

YOUTH AFTER COVID-19

15 June 2021 | 11:00-14:00 CEST

Via Inwink

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Youth of Jordan

Youth after COVID-19

The MENA region has the largest youth population in the world: more than half of its population is below the age of 25. Youth in the MENA region has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated existing challenges due to impact on physical and mental health and its long-term social and economic implications.¹

Because of the crisis, 8.3 million people are at risk of falling into poverty in the MENA region.² Youth unemployment levels reached 23% and 42% for young women on average across Arab states