



Save Youth Future Society
جمعية إنقاذ المستقبل الشبابي

Save Youth Future Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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PeerHelpers

We Make Difference

Save Youth Future Society

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Our vision

Save Youth Future Society is a pathway to innovation, inspiration and ambition for all youth to lead a meaningful change for better future.

Our mission

Save Youth Future Society is an independent organization investing in creating opportunities for Palestinian youth to be engaged in community by empowering passionate volunteerism and capacity to lead Palestinian society to achieve sustainable development.

Summary

SYFS has been growing and developing for 19 years of continuous learning and giving. It continuously seeks to empower Palestinian youth and consequently to contribute to the development of the Palestinian society. Therefore, SYFS key strategic priorities form the basis for four main programmatic areas, namely investing in Education, fostering Economic Empowerment, and promoting youth Civic Participation, as well as enhancing Capacity Development of volunteers and partners. Furthermore, SYFS is proud to be the first to establish Youth Council and Youth Organizations' Network in the Gaza Strip. As part of its evolving and responding to the changes in the context and youths' needs, SYFS started developing an IT programme that can provide youth with the necessary space, facilities and support needed to make them successful entrepreneurs and freelancers. In 2019 SYFS developed new partnerships with the local and international NGOs to collaborate towards attaining its objectives and scale up its impact. It succeeded in reaching 61,630 community members (29,928 male and 31,702 female). This growth was possible due to our partners, the staff and volunteers' constructive engagement and passion to develop and contribute to the community. SYFS will continue to grow, respond to the community needs, empower youth and be the home for Palestinian youth leaders.

From the Youth

From the deep held belief and commitment we-the youth- have that our role is instrumental in the society, we harnessed our power through the Youth Council to promote the spirit of citizenship, build youth capacities and to be engaged in voluntary work to help others. This all feeds into preparing us to carry the responsibilities of changing our society for the better.

The amount of community events in 2019 that we participated in was enough to enrich our intellectual abilities and enhance our thinking in developing youth initiatives that create change. This is reflected through the diverse community initiatives we implemented. An example of these were the initiatives that focused on education; these initiatives contributed to making a change by helping children who dropped out of school due to financial difficulty or girls at risk of early marriage to return to school through the support we designed according to the needs we identified in our community. We also opened learning centres as a first step towards better education and as means for cultural promotion. Furthermore, we were able to express our desire in participating in politics and succeeded in organizing workshops about our right to participate in the political process, we held debates and organized accountability sessions for municipalities. We can see the impact that youth have carved in raising community's awareness for the need to integrate women and PWD. In addition to the technological innovation in which youth used their IT skills to create smart solutions for many problems (inclusion of PWD, raise awareness of GBV, and peace Hackathon). The impact of these achievements is long-term as they empower youth capacities and enable us to play an active part in our society by highlighting community issues through the initiatives and the activities that contribute to finding solutions. All of this, help us- youth- leave our fingerprints in the change we make in our society.

The hopes and aspiration of Palestinian youth are not any less than the youth in the rest of the world. Palestinian youth hope to live freely and safely, to participate in the democratic process, to play a role in building their society through their community participation, implementation of creative initiatives and integration of decision-making. They are also working, like others worldwide, towards the realization of SDG.

We thank everyone who contributed to our mission and is supporting youth power!



Civic Participation Programme

Greater Engagement... Broader Impact... Making a Difference!

