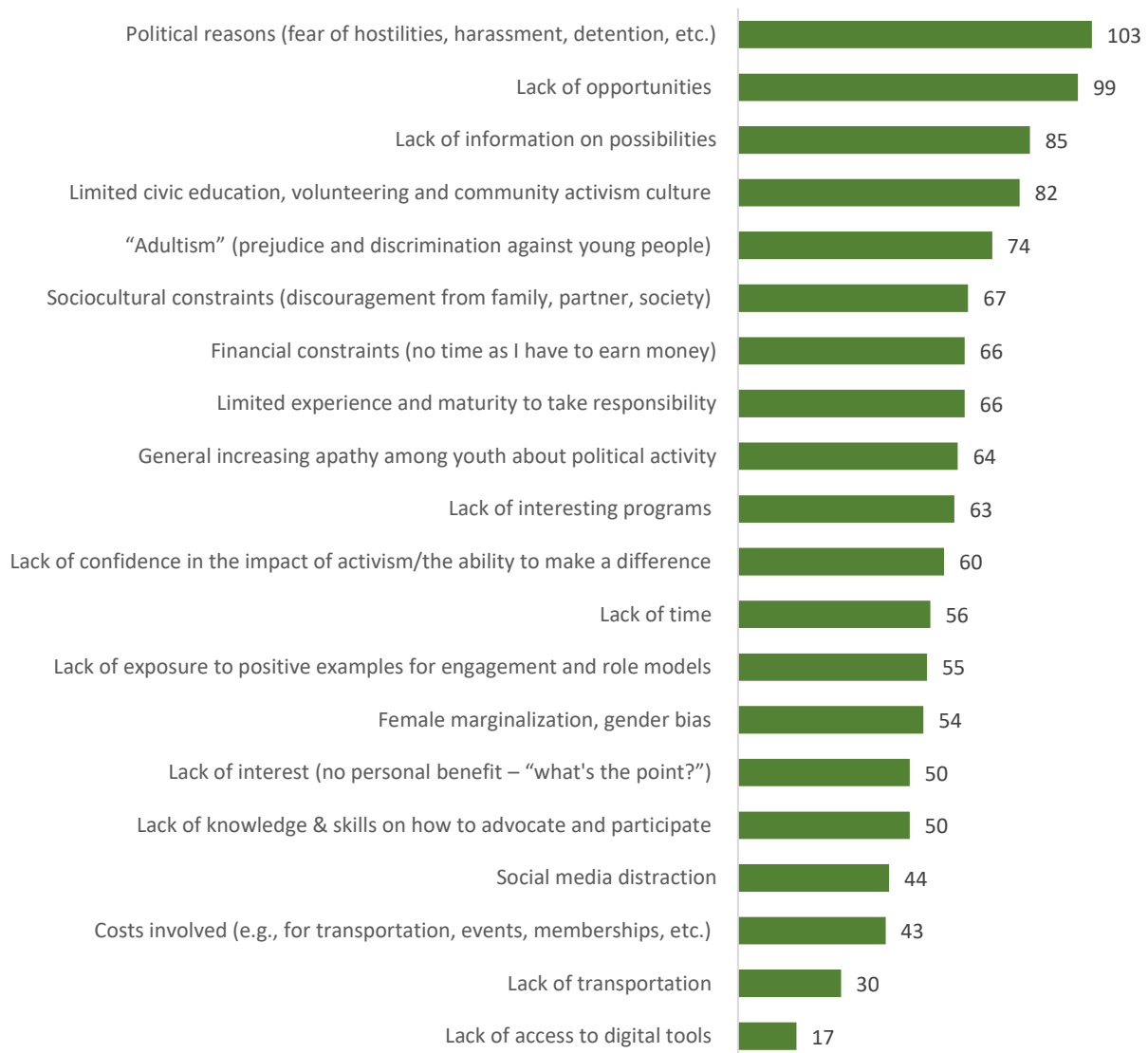


Barriers to Participation

The third segment of the questionnaire delved into the perceived **barriers to youth participation**. Respondents were presented with a predetermined list of challenges hindering their political engagement or meaningful involvement in society, with more than one answer possible.

Notably, political concerns emerged as the most prevalent obstacle, with 103 respondents expressing fear of harassment and detention, underscoring the significant impact of the political climate and safety concerns on youth participation in Jerusalem. Following closely, a lack of opportunities was identified by 99 respondents, indicating, again, a shared sentiment about limited avenues for involvement. Additionally, two noteworthy challenges were highlighted and could serve as focal points for future interventions: 85 respondents pointed to the lack of information on available opportunities, signaling a potential gap in communication channels, and 82 respondents emphasized the importance of addressing limited civic education and a weak culture promoting volunteerism and activism.

Issues that hinder meaningful youth involvement in the society or political engagement



Other reasons mentioned were the non-acceptance of others, including bullying and “mockery” (9 responses), lack of support for new groups/youth initiatives (8), racism (3), and the distance of places for engagement from one’s place of residency (2).

Following on from these obstacles, the respondents were asked **why**, in their opinions, **no youth movement has yet succeeded in forming a party or political alternative**. This was an open-ended question to allow the youth to use their own words to explain their thoughts on this issue, and their answers were summarized in the following categories.

Reasons Why No Youth Movement Succeeded in Forming a Political Alternative



The top cited reason was **oppression and intimidation** stemming from the occupation. This included fear of arrest, persecution, detention, and other forms of harassment for oneself or the family due to the specific/sensitive situation in Jerusalem, with comments such as “because of harassment and hostilities against young people”, “the occupation is narrowing the limited horizons for participation and implementation”, “because the occupation authority is working to stop this”, or “because of the occupation and foreign efforts to thwart such attempts”. One youth further explained: “The interest of young people in political parties is at the beginning of their lives, which is available in Palestinian universities, and after that, they are threatened by the Israeli authorities if they continue with them in Jerusalem”.

The second most frequently cited reason, although not mentioned half as often, was the **lack of encouragement**, with youth complaining that “there is no encouragement or popular incubator that includes young people and gives them the necessary support to create a successful movement”, that “young people are not taken seriously by the older generation”, or “because the old people in charge refuse to give us space or share their experiences with us.”

