

MA3AN YOUTH MENTORS ACTIVITIES

OVERVIEW AND OUTCOMES FROM MARCH 2019 TO MARCH 2021

Violent extremism remains an evolving threat in Tunisia. Youth are dissatisfied with and seek alternatives to poor economic conditions and social inequality, conditions exacerbated by Covid-19. Yet youth can be a tremendous force for positive, transformational change. With access to broader skill sets that include critical thinking, respect for diversity, and information literacy, youth are better equipped to resist the lure of violent extremism and empowered to catalyze their peers to resilience.

WHERE DO WE COME IN ?

Youth Mentors are community youth volunteers serving as peer trainers and mentors for marginalized youth in Ma3an communities to develop skills and support networks. Youth Mentors participate in intensive leadership, teamwork, and technical skills training. Ma3an provides on-going support to Youth Mentors as they conduct peer-led skills training and engage youth in local civic actions, using a Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach to address drivers of violent extremism in their communities. Youth Mentors collaborate with youth-serving organizations and public institutions to extend their reach and integrate their activities with the initiatives of local stakeholders.

52 Youth Mentors

29 Females & **23** Males

17 communities

MEDIA LITERACY

Learn to Discern (L2D) media literacy trainings develop information engagement skills of youth and empower them in the prevention of violent extremism by identifying misinformation and skills to seek alternatives to rhetoric.

38 trainings with **427** participants

STORYTELLING

Storytelling trainings allow youth to practice public speaking skills as well as bring marginalized voices to the forefront, enhancing social bonds to counter drivers of extremism.

44 trainings with **529** participants

PROFESSIONAL INSIGHT

Professional InSight trainings expose youth to employability needs in their communities, preparing youth to enter the job market and fostering avenues for community-based economic participation.

42 trainings with **434** participants

MENTORING

Mentoring sessions expand YM activities to engage in peer-to-peer learning with youth.

700 peer mentoring sessions

50.5%

female participation rate

43%

of participants are unemployed and looking for work

27%

of participants are high school dropouts

98%

of mentored youth reported achieving their session goals

COMMUNITY IMPACT

CREATING MISINFORMATION AWARENESS

In January 2021, youth protests erupted across Tunisia in response to ongoing socioeconomic hardships. In response to the tense situation, Youth Mentors from different communities launched a misinformation awareness campaign to help increase youth resilience to fake news and hate speech. Youth Mentors are producing social media posts, videos, graffiti art and even a comic book to strengthen resilience to misinformation. During the first two months of the campaign, Youth Mentors reached over 200,000 Tunisians on social media and garnered the appreciation of nationally recognized activists and community-serving organizations across the country.



EMPOWERING AT-RISK YOUTH IN SOUK JEDID REHABILITATION CENTER

Residents of the Souk Jdid Rehabilitation Center are temporarily housed at the facility for committing delinquencies and until they demonstrate promise to engage with their communities positively. The male residents, ages 14 -18, come from across Tunisia with varying ranges of education and literacy. Through their local Youth Mentors, they had a nontraditional opportunity to benefit from youth-to-youth training to grow their professional and peer networks, learn about career paths and opportunities, and build their life skills and collaboration, which can support their re-integration into society. Beyond the training objectives, the sessions strengthened the youths' feeling of inclusion, confidence, and self-esteem, addressing push factors of violent extremism.



BOOSTING EMPLOYABILITY THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

Under the slogan “Forsti” (“My Chance”), Youth Mentors from Sidi Abdelhamid launched a collaborative initiative between the Regional Center for Service Sector Training in Sousse, a center that provides vocational trainings for local youth; Icar, a local leader in the automotive industry; and YALD, a community-serving organization founded by a several Youth Mentors. This partnership was created to mitigate the issue of youth dropping out of high school and not qualifying for further educational, vocational or employment opportunities. Under “Forsti”, at-risk youth from the region of Sousse can now sign up for a two-year training program with Icar where they will receive a stipend, technical training, and employment opportunities.