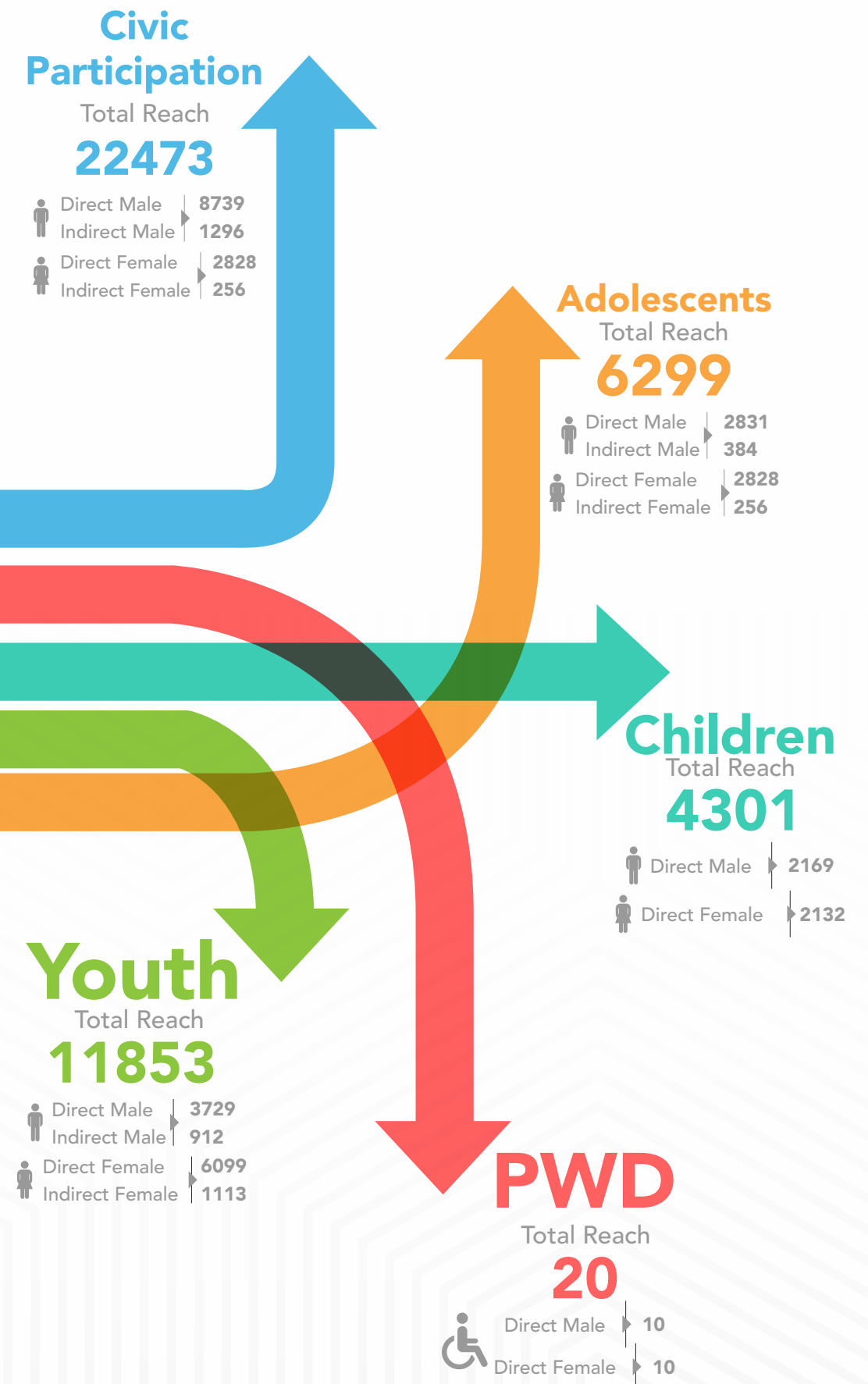
Strategic Objective

Enhance Youth Civic Participation in the Palestinian Society



Reach

1. In partnership with UNFPA, strengthened capacity of health and social protection actors to promote gender equality, reproductive right and effectively address gender-based violence; through capacity development for youth in GBV, SRH, peer education and gender equality. In addition to building youth capacity in emergency response, as well as supporting youth led humanitarian initiatives in (education, GBV and SRH) and the establishment of Peer-Helpers Network. SYFS was also involved in the implementation of the first Youth Summit in Gaza Strip.
2. Developed youth capacity in promoting culture of peace, tolerance and nonviolence through the use of films to engage the community (children, adolescents, youth and adults) in discussions about non-violence and conflict resolution.
3. Organised the Social Innovation Camp with the UNDP/PAPP which consisted of a hackathon to improve persons with disabilities access to information and services through a group of applications and/or websites ideas developed during the camp.
4. In partnership with UNDP and in support by the People of Japan, SYFS implemented a two weeks' camp for children and children with disability in order to achieve the objective of creating short-term alternative spaces for traumatized children and young people (both male and female) in Gaza Strip.
5. Developed the capacity of young people to engage in social transformation in partnership with Fredrich Ebert Stiftung.
6. In Partnership with UNICEF, SYFS worked via summer camps to increase parents, teachers, adolescents and other stakeholders' knowledge and skills to eliminate harmful practices and better protect children from violence, exploitation and grave violations.



