

MENA Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action

2017 Training



بناء قدرات الشباب في العمل الإنساني
في الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا
MENA Youth Capacity Building
in Humanitarian Action

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#MYCHA20



“If we want effective humanitarian action and hope for the future, we must embrace the full participation and priorities of young people...By introducing innovative solutions and serving the needs of affected populations, young people are building hope and resilience in all corners of the world.” – Opening Message from Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth

The Origins



Launched in 2017 by ROTA/EAA (along with partners UNHCR, OCHA, Qatar Red Crescent, and United Muslim Relief), the **MENA Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action (MYCHA) Initiative** aims to establish and replicate models of youth-friendly spaces that attract young people to learn about and take action on global humanitarian issues. The Initiative is designed as an effort to specifically contribute to Key Action 3 of the **Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action - capacity building and local action**.



World Humanitarian Summit Global Youth Consultation

The outcome document - [Doha Youth Declaration on Reshaping the Humanitarian Agenda](#) - identified priorities for reform (UNMGCY and ROTA, 2015).

2015



Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action

Signing of the [Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action](#), represented commitment of stakeholders to guaranteeing priorities of young people are addressed by the humanitarian system.

2016



Agenda for Humanity

Through a three-year inclusive consultative process which culminated in Istanbul at the first World Humanitarian Forum, stakeholders across all sectors set forth to bring about a new ["Agenda for Humanity"](#).

2016

The Model



At the core of the **MYCHA Initiative** is a series of three annual regional trainings hosted in Doha. The November 2017 training delivered practical learning that is now being applied by youth in their local contexts. Once participants returned to their home countries, they began receiving 6 months of ongoing support and mentorship by local NGOs to help them deliver youth-led humanitarian actions at the local level which they planned themselves. However, the activities under the initiative are not limited to the annual regional trainings and follow-up actions. The Initiative uses a rolling capacity building approach to actively engage youth in key activities throughout the year and thereby further strengthen their practical skills.

The goal of the MYCHA Initiative is to catalyze local youth-led humanitarian action and generate an evidence base on appropriate capacity-building methodologies which will become an effective model for engaging youth.

The MYCHA Initiative has six interrelated components, each of which designed to increase capacity among youth from crisis-affected contexts and to provide platforms for them to demonstrate their ability to contribute in positive ways. The regional level trainings at the center of the model will provide an initial platform for convening, networking and knowledge sharing during the formative phase. However, the vision is that each component of the emerging model will be synthesized into open source tools and resources which are replicable and adaptable by other agencies to meet their needs for engaging youth at the local level.



SKILLS MODULE

ROTA along with a set of key partners (UNHCR, UNOCHA, Qatar Red Crescent, & Doha Institute Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies) is developing and testing a new youth focused curriculum on the basics of humanitarian action.



ANNUAL REGIONAL TRAININGS

A series of three in-depth trainings are at the core of the initiative. These are designed to increase capacity of youth and youth-led groups. The trainings are critical learning and development benchmark points where data is gathered on the efficacy of the model.



LOCALIZED TRAININGS

Recognizing that it is at the local level where youth actions are likely to have the greatest impact, the aim is to contextualize the regional training for replication by local partners and to establish local mechanisms for empowering youth.



LOCAL YOUTH-LED ACTIONS

After completing the MYCHA training, youth receive 6 months of ongoing support and mentorship by partner NGOs to help them deliver actions at the local level which they have planned themselves.



YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

As an initiative aimed at recognizing and strengthening the capacities and capabilities of young people, MYCHA seeks to meaningfully engage youth in its design and leadership.



EVIDENCE GENERATION

Data is being collected and research conducted in order to demonstrate the value of youth action in crisis-affected contexts and to investigate methodologies for better enabling their engagement in such contexts.



The 2017 Training | Overall Results



The 2017 training provided a unique opportunity for 116 youth from across the MENA region (69 international and 47 Qatar-based; 53% female) to acquire knowledge and skills in humanitarian action. MYCHA was designed to target young people between the ages of 18-30 and all core sessions were delivered in Arabic to avoid language barriers. The training served as a convening platform for regional youth to interact with nine leading agencies in humanitarian action, including UN agencies, INGOs, Qatar-based NGOs and academia. Unlike other training workshops which often take a narrower scope, MYCHA provided a wide spectrum of relevant topics including: Humanitarian Action and Accountability, Ethics in Humanitarian Action, Disaster Response Management as well as several other focus areas.