Third was the **lack of leadership, organization and commitment**: “There is not enough organization and commitment”, “due to the lack of prior planning and backup plans”, “weak continuity in change due to the rush to achieve goals and failure to study obstacles or take into account the difficulty of implementation to reach a desired goal, so that participation decreases or members withdraw”, “because there’s no one with patience and the right frame of mind to continue.”

Somewhat related, the fourth reason was **lack of experience, skills and knowledge**, or in the orders of the young people: “Due to the lack of political skills and knowledge among young people”, “lack of sufficient knowledge and experience.”

Another issue was **non-coordination**, which was, for example, described as follows: “Because society is fragmented and there is not a lot of cohesion”, “there is fragmentation, we are like the PLO, 30 officers and soldiers”, “because of non-coordination and uncooperative behavior”, “due to political partisan pluralism among members of the youth of Jerusalem”, and due to “the lack of a unified strategy.”

Pursuing personal rather than common interests was also given as a reason. One explanation for what keeps young people away from other forms of engagement is their “tendency to earn money because life has become expensive”, i.e., “the youth’s preoccupation with searching for work”, while others stated that “everyone seeks his personal interest, not the public interest” or “because no one is interested in the public interest”.

Also, **lack of opportunities** was mentioned again, with youth stating reasons such as, “because in our country there are not many opportunities”, “not giving youth the opportunity to assume responsibility and the lack of trust”, and “lack of appropriate opportunities for young people.”

The category **dominance of existing movements and parties** as a barrier for new political movements grouped comments such as “senior leaders or officials in any party, body or institution usually aspire to control the seat and preserve it, and there is no place for any agreement on activating the role of youth”, “the tyranny of existing parties, their skepticism and betrayal of any new initiatives”, “the monopoly of some positions in institutions... the intended marginalization of some educated youth”, and “the dominance of existing movements that constitute confusion and division”.

Enablers - Measures or Criteria to Foster Participation

The final set of questions focused on assessing the “**enablers**”, i.e., the measures or criteria that foster participation. The youth were asked to select from a predetermined list of activities what, in their opinion, would be **most valuable or useful to increasing the participation** of young people. Here, again, more than one answer was possible.

As shown in the graph below, the results once again highlight the significance of space and opportunities as paramount concerns for fostering youth engagement, with 92 respondents choosing “create space for youth” as the most useful measure, followed by “invite youth to meetings”, etc., which was chosen by 84 respondents. The third and fourth positions in the ranking, each with 76 and 75 responses respectively, revolved around targeted outreach to the youth, i.e., “create programs to advise organizations on youth-related matters” and “connect youth with organizations in their community.”

Means to Foster Meaningful Youth Engagement



Analyzing the responses from this section yields valuable insights into the measures that hold the most significance for engaging young individuals, thus offering practical guidance for designing interventions and strategies aimed at fostering and amplifying youth participation in various contexts.

After determining the activities that would be most useful to potentially foster increased and more meaningful youth engagement, the respondents were asked what kind of **resources and support** would be required to motivate youth to participate. Respondents selected from a predefined list of options, with the flexibility to choose more than one.

The most frequently cited resource deemed essential was training in skills that empower young people to engage and participate more effectively. Second, respondents emphasized the importance of having safe spaces for regular meetings, discussions, exchanges, and organizational activities. Financial support, in the form of funding, emerged as another critical resource identified by participants. Conversely, factors such as the prospect of success or the presence of a pressing problem were considered less crucial in motivating youth participation. This insight into the perceived necessities and priorities provides valuable guidance for crafting strategies and allocating resources to effectively encourage and empower youth involvement.

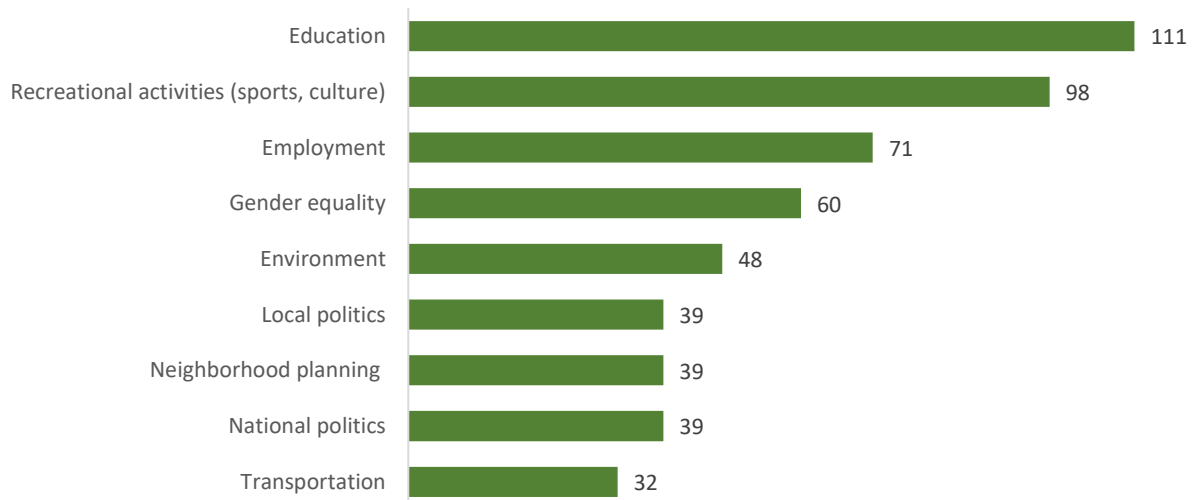
Needed resources/support to get youth engaged or participating



Finally, the young people were asked in which area – to be chosen from a given list – it was for them **most important to have a say**. Interestingly, the top selected issue was education (111), followed by recreation/sport and cultural activities (98), and employment (71), whereas “politics” – whether on national, local, or communal/neighborhood level – emerged as a much less prioritized aspect.

This perception reflects a prevailing sentiment among young individuals that political processes and structures hold lesser significance compared to other facets of their lives, which they are more likely to be able to influence. It suggests a tendency among the youth to place higher importance on other domains, such as personal aspirations, social interactions, career development, and cultural interests, which can be achieved faster and more reliably, relegating political engagement to a lower priority in their overall hierarchy of concerns. This could also be due to the disappointing political structures and leaders, the perceived lack of political space, or maybe because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing for so long that Palestinian youth in general, and East Jerusalem youth in particular, do not feel there is any use of political involvement. Understanding and addressing the reasons behind this perception is crucial for fostering increased youth engagement in political activities and encouraging a more informed and participatory civic culture.