Economic Empowerment Programme

**Striving for Dreams...
Shaping Future...
Making a Difference!**

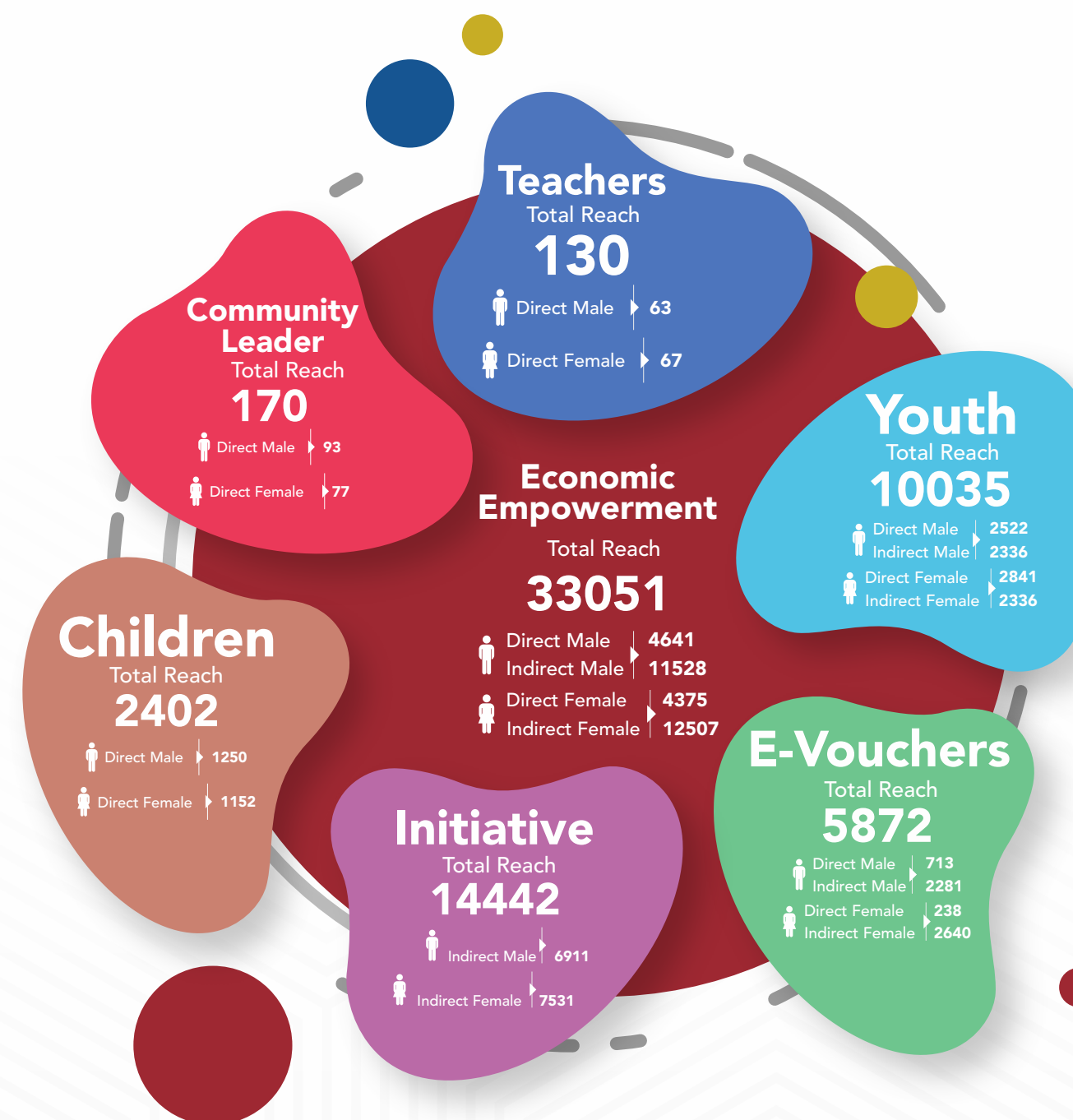
Strategic Objective

**Improve Economic Conditions
of Palestinian
Youth and Women**



Reach

1. In partnership with Save the Children, SYFS worked to achieve the objective of poverty reduction and strengthening community resilience by developing and supporting youth entrepreneurs in green technology; supported youth –led initiatives for environmental protection, established community protection committees and DRR manual for targeted communities and supported community led protection initiatives.
2. Establishment of co-working spaces in Khan-Younis and Gaza for freelancers and programmers use.
3. In partnership with Mercy Corps provided career counselling for youth to orient them on online work and freelance opportunities and developed their technical capacities i.e. Graphic Design, Coding, English language, Marketing.