Changes in Knowledge and Skills

At least two learning outcomes were identified for each session in order to assess changes in knowledge related to specific training topics. The post-training surveys showed variations in terms of acquiring the specific learning outcomes for each session; with an average of 62% of the participants achieving the cumulative learning outcomes across each of the sessions. The sessions on Code of Conduct for Humanitarian Response, Rapid Needs Assessment, Disaster Response Project Cycle, and Project Design scored the highest percentage of participants acquiring the intended learning outcomes.

By the end of the training, 96% of participants reported average or above average level of overall knowledge and skills related to humanitarian action, yet the change on that level pre versus post was not significant. The reasons for this need to be explored through triangulation with other factors and further qualitative data collection, but may include:

- Participants came with strong pre-existing knowledge base (58% are already engaged with humanitarian agencies) and 92% rated their knowledge and skills as average or above as per the results of the pre-training survey.
- Participant feedback indicated that the material presented may have been too basic.
- Overall changes in knowledge is measured only through self-assessment which may cause response bias.

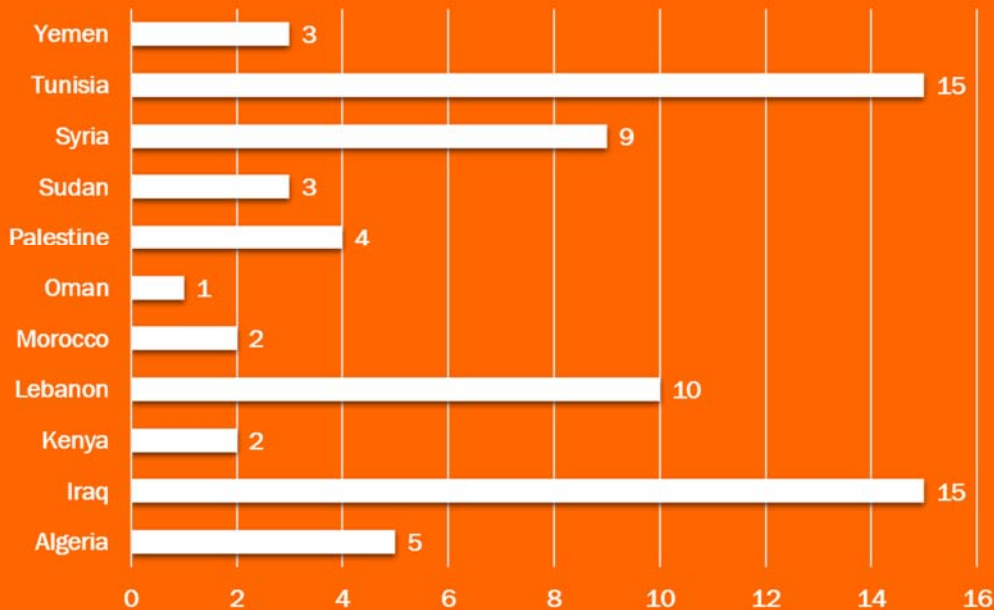
Satisfaction and Quality of Training

The overall satisfaction with the training content was very good in terms of usefulness, relevance and applicability. Participants also expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the overall quality of training logistics and venue, with 94% of the participants generally satisfied (including 42% extremely satisfied).

The 2017 Training | Outcomes



MYCHA International Participants by Nationality



MYCHA 2017 Achievements

116
youth

15
nationalities

3
training days

17
learning areas

43
sessions

6
months follow-up support
& mentorship

Outcome 1. Increase participants' sense of agency in humanitarian action

97% of participants believed that can contribute to local humanitarian action after the attending the training

Outcome 2. Improve participants' knowledge and skills related to humanitarian issues

96% of participants reported average or above level of skills related to humanitarian action after the training (including 49% reporting strong level and 18% reporting extensive level)

Outcome 3. Develop replicable training content which is responsive to youth needs

75% of participants rated the training content as meeting/exceeding expectations (usefulness, relevance and applicability will be further assessed after follow-up on the field action component)

**Four nationalities were represented by youth based in Qatar



The 2017 Training | Lessons Learned



Narrower Selection Criteria

Targeted participant selection

It was observed during the training that the range of capacity and previous experience varied among the youth present (58% had previous experience working with humanitarian organizations). This presents a challenge in tailoring the training to a certain level of content (i.e. too basic or too advanced). This point was flagged by some participants as well as by members of the training observation team. The selection process should include rigorous assessment of participants' level of humanitarian experience. Future trainings are being designed to target a more homogenous group of youth while varying levels of content are also being developed.