Most Important Areas to Have s Say In



In the final open-ended question about the **one thing** they would change about how to have a voice and influence in planning and decision-making, respondents overwhelmingly emphasized the urgent need for enhancing youth awareness and support in the realm of planning and decision-making. Their key concerns centered on the following points:

- **Youth Awareness:** Many respondents underscored the importance of increasing awareness among the youth, not only about the significance of active participation but also about critical issues such as Palestine, history, and geography. This highlights a desire for a more informed and engaged younger generation and points to a need to work on curricula and the use of media.
- **Comprehensive Support:** Respondents articulated a multifaceted approach to support young people, encompassing financial, professional, psychological, and moral dimensions. This holistic perspective recognizes the diverse challenges faced by the youth and underscores the need for comprehensive support mechanisms.
- **Combatting Bias and Prejudice:** A notable sentiment emerged regarding the necessity to end bias and prejudice from the elder generation toward the youth. This suggests a call for a more inclusive and understanding environment that values the perspectives and contributions of the younger population and elevates their status in society, giving them due recognition and representation in official bodies.
- **Political Environment Change:** Some respondents expressed a desire for a change in the political environment, including the creation of one or more new political parties, eliminating existing factions (or some of them), advocating for elections, and insisting on positions being filled based on competencies rather than personal contacts. This indicates a call for structural reforms in the political landscape to ensure a fair and merit-based system.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal of this study was to identify entry points for enhanced youth engagement. Based on the findings from both the questionnaires and the focus group meetings, the following recommendations list appropriate and context-specific interventions that are suggested to improve the participation and engagement of Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem and beyond.

Strategy

Youth want to contribute to programs and projects that are designed for them or will affect their future. They want to partner in the process of their development, which brings ownership of and/or responsibility for their actions and contributes to enhancing their skills. Future interventions thus should consider the following:

- Develop a comprehensive participatory **youth strategy** or **strategic vision for youth participation**, including youth in the design, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of strategies and programs.
- Design and implement **projects** that increase **leadership opportunities** and trust in the younger generation; for example, by creating youth labs or a youth parliament, fostering youth-led collective action,

developing youth-inclusive politics, and creating opportunities to advance the role and engagement of young Palestinians.

- Encourage the integration of **youth as a cross-cutting issue** into existing projects without having to invent new programs (“mainstreaming youth participation”).

Capacity-Building

Youth underscored the importance of increasing awareness not only about the significance of participation, promoting volunteerism and activism but also about critical issues such as Palestine, history, geography, and social and political issues, in addition to skills that empower them. This highlights a desire for a more informed and engaged younger generation. Recommendations in this regard include:

- Enhance civic awareness and active involvement in the public sphere and in the development process, including among vulnerable communities and with a focus on youth. This requires developing and understanding the role of **civic education** to teach about civil rights and duties, freedom of opinion and expression and respect for others, and governance, and managing conflict in ways that strengthen their cohesion and engagement. This should also require a revision of Palestinian curricula in schools and universities.
- **Train youth in skills** that are needed to strengthen their **participation and leadership capacities** and thus enhance their ability to meaningfully contribute to various endeavors. This includes critical analysis of politics and development of own opinion on current issues; skills to communicate their interests to third parties and formulate recommendations; critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to develop policy frameworks for real-life issues; public speaking; campaigning; debating skills; advocacy; technology use/social media-competences; policy development.
- Compile and make available a **digital participation “toolbox”** that is freely accessible and can help engage young people in discussion and decision-making on issues of their and the wider community’s concern and promote their causes. The digital “nature” of such a tool would not require any further resources from the young user and may awaken his or her interest. Furthermore, it could be easily incorporated into the activities of youth organizations.

Enabling environment

There is a need for a multifaceted approach to supporting young people, encompassing financial, professional, psychological, and moral dimensions. This holistic perspective recognizes the diverse challenges faced by the youth and underscores the need for comprehensive support mechanisms, including:

- **Provide financial resources:** to allow for continuity and sustainability in implementing youth ideas and strategies and foster their engagement.
- **Provide safe spaces:** creating environments or venues where young individuals feel secure and supported in expressing their thoughts and ideas and strategizing with others.

- Create a more inclusive and **understanding environment** that ends bias and values the perspectives and contributions of the younger population. As lack of time was identified as one of the top reasons for young people's non-involvement, this must include the provision of activities that take place after usual working hours and that are also accessible for young mothers and physically challenged people.
- **Support** individual and collective youth projects that seek to raise the **self-esteem** of young people, provide them with the required support and mentorship, and strengthen intergenerational collaboration. This could include rewards like prizes, scholarships, and public recognition for achievements.
- Identify **needs for policy changes** regarding youth and potential areas of advocacy/policy dialogue.

Outreach

The repeatedly mentioned lack of information on available opportunities signals a potential gap in communication channels, and could be addressed by the following means:

- **Promote the use of social media** as effective tools for both spreading awareness and information about opportunities and ensuring that the voices of young individuals reach decision-makers on a broader scale. There is a widespread passivity among young people in many areas and it seems they do not understand the need for more involvement on their part. A large-scale awareness-raising campaign should be designed to address this passivity, particularly using social media channels. Youth must have the necessary information about options that exist so as to enable them to gain skills, confidence, and maturity in expressing views and influencing decisions. Well-designed campaigns on role models and success stories to change the attitudes of young people are also needed.
- **Encourage networking** among Palestinian youth and between them and outside counterparts. This could include the creation of a virtual platform for the 'citizens of tomorrow' (website, social media channel) for announcements, complaints, mutual assistance, sharing resources, and exchange of ideas that are otherwise largely overlooked in current political processes.

6. CONCLUSION

Involving young people in the institutions and decisions that affect their lives is important because it draws upon their expertise, enables them to exercise their rights as citizens, and contributes to a more democratic society. It also promotes their personal development and provides them with substantive knowledge and practical skills. However, as of yet, young Palestinians as a group are still underrepresented in the political process, which has contributed to them becoming increasingly disillusioned about, and thus disinterested in, formal political processes, and therefore tending to prioritize their personal socio-economic interests over wider political change.

