

A Paradigm Shift for the AL Hallabat Local Development Unit in Engaging Local Youth

The August 15th elections marks a milestone in Jordan's history as the country prepares to implement decentralization. In the coming months, municipalities across Jordan are expected to work increasingly closer with every segment of their communities including youth. This closer relationship with the youth in their respective communities will be highlighted by the sharing of information, ideas, feedback on plans and decisions, and at times, with the two parties exchanging and jointly developing guidance on how the community's youth and their municipal officials can better work together. To contribute to this desired transformation, in (insert month) CITIES conducted training for the AL Hallabat Local Development Unit (LDU) staff to discuss the importance of youth engagement and how the LDU can support the municipality's efforts in establishing a Youth Service Providers network.



CITIES and AL Hallabat LDU staff during the session



Participants during a brainstorming exercise on youth engagement

One LDU member, Osama Minwer, shared his view that because of the training experience, "I used to think that working with youth is all about imposing ideas, now I understand that to be effective I need to engage youth and base my activities on their needs".

Throughout the training session and consistent with the intent of decentralization, topics of empowering youth, effective youth engagement, and the importance of voluntary work were discussed. CITIES explored with

the LDU staff innovative ways to approach, and cooperate, with Youth Service Providers.

Eng. Khaled Al Zaben of the AL Hallabat LDU staff summarized his feelings at the conclusion of the training as: "This session highlighted a lot of issues that were forgotten. I never thought about youth from that perspective". It made it clear to me that working with youth isn't only just to fill their free-time. Now I understand the importance of youth engagement".

***** The End *****