4. In partnership with Care International worked to enhance women and youth entrepreneurship through awareness raising sessions, implementation of Social Change initiatives and an intensive soft skills training with youth in their communities.
5. In partnership with NGO Development Center provided 130 jobs for university graduates teachers and improved school achievement for (1402) students between the ages of 9-15yrs .
6. In partnership with Mercy Corps provided multi-cash assistance for vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip.



Education Programme

**Engaged Learners...
Creative Growth...
Making a Difference!**

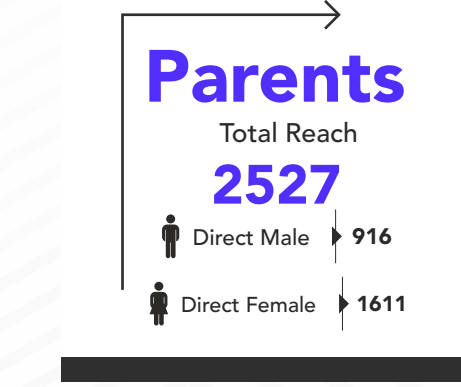
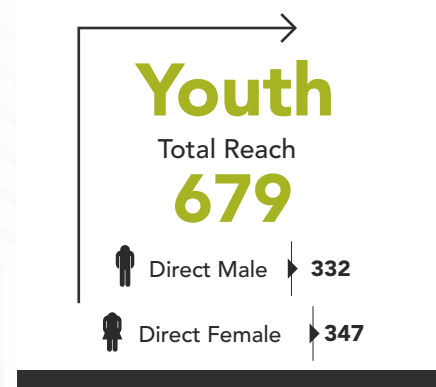
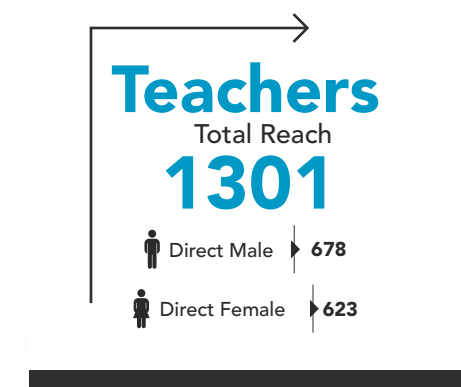
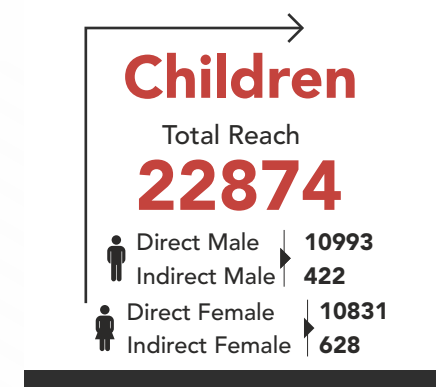
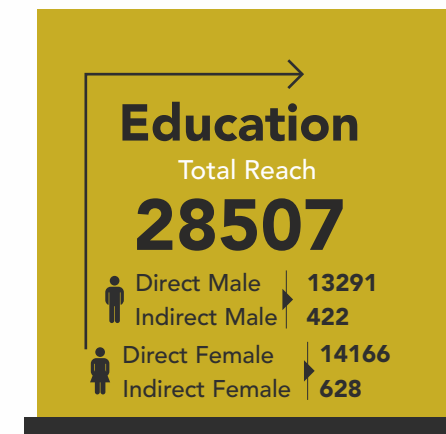
Strategic Objective