The findings of this report highlight the need for youth, as an important part of society, to play a larger role and consequently have a more inclusive, informed, and equitable approach to youth involvement in planning and decision-making processes. Analysis of focus group discussions and interviews highlighted participants' confidence in their capacity to make a difference in their communities which is, however, not leveraged upon as can be seen in the fact that apathy and other priorities often prevent youth from

becoming engaged in civic actions. This underlines the need to cultivate civic education among young adolescents, starting early on in school.

While there are a few relevant projects and activities and some youths are actually aware of them, they mostly come to nothing in the absence of a youth strategy or a dedicated youth body where young people can put their ideas and aspirations into action.

Unsurprisingly, the Israeli occupation - the foremost cause young people are concerned about - was consistently mentioned across responses as a barrier to participation. Given the timeframe of the study, before the War on Gaza in the wake of October 7, fear of reprisal has become even more of a factor inhibiting youth participation due to the more coercive measures undertaken by the Israeli government in East Jerusalem, restrictions imposed on the use and sharing of social media at the pretext of incitement, and looser rules of engagement by Israeli security services in quelling political protest and even freedom of expression. While the occupation in general and these recently occurring forms of reprisals are indeed an overarching problem with little to no means to influence, there are other obstacles and complex challenges that can and should be tackled.

Participation in the public sphere is often hindered by the inclination of adults to cling to their offices (in NGOs, parties, government, and youth organizations) without leaving a chance for young people or take their ideas, opinions, and perspectives seriously. This prevailing attitude that the elder can do better than the younger generation must be confronted and changed.

While the provision of engagement opportunities and avenues for youth to actively engage in leadership roles is the single most important requirement, the underlying factors contributing to skepticism and reluctance among young Palestinians must not be ignored. Understanding the current spectrum of their (albeit limited) participation forms ranging from passive actions to more proactive and physically involved initiatives is crucial for exploring and eventually tailoring future civic engagement strategies to align with the preferences, capacities and comfort levels of individuals, encouraging a more diverse and effective array of participatory efforts.

Addressing any or all of these issues is crucial to fostering an environment conducive to the empowerment and engagement of the younger generation in shaping the future of their communities and societies. Key obstacles to participation must be addressed comprehensively so that social-political activism is no longer perceived as a risky proposition with little hope of actual dividends, but instead as the precondition that lays the groundwork for enabling youth to play a bigger role in societal change and forming a new generation of leaders.

ANNEX 1: Questionnaire for Youth

GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.	<p>What's your name? ما هو اسمك؟</p>
2.	<p>How old are you? كم عمرك؟</p>
3.	<p>What is your gender? ما هو جنسك ؟ <input type="checkbox"/> m <input type="checkbox"/> f</p>
4.	<p>Where do you live? (Which neighborhood): عنوان السكن (أي حي؟)</p>
5.	<p>What do you currently do: <input type="checkbox"/> University student/طالب جامعة <input type="checkbox"/> School student/طالب مدرسة <input type="checkbox"/> Employed / أعمل <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed/عاطل عن العمل <input type="checkbox"/> Other/غير ذلك: _____</p>
6.	<p>What is your understanding of active citizenship? What, in your opinion, makes a good citizen? ما هو مفهومك عن المواطنة الفاعلة؟ برأيك ما الذي يجعل المواطن مواطناً صالحاً؟</p>
ENGAGEMENT "STATUS" \ المشاركة المجتمعية (الحالية)	
7.	<p>Which of the following social/political activity applies to you?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a volunteer/انا متطوع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am an active member of a civil society organization/NGO -أنا عضو نشط في منظمة مجتمع مدني منظمة غير حكومية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of a general assembly or board of an organization/ أنا عضو في جمعية عامة أو مجلس إدارة إحدى المنظمات</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am active in an informal social entity (student council, neighborhood community, interest group) / أنا ناشط في كيان اجتماعي غير رسمي (مجلس الطلاب ، لجنة الحي، مجموعات المصالح)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of a trade union/ أنا عضو في نقابة عمال</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of a political party/ أنا عضو في حزب سياسي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of a youth organization / أنا عضو في منظمة شبابية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of a sports club/ أنا عضو في ناد رياضي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I work together with neighbors in the local community/ أنا أعمل مع الجيران في المجتمع المحلي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify/غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None (I am not engaged at all)/ لا شيء (لست مشاركاً في هذه الأنشطة على الإطلاق)</p>
8.	<p>To which extent are you generally interested in politics?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very much/كثيراً <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty much/الى حد ما <input type="checkbox"/> Little/قليلاً <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all/لا على الاطلاق</p>
9.	<p>To which extent are you informed about youth engagement and participation opportunities?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very much/كثيراً <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty much/الى حد ما <input type="checkbox"/> Little/قليلاً <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all/لا على الاطلاق</p>
10.	<p>How do you keep informed on local and international news and events? كيف تبقى على اطلاع على الأخبار والأحداث المحلية والدولية؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Friends/الاصدقاء <input type="checkbox"/> School / المدرسة <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper/الصحف والجرائد</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social media/ وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي <input type="checkbox"/> TV / التلفاز <input type="checkbox"/> Internet/الانترنت</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other / غيرها</p>