Defining "Youth Action"

Set clear expectations of youth action

An intended outcome of the MYCHA Training is that upon completion, youth are able to better demonstrate their capacity to take action in crisis-affected contexts. Recognizing that "action" is a broad categorization which could range from a large-scale aid project to simply becoming a volunteer, it is important to set out clearer expectations of what level of action the training will prepare youth to engage in. The aim is not to develop a parallel system whereby youth in crisis-affected settings begin launching their own humanitarian aid programs, but rather to better engage youth in work that is already being conducted. Further research is needed to investigate the appropriate nature of actions which are feasible and instrumental on the part of young people.

Balanced Training Content

Provide both normative and practical training content

The existing humanitarian system and architecture is complex. Understanding its workings means being aware of normative concepts such as humanitarian accountability, quality, coordination, codes of conduct, etc. The MYCHA Training was designed to give participants a broad spectrum overview of such concepts. However, as an action focused training, foundational concepts must be balanced with practical applications and experiences. This may be best achieved by employing specific case examples from the field and avoiding academic-style lectures.



The 2017 Training | Follow-up Phase



Upon completion of the training, participants are expected to have an understanding of the roots of humanitarian action across contexts, the global and local systems that govern humanitarian response, the need for and evolution towards responsible and ethical action, and the ability to translate their learning into action.

1) Local youth-led actions/initiatives

As part of the application process, all MYCHA Training participants plan their own local action initiatives to be carried out once they return home. For MYCHA purposes, the only criteria is that the action is led by youth and addresses priorities and needs identified by affected/displaced youth and/or their communities.

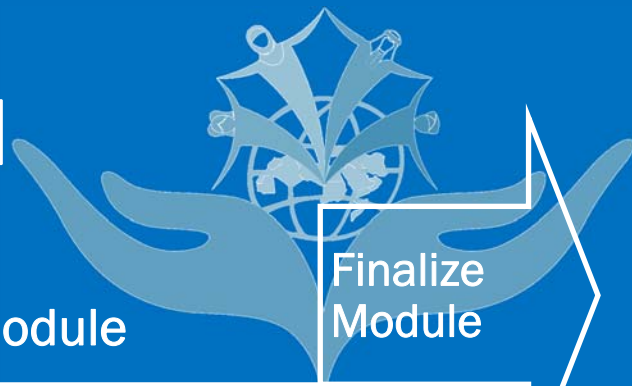
2) Tracking and reporting on actions

A process is underway to maintain follow-up contact with the participants during the 6-12 months post-training. These follow-up activities are being supported and monitored by United Muslim Relief (UMR) and their partner organizations working in the youths' home countries. The primary aim of this follow-up tracking phase is to determine how well the learning outcomes of the training translate into stronger and more effective youth-led humanitarian initiatives at the local level. Self-reporting, reflection, and monitoring will be undertaken to respond to any needs and to adjust the content and design for subsequent MYCHA trainings.

3) Convening a youth advisory group

Using a rolling capacity building approach, activities are done throughout the year to meaningfully and actively engage youth in key aspects of the initiative and thereby further strengthen their practical skills. Establishment of the **MYCHA Youth Advisory Group** is a central element of this emerging model and is being piloted as a way to anchor the skills youth are developing through the initiative. The advisory group is thus another mechanism for building capacity. The driving rationale for the advisory group is that, as an initiative aimed at recognizing and strengthening the capabilities of young people, MYCHA must meaningfully engage them in its design and leadership.

The Vision Forward



Further refinement of the training module

Finalize
Module

Until the formal launch of the **MYCHA Training Module**, the content will continue to be curated and refined. In order to learn from the application of the content in various contexts, partners who host local MYCHA trainings will be requested to:

- ⇒ Document any modifications, contextualization, or adaptation of core learning content
- ⇒ Share any newly developed/revised content used
- ⇒ Capture and share lessons learned

Localize
Trainings

Replication of MYCHA Trainings

For the first three years of the MYCHA Initiative, ROTA seeks to continuously build and refine the tools and processes for replicating trainings at the regional, national, and local levels. The first national level training is expected to occur in Amman, Jordan in mid-2018 with the intent to host further trainings in countries throughout the region in 2019.

Examine the efficacy of the model and underlying assumptions on youth action

Generate
Evidence

Young people already engage in meaningful actions in crisis-affected contexts; however, there has been little investigation into the nature of their actions or the types of skills required for them to be more involved. Research and evidence in these areas will further strengthen the underpinnings of the MYCHA Initiative. Findings may inform future decisions related to replication of MYCHA and similar initiatives, inform ways in which organizations can best empower youth to take on more prominent roles, and may also be used to underpin advocacy platforms.

Empower
Youth

Establishment of a Youth Advisory Group

A youth advisory group is being established as a mechanism for young people to have voice and provided direct input toward the ongoing development and refinement of the MYCHA Initiative. The work of the advisory group will be divided under three taskforces in the following areas: Research, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Advocacy.

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