**Improve Quality Inclusive
Education for all
Palestinian Children**



Reach

1. In partnership with UNICEF, SYFS worked on integration of life skills education through applying active learning methodologies in teaching core subjects and provision of remedial education lessons to low achieving students from grades 3-5; in addition SYFS worked with school principals, developed teacher's capacity in active learning and child safeguarding and referral mechanisms, provided children with the needed stationary, developed visual and audio materials to facilitate active learning, and developed parents and caregivers capacity on how to follow up with their children to enhance their educational attainment.
2. In partnership with Save the Children, SYFS contributed to creating a safe, violence-free and protective learning environment for primary level boys and girls in oPt, by developing child friendly COC, provision of extracurricular activities, developing parents' capacities to combat violence, and established School Development Committees.
3. SYFS in partnership with UNDP is implementing Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme, which provided 659 scholarships for high achieving students from vulnerable background to continue their university education, as well as develop their skills for the market place through internships and courses in English Language and ICT. SYFS continued to provide the necessary support for the remaining students, organise extracurricular events such as sports activities and held graduation ceremony for 83 students in December 2019.



Capacity Development Programme

**Skillful Team...
Effective Approach...
Making a Difference!**

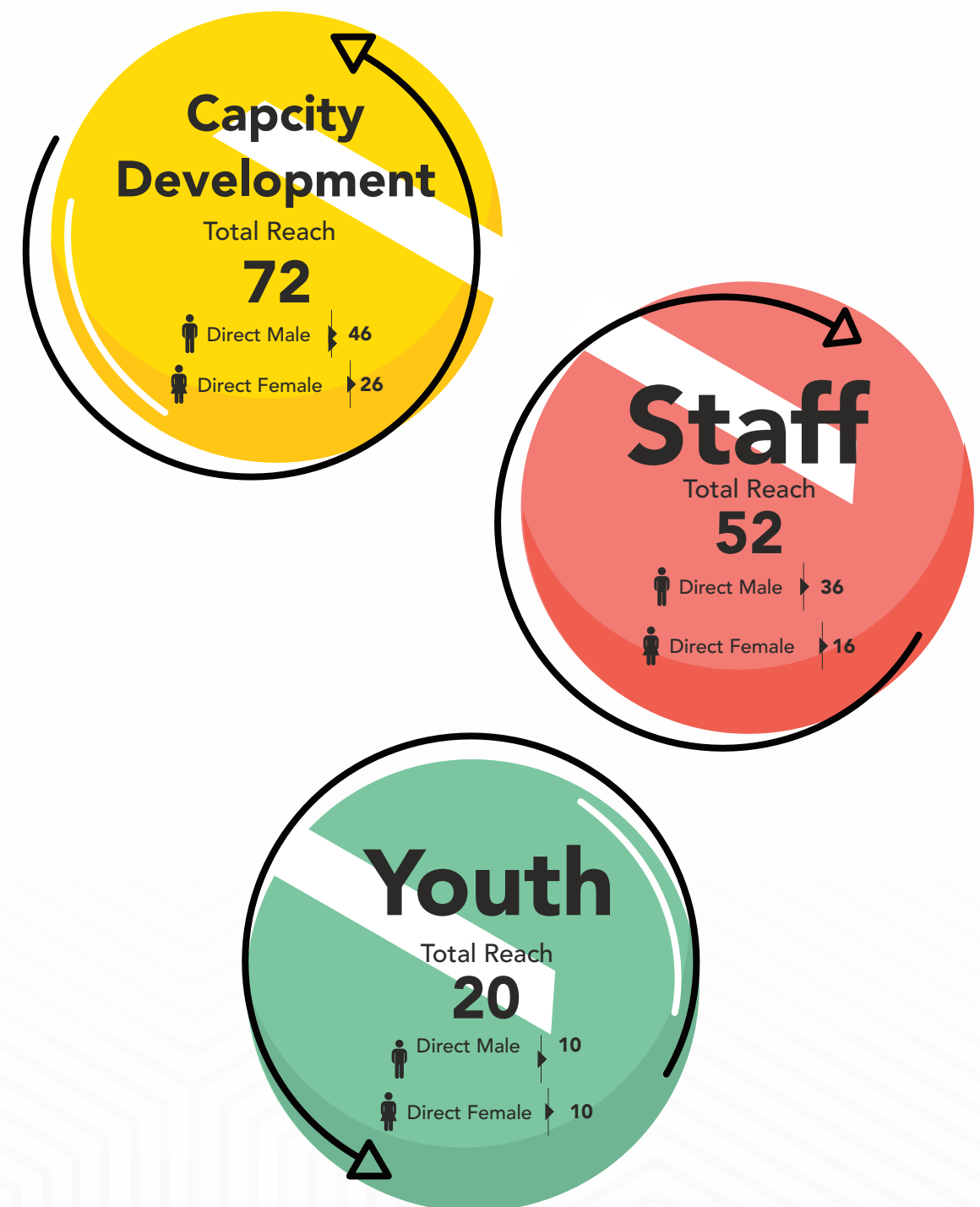
Strategic Objective

**Develop Capacities of
Youth Volunteers and
Partner Organizations**



Reach

1. 10-week “Hackathon” for youth that included instruction on cross-cultural collaboration, introduction to coding languages, and facilitated project design.
2. SYFS staff benefited from a developed electronic system to enhance monitoring and efficiency in the workplace.