11.	Is there a cause or issue you care about? Which one? هل هناك مشكلة أو قضية مجتمعية معينة تهتمك؟ أذكرها :
12.	<p>What types of civic and political engagement, online and offline, have you engaged/participated in? (You can choose more than one)? ما أنواع الأنشطة المدنية والسياسية ، عبر الإنترنت وخارجه ، التي انخرطت أو شاركت بها ؟ (يمكنك اختيار أكثر من واحدة)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Created or shared something on the internet related to a community issue/ أنشئت أو شاركت شيئاً / على الإنترنت يتعلق بقضية مجتمعية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Expressed my opinion on a political/social issue important to me/ عبرت عن رأيي في موضوع سياسي / - اجتماعي مهم بالنسبة لي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Raised money for a cause I care about/ جمعت التبرعات من أجل قضية تهمني / - تبرعت بالمال لقضية اجتماعية / سياسية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Donated money for a social/political cause/ ساهمت في رفع مستوى الوعي بقضية أهتم بها / - منخرط في مجلس الطلاب / كممثل عن الصف</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Raised awareness for a cause I care about/ منخرط في مجلس الطلاب / كممثل عن الصف</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Engaged in the student council/as class representative/ تطوعت في / (in an organization or club / for a cause I care about / a summer camp) / - منظمة أو ناد أو مخيم صيفي لقضية أهتم بها</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Volunteered (in an organization or club / for a cause I care about / a summer camp) / وقعت على عريضة أو ورقة / - باشرت في إنشاء عريضة أو ورقة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Signed a petition or paper/ تواصلت أو تفاعلت مع مسؤولين أو سياسيين / - شاركت في</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Initiated a petition or paper/ Participated in a public consultation/political process organized by public authorities/ مشاركة في / مشاوراة عامة / عملية سياسية نظمتها السلطات العامة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Participated in a public consultation/political process organized by public authorities/ شاركت في اجتماعات أو مناقشات / - حول قضايا المجتمع المحلي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Took part in meetings or discussions on local community issues/ شاركت في احتجاج أو مسيرة أو مظاهرة / - نظمت احتجاج أو مسيرة أو مظاهرة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Took part in a protest, march or demonstration/ شاركت في احتجاج أو مسيرة أو مظاهرة / - نظمت حدثاً أو اجتماعاً لقضية تهمني</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organized a protest, march or demonstration/ عملت على حشد الجيران / - أو زملاء العمل أو مجموعات أخرى نحو أهداف مشتركة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organized an event or meeting for a cause I care about/ قاطعت منتجات / - أو أنشطة معينة لأسباب سياسية أو أخلاقية أو بيئية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mobilized neighbors, co-workers or other groups towards common goals/ منخرط في حزب أو حركة سياسية / - صوتت في انتخابات محلية أو وطنية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mobilized neighbors, co-workers or other groups towards common goals/ لا شيء مما ذكر سابقاً / - غير ذلك /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other / غير ذلك /</p>
13.	<p>What are the reasons for your participation? ما هي أسباب مشاركتك في أي من الأنشطة السابقة ؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I was encouraged by family/friends/teachers/ تم تشجيعي من قبل العائلة / الأصدقاء/ المعلمين</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I like to engage in issues that I feel politicians neglect/ حب الانخراط في القضايا التي أشعر أن السياسيين يتجاهلون</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I feel good about engaging for something I care about / أشعر بالرضا حيال الانخراط في شيء يهمني /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hope to contribute to change for a better future/ أمل أن أساهم في التغيير من أجل مستقبل أفضل /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I hope it will open job or other opportunities for me/ أمل أن تفتح لي فرص عمل أو فرص أخرى /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other / غير ذلك /</p>
14.	<p>Can you imagine participating (more) in the future? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/ لا</p> <p>هل يمكنك تخيل المشاركة (أكثر) في المستقبل في مثل الأنشطة السابقة ؟</p>
15.	<p>If in yes, what kind of participation would you be interested and why aren't you already more involved? إذا كان الجواب السابق "نعم" : فما نوع المشاركة التي قد تكون مهتمًا بها ولماذا لم تشارك بالفعل بشكل أكبر؟</p>

ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION / <u>تقييم فرص المشاركة الشبابية</u>																										
16.	<p>Do you feel that youth have opportunities to participate in decision-making and develop leadership abilities? / هل تشعر أنه يتوفر للشباب فرص للمشاركة في صنع القرارات وتنمية القدرات القيادية لديهم؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p>																									
17.	<p>In general, how would you grade youth's ability to participate and give meaningful input or make decisions in Jerusalem? / بشكل عام ، كيف تقيم قدرة الشباب على المشاركة وطرح اراء ذات مغزى أو اتخاذ قرارات في القدس؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent/ممتازة <input type="checkbox"/> Good/جيدة <input type="checkbox"/> Poor/سيئة <input type="checkbox"/> Non-existent/غير متوفرة</p>																									
18.	<p>Do you know an organization or group representing young people? If yes, please specify.</p> <p>هل أنت على دراية بأية منظمة أو مجموعة تمثل الشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p> <p>If yes, please specify: _____ إذا كانت الإجابة بنعم ، يرجى التحديد</p>																									
19.	<p>Do you yourself feel represented by any body and why? / هل تشعر بانك ممثل من أية هيئة أو مؤسسة، ولماذا؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p> <p>If yes, by whom? Why do you feel represented or how? إذا أجبت بنعم، ما هي تلك المؤسسة أو الهيئة؟ لماذا تشعر أنها تمتلكك، وكيف؟</p>																									
20.	<p>Are young people involved in decisions that impact the community's future? / هل يشارك الشباب في القرارات التي تؤثر على مستقبل المجتمع؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p>																									
21.	<p>Are there any leadership opportunities for youth? / هل توجد فرص قيادية للشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All the time/ طوال الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally/ أحياناً <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely/ نادراً <input type="checkbox"/> Never/ على الإطلاق</p>																									
22.	<p>Do you feel that youth are encouraged to get involved in roles that interest them? / هل تشعر أنه يتم تشجيع الشباب على المشاركة في الأدوار المجتمعية والسياسية التي تهمهم؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All the time/ طوال الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally/ أحياناً <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely/ نادراً <input type="checkbox"/> Never/ على الإطلاق</p>																									
23.	<p>Do you feel that when working on projects or initiatives young people are encouraged to make decisions collaboratively with older ones? / هل تشعر أنه أثناء العمل في المشاريع أو المبادرات يتم تشجيع الشباب على اتخاذ القرارات بشكل تعاوني مع الجيل الأكبر؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All the time/ طوال الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally/ أحياناً <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely/ نادراً <input type="checkbox"/> Never/ على الإطلاق</p>																									
24.	<p>Do you feel that leaders and organizations encourage a transition of leadership to the younger generation? / هل تشعر أن القادة والمؤسسات يدعمون انتقال القيادة إلى جيل الشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All the time/ طوال الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally/ أحياناً <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely/ نادراً <input type="checkbox"/> Never/ على الإطلاق</p>																									
25.	<p>In your opinion: to which extent is the transition of leadership to the younger generation encouraged in the following sectors: برأيك ، إلى أي مدى يتم تشجيع انتقال القيادة إلى جيل الشباب في قطاع المنظمات غير الحكومية بما في ذلك المراكز المجتمعية ؟</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Very much كثيراً -</th> <th>Pretty much/ الى حد ما</th> <th>Rarely/ نادراً</th> <th>Not at all لا على الاطلاق -</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> NGOs/ community centers</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Private sector</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> government</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> family</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Very much كثيراً -	Pretty much/ الى حد ما	Rarely/ نادراً	Not at all لا على الاطلاق -	<input type="checkbox"/> NGOs/ community centers					<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector					<input type="checkbox"/> government					<input type="checkbox"/> family				
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<input type="checkbox"/> government																										
<input type="checkbox"/> family																										