3. 2 staff members participated in an EU training on Financial and Result oriented reporting, specifically organized for grantees within the EU Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI).
4. 2 staff members and 2 youth volunteers participated in ROTA's Capacity Building Programme for Youth in Humanitarian Action (MYCHA).





Civic Participation

Education

Capacity Development

Economic Empowerment

Stories from the Field

Civic Participation

Nurhan is a 17 year old girl from Beach Camp-Gaza, Nurhan was referred to the Peer Helpers through SYFS. Nurhan is experiencing severe sexual, and physical violence in her home. She has a family with 6 siblings living under turmoil. Her house is very small with poor windows, furniture and doors, she has no room for privacy and abused by her brother who is mentally ill. It is not the only sickness in the family, her other brother has a lazy eye, and her father has lost his job, and with great efforts from her mother to be able to become the family breadwinner, her mother was also exposed to community rejection and violence and as a result Nurhan was severely exposed to adolescent marriage by her family due acute economic conditions. As result of the family assessment, Peer Helpers rehabilitated her house, made her a small private space, psychological counselling provided, and her father was supported with a kiosk to ensure that the family has a sustainable source of income. She said, “Two years ago, I was happy that I was becoming noticed as grown woman, but I was facing violence from the family imposing many cultural aspects and then at home I was experiencing violence from the closest ones. I felt depressed and disappointed with no hope just to leave my parents' house under any circumstances. The initiative has enabled me to have my own closet, mirror, makeup and new friends to help me get out from my darkest point to a level that I can feel more empowered to work with my community and friends helping them with their lives