26.	<p>Do you think there is a need to have more opportunities to find out what young people think? هل تعتقد بوجود حاجة لمزيد من الفرص لمعرفة أفكار و آراء الشباب المقدسي؟ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p>
27.	<p>In your opinion, what are the most effective actions for making young people's voice heard by decision-makers? / ما هي أكثر الطرق فاعلية لجعل صوت الشباب مسموعاً لدى صانعي القرار؟ / برأيك ، ما هي أكثر الطرق فاعلية لجعل صوت الشباب مسموعاً لدى صانعي القرار؟</p>
<p>BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION / معوقات المشاركة</p>	
28.	<p>In your opinion, what are the issues that hinder meaningful youth involvement in the society or political engagement? What challenges prevent your involvement/participation? برأيك ، ما هي القضايا التي تعيق انخراط الشباب بشكل هادف في المجتمع أو المشاركة السياسية؟ ما هي التحديات التي تمنع مشاركتك / مشاركتك؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limited civic education, volunteering and community activism culture - محدودية ثقافة التعليم - المدني والتطوع والنشاط المجتمعي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limited experience and maturity to take responsibility/ محدودية الخبرة والنضج لتحمل المسؤولية /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of information on possibilities/ نقص المعلومات عن الفرص المتاحة للمشاركة /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of exposure to positive examples of civic engagement, including role models in the community / عدم التعرض لأمثلة إيجابية للمشاركة المدنية ، بما في ذلك القدوة في المجتمع /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of opportunities - قلة الفرص -</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interesting programs - عدم وجود برامج مثيرة للاهتمام -</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of confidence in the impact of activism ("resignation"), i.e., feeling not able to make a difference anyway / عدم الثقة في تأثير التفاعل ، أي الشعور بعدم القدرة على إحداث فرق على أي حال /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of knowledge & skills on how to advocate and participate / نقص المعرفة والمهارات الخاصة /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> - بكيفية المناصرة والمشاركة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation / ضعف وسائل المواصلات /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of time / قلة الوقت /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of access to digital tools - ضعف إمكانية الوصول إلى الأدوات الرقمية -</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest (no personal benefit – "what's the point?") / ما - "ما الفائدة شخصية" / عدم الاهتمام (لا فائدة شخصية / "ما - "what's the point?" - "الهدف؟")</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> "Adulthood" (prejudice and discrimination against young people) / نظرة الكبار (التحيز والتمييز ضد الشباب) /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> - (الشباب)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female marginalization / تهيميش الإناث /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Costs involved (e.g., for transportation, events, memberships, etc.) / التكاليف المتضمنة (على سبيل / المثال ، النقل ، والفعاليات ، والعضوية ، وما إلى ذلك)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sociocultural restrictions/constraints (discouragement from family, partner, society) / القيود الاجتماعية والثقافية (تثبيط الأسرة ، الشريك ، المجتمع)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial constraints (no time as I have to earn money)/ القيود المالية (لا يوجد وقت لأنني مضطر لكسب المال) /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> - (المال)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Social media distraction/ إلهاء وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي /</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General increasing apathy among youth about governance and political activity/ تزايد اللامبالاة / العامة بين الشباب بشأن الحوكمة والنشاط السياسي</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Political reasons (fear of hostilities, harassment, detention, etc.)/ أسباب سياسية (الخوف من الأعمال / العدائية ، المضايقات ، الاحتجاز ، إلخ.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p>
29.	<p>If you experienced any other barriers when you wanted to be engaged, please describe them: إذا واجهت أي معوقات أخرى عندما أردت المشاركة في المجتمع ، فيرجى وصفها:</p>
30.	<p>Why do you think no youth movement has to date succeeded in forming a party/some political alternative? / لماذا لم تنجح أي حركة شبابية حتى الآن في تشكيل حزب / بديل سياسي في القدس؟ / برأيك، لماذا لم تنجح أي حركة شبابية حتى الآن في تشكيل حزب / بديل سياسي في القدس؟</p>

ENABLERS - MEASURES OR CRITERIA TO FOSTER PARTICIPATION عوامل التمكين - التدابير أو المعايير لتعزيز المشاركة	
31.	<p>In your opinion, what should be done to increase the participation of young people? Select the three activities you think would be most valuable/useful to foster meaningful youth engagement? برأيك ما الذي يجب عمله لزيادة مشاركة الشباب في المجتمع؟ حدد الأنشطة الثلاثة التي تعتقد أنها ستكون الأكثر قيمة / إفادة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Connect youth with organizations in their community (to do meaningful work)/ ربط الشباب / بالمنظمات في مجتمعهم (للقيام بعمل هادف)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create a young leaders' program to advise organizations etc. on youth-related matters/ إنشاء برنامج القادة الشباب لتقديم المشورة للمنظمات وما إلى ذلك بشأن المسائل المتعلقة بالشباب</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create space for youth ("youth labs") to have their work featured and Engage others/ خلق مساحة للشباب لعرض أعمالهم وإشراك الآخرين بها</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invite youth to meetings, conferences etc. and allow them to speak up/ دعوة الشباب للاجتماعات والمؤتمرات وما إلى ذلك والسماح لهم بالتحدث</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invite youth to make suggestion for research, development issues, etc./ دعوة الشباب لتقديم اقتراحات للبحث ، وقضايا التنمية ، وما إلى ذلك</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer a voluntary year program for school graduates who don't know yet what to do next/ تقديم برنامج تطوعي لمدة سنة لخريجي المدارس الذين لا يعرفون توجههم الوظيفي بعد</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer quality internships (increasing chances to find a job)/ توفير فرص تدريب ذات جودة (لزيادة فرص العثور على وظيفة)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer paid jobs related to participation/ توفير وظائف مدفوعة الأجر تتعلق بالمشاركة المجتمعية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities to contribute to creating positive change in the community / تقديم فرص للمساهمة في إحداث تغيير إيجابي في المجتمع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Share power to manage and run an institution or project/ تعزيز مشاركة السلطات بين الشاب والمسؤولين عن إدارة وتشغيل مؤسسة أو مشروع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have "adults" attend youth-organized events and projects / أن يحضر الأكبر عمراً الفعاليات والمشاريع التي ينظمها الشباب</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provide skills development in fields related to civic engagement (e.g., public speaking, creativity)/ توفير دورات تنمية للمهارات المتعلقة بالمشاركة المدنية والمجتمعية : مثل الخطابة والإبداع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create formal youth representing bodies (e.g., youth councils/parliaments/boards)/ إنشاء هيئات شبابية رسمية (على سبيل المثال: مجالس الشباب / البرلمان / هيئات شبابية)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p>
32.	<p>What resources/support is needed to get you engaged or motivate you to participate? (You can choose more than one) ما هي الموارد / الدعم المطلوب لإشراكك أو تحفيزك على المشاركة؟ (يمكنك اختيار أكثر من واحد)</p>
33.	<p>Which area do you find most important to have a say in? لك رأي فيه؟ ما هو المجال الذي تجده الأكثر أهمية ليكون لك رأي فيه؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities (sports, culture)/ أنشطة ترفيهية (رياضية ، ثقافية)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education/ التعليم</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Employment – التوظيف</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality / المساواة بين الجنسين</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood planning / التخطيط المدني للأحياء السكنية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environment/ البيئة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / النقل والمواصلات</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local politics/ السياسات المحلية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National politics/ السياسات الوطنية</p>
34.	<p>If you could change one thing about how youth have a voice and influence in planning and decision-making, what would it be? إذا كان بإمكانك تغيير شيء واحد حول مشاركة الشباب في التخطيط واتخاذ القرارات ، فماذا سيكون؟</p>
35.	<p>Would you have any further concerns or comments? هل لديك أي مخاوف أو تعليقات أخرى؟</p>