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Economic Empowerment

Zahra is 26 years old, she is the first female entrepreneur of Stevia production. Stevia is a natural popular sugar substitute. It is the first time in Gaza to plant this kind. It is not available in Gaza; it is always imported from abroad. About 22, 000 tons is imported annually based on recent researches. Zahra thought of this entrepreneurial idea to find a great solution for having healthy and safe plant for diet. Stevia tastes 200-300 times sweeter than the white sugar, and yet it is with zero calories. It helps also the diabetes to manage the sugar blood levels. Zahra is planting it in an artificial soil and so to be away from the ground soil that is contaminated with chemicals from wars. She started with planting 600 stevia seeds in an artificial soil in a 200 meter green house; it doesn't consume water. And she doubled the quantity to reach 1100 seeds now. It is distinguished of rapid production all over the year and needs only small spaces. She harvests it every month and half. She got the license from the Ministry of Economy. She is contributing to cover the gap in the local market; there is a great demand and interest on it. She uses modern techniques and organic fertilization away from the use of chemicals and pesticides. She is proud and so satisfied for succeeding in stevia production that is now available for the first time in Gaza markets and big malls as care4 and different pharmacies and so encouraging the local products to cover the market needs. She sells about 20-25 packages daily with 20 NIS / per package. A delegations from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy conducted field visits to her business and facilitated for her to get the registration for her product. She could get a brand name for her product to promote it. She is doing more efforts in preparing the product; she picks up the leaves and then she dries it at home manually using shade and airing technique and hoped to secure the drying machine in order to facilitate her work and increase the production. She is dealing with a factory for packaging it appropriately. Field tours from different NGO's conducted to her business to be briefed on Stevia production. Moreover; she could open new part-time job opportunity and has two employees working with her.

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Education

Tala is 10 years old with mobility impairment. Before joining the remedial classes, Tala couldn't write well for long time, and unable to use the pencil properly, due to her disability, which had negative impact on her learning performance. Her mother said: “Tala school achievement was so weak that her performance put her behind her 50 classmates. Teachers couldn't provide her with the necessary attention she needed due to the classroom density. However, after joining the remedial classes, and receiving the support she needed, there has been great improvement to her performance”.

Tala was born in a very poor family and her parents couldn't afford hiring teachers to give her private lessons at home. So, the remedial classes provided her with the opportunity to catch up with her classes. The remedial classes empowered her to be a strong and confident girl. According to the mother, Tala's teachers helped her to improve her reading and writing skills in Arabic language and the basic numerical skills in Maths. Now she can understand the exam's questions which improved her achievement in the two subjects. She also added that Tala became an active student and participated in school activities such as “morning broadcasting” and she was awarded for her efforts. “I am so happy, I can read and write as my classmate. I love my teacher and my class too much.” Tala said.

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Capacity Development

Ms Heba is the Civic Participation programme manager at SYFS in which she is responsible for youth programmes that aim to highlight the role of youth in their community and involve them in decision-making.

One of the projects implemented as part of the civic participation programme was the Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action in North Africa and Middle East (MYCHA initiative), which was in cooperation with ROTA, one of Education Above All Foundation programmes,

The cooperation began in early 2019, it took 6 months of preparations and establishing partnerships with NGOs and INGOs to join the initiative in building the capacity of young people, who are implementing voluntary community initiatives, in different topics in humanitarian action. Subsequently, MYCHA initiative was successfully implemented for the first time in Gaza Strip- Palestine.

In addition to the training that was held in Gaza Strip, ROTA was planning for its regional capacity building programme (MYCHA) that was decided to take place in November 2019 in Qatar. SYFS was invited to attend and share the experiences of the influential Palestinian youth and present their voluntary community work. Moreover, I was asked to be the trainer for the community needs assessment led by youth.

During the capacity building programme implemented by ROTA, I met youth from different Arab countries and heard their experience in humanitarian work that serves their community. I felt their passion and aspiration to make change with the simplest humanitarian initiatives, we exchanged our experiences and learnt about each other's culture.

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THANK YOU!

To the youth volunteers for all their efforts and their constructive role in making a positive change in their community

To our partners who supported SYFS and youth work in achieving their vision and mission



NGO Development Center



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