Thank you very much for your participation!

شكراً جزيلاً على المشاركة بتعبئة الاستبيان

ANNEX 2: Questionnaire for Key Informants

	GENERAL INFORMATION	معلومات عامة
1.	Date of interview:	تاريخ المقابلة :
2.	Organization:	اسم المؤسسة
3.	Telephone: رقم الهاتف	Email: البريد الإلكتروني
4.	Name of Interviewee (optional):	(اختياري) اسم الشخص الذي أجريت معه المقابلة
5.	Role, function, background:	الدور، الوظيفة، والخلفية
6.	Sector/Field of expertise:	قطاع (قطاعات) / مجال (مجالات) الخبرة
7.	For how long have you been active in the field and what is your current (or past) involvement?	منذ متى وأنت نشط في هذا المجال وما هي طبيعة مشاركتك الحالية (أو السابقة)؟
ENGAGEMENT "STATUS"		وضع "الانخراط"
8.	To which extent are you informed about Jerusalemite youth engagement and participation opportunities?	إلى أي حد أنت مطلع على فرص انخراط ومشاركة الشباب في القدس الشرقية؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> Very much/كثيراً <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty much/الى حد ما <input type="checkbox"/> Little/قليلاً <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all/لا على الاطلاق	
9.	To which extent do you feel Jerusalemite youth engage and participate socially or politically?	إلى أي مدى تشعر أن الشباب المقدسي ينخرط ويشارك اجتماعياً أو سياسياً؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> Very much/كثيراً <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty much/الى حد ما <input type="checkbox"/> Little/قليلاً <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all/لا على الاطلاق	
ASSESSMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION		تقييم فرص المشاركة الشبابية
10.	Do you feel that youth have opportunities to participate in decision-making and develop leadership abilities?	هل تشعر بتوفر فرص للشباب للمشاركة في صنع القرارات وتنمية قدراتهم القيادية؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا	
11.	In general, how would you grade youth's ability to participate and give meaningful input or make decisions in Jerusalem?	بشكل عام، كيف تقيم قدرة الشباب على المشاركة وطرح آراء ذات مغزى أو اتخاذ قرارات في القدس؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent/ممتازة <input type="checkbox"/> Good/جيدة <input type="checkbox"/> Poor/سيئة <input type="checkbox"/> Non-existent/غير متوفرة	
12.	Do you know an organization or group representing young people? If yes, please specify.	هل أنت على دراية بأية مؤسسة أو مجموعة تمثل الشباب؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا	
	If yes, please specify: _____ يرجى التحديد	
13.	Do you feel that youth are encouraged to get involved in roles that interest them?	هل تشعر أنه يتم تشجيع الشباب على المشاركة في الأدوار التي تهمهم؟
	<input type="checkbox"/> All the time/ طوال الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally/ أحياناً <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely/ نادراً <input type="checkbox"/> Never/ لا، على الإطلاق	

14.	<p>Do you feel that leaders and organizations encourage a transition of leadership to the younger generation? هل تشعر أن القادة والمؤسسات يدعمون انتقال القيادة إلى جيل الشباب؟</p> <p>لا، على الإطلاق / Never <input type="checkbox"/> نادراً / Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> أحياناً / Occasionally <input type="checkbox"/> طوال الوقت / All the time <input type="checkbox"/></p>
15.	<p>In your opinion, in which sphere and to which extent is the transition of leadership to the younger generation encouraged? في رأيك، في أي مجال وإلى أي مدى يتم تشجيع انتقال القيادة إلى جيل الشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NGOs / المنظمات غير الحكومية <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector / القطاع الخاص <input type="checkbox"/> government / الحكومة <input type="checkbox"/> family / الأسرة <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify/غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد/_____</p>
16.	<p>Do you think there is a need to learn more about what young people think? هل تعتقد أن هناك حاجة لمعرفة المزيد عن أفكار الشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes/نعم <input type="checkbox"/> No/لا</p>
17.	<p>In your opinion, what are the most effective actions for making young people's voices heard by decision-makers? ما هي برأيك الإجراءات الأكثر فاعلية لجعل أصوات الشباب مسموعة من قبل صانعي القرار؟</p>
BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION / معوقات المشاركة	
18.	<p>In your opinion, which of the following issues hinder meaningful youth involvement in the society or political engagement? What challenges prevent youth involvement/participation? في رأيك، أي من القضايا التالية تشكل عائقاً أمام انخراط الشباب في المجتمع أو المشاركة السياسية بشكل هادف؟ ما هي التحديات التي تمنع انخراط / مشاركة الشباب؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limited civic education, volunteering and community activism culture - محدودية ثقافة التعليم المدني والتطوع والنشاط المجتمعي <input type="checkbox"/> Limited experience and maturity to take responsibility/محدودية الخبرة والنضج لتحمل المسؤولية <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of information on possibilities/نقص المعلومات عن الفرص المتاحة للمشاركة <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of exposure to positive examples of civic engagement, including role models in the community / عدم التعرض لأمثلة إيجابية للمشاركة المدنية ، بما في ذلك القدوة في المجتمع <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of opportunities - قلة الفرص <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interesting programs - عدم وجود برامج مثيرة للاهتمام <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of confidence in the impact of activism ("resignation"), i.e., feeling not able to make a difference anyway / عدم الثقة في تأثير التفاعل ، أي الشعور بعدم القدرة على إحداث فرق على أي حال <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of knowledge & skills on how to advocate and participate / نقص المعرفة والمهارات الخاصة بكيفية المناصرة والمشاركة <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of transportation / ضعف وسائل المواصلات <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of time / قلة الوقت <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of access to digital tools - ضعف إمكانية الوصول إلى الأدوات الرقمية <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of interest (no personal benefit – "what's the point?") - عدم الاهتمام (لا فائدة شخصية / "ما الهدف؟") <input type="checkbox"/> "Adultism" (prejudice & discrimination against young people) / نظرة الكبار (التحيز والتمييز ضد الشباب) <input type="checkbox"/> Female marginalization / تهميش الإناث <input type="checkbox"/> Costs involved (e.g., for transportation, events, memberships, etc.) / التكاليف المتضمنة (على سبيل المثال ، النقل ، والفعاليات ، والعضوية ، وما إلى ذلك) <input type="checkbox"/> Sociocultural restrictions/constraints (discouragement from family, partner, society) / القيود الاجتماعية والثقافية (تثبيط الأسرة ، الشريك ، المجتمع) <input type="checkbox"/> Financial constraints (no time, I have to earn money)/القيود المالية (لا يوجد وقت لأنني مضطر لكسب المال) <input type="checkbox"/> Social media distraction/إلهاء وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي <input type="checkbox"/> General increasing apathy among youth about governance and political activity/تزايد اللامبالاة العامة بين الشباب بشأن الحوكمة والنشاط السياسي <input type="checkbox"/> Political reasons (fear of hostilities, harassment, detention, etc.) / أسباب سياسية (الخوف من الأعمال العدائية ، المضايقات ، الاحتجاز ، إلخ.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p>

19.	<p>Why do you think no youth movement has to date succeeded in forming a party/some political alternative? برأيك، لماذا لم تنجح أي حركة شبابية حتى الآن في تشكيل حزب/بديل سياسي؟</p>
<p>ENABLERS - MEASURES OR CRITERIA TO FOSTER PARTICIPATION عوامل التمكين - التدابير أو المعايير لتعزيز المشاركة</p>	
20.	<p>In your opinion, what should be done to increase the participation of young people? Select the three activities you think would be most valuable/useful to foster meaningful youth engagement? برأيك كيف يمكن رفع نسبة مشاركة الشباب؟ حدد ثلاثة أنشطة تعتقد أنها ستكون قيمة / مفيدة لتعزيز مشاركة الشباب الهادفة؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Connect youth with organizations in their community (to do meaningful work)/ ربط الشباب بالمنظمات في مجتمعاتهم (للقيام بعمل هادف)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create a young leaders' program to advise organizations etc. on youth-related matters/ إنشاء برنامج القادة الشباب لتقديم المشورة للمنظمات وما إلى ذلك بشأن المسائل المتعلقة بالشباب</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create space for youth ("youth labs") to have their work featured and Engage others/ خلق مساحة للشباب لعرض أعمالهم وإشراك الآخرين بها</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invite youth to meetings, conferences etc. and allow them to speak up/ دعوة الشباب للاجتماعات والمؤتمرات وما إلى ذلك والسماح لهم بالتحدث</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Invite youth to make suggestion for research, development issues, etc./ دعوة الشباب لتقديم اقتراحات للبحث ، وقضايا التنمية ، وما إلى ذلك</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer a voluntary year program for school graduates who don't know yet what to do next/ تقديم برنامج تطوعي لمدة سنة لخريجي المدارس الذين لا يعرفون توجههم الوظيفي بعد</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer quality internships (increasing chances to find a job)/ توفير فرص تدريب ذات جودة (لزيادة فرص العثور على وظيفة)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer paid jobs related to participation/ توفير وظائف مدفوعة الأجر تتعلق بالمشاركة المجتمعية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunities to contribute to creating positive change in the community / تقديم فرص للمساهمة في إحداث تغيير إيجابي في المجتمع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Share power to manage and run an institution or project/ تعزيز مشاركة السلطات بين الشاب والمسؤولين - عن إدارة وتشغيل مؤسسة أو مشروع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have "adults" attend youth-organized events and projects / أن يحضر الأكبر عمراً الفعاليات والمشاريع - التي ينظمها الشباب</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provide skills development in fields related to civic engagement (e.g., public speaking, creativity)/ توفير دورات تنمية للمهارات المتعلقة بالمشاركة المدنية والمجتمعية : مثل الخطابة والإبداع</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Create formal youth representing bodies (e.g., youth councils/parliaments/boards)/ إنشاء هيئات شبابية رسمية (على سبيل المثال: مجالس الشباب / البرلمانات / هيئات شبابية)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p>
21.	<p>What resources/support is needed to get you engaged or motivate you to participate? (You can choose more than one)/ ما هي الموارد / الدعم المطلوب لإشراكك أو تحفيزك على المشاركة؟ (يمكنك اختيار أكثر من واحد)</p>
22.	<p>Which area do you find most important to have a say in? لك رأي فيه؟ ما هو المجال الذي تجده الأكثر أهمية ليكون لك رأي فيه؟</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Recreational activities (sports, culture)/ أنشطة ترفيهية (رياضية ، ثقافية)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education/ التعليم</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Employment – التوظيف</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality / المساواة بين الجنسين</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood planning / التخطيط المدني للأحياء السكنية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: غير ذلك، يرجى التحديد: _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environment/ البيئة</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / النقل والمواصلات</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local politics/ السياسات المحلية</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National politics/ السياسات الوطنية</p>
23.	<p>Would you have any further concerns or comments? هل لديك أية مخاوف أو تعليقات أخرى؟</p>

Thank you very much for your participation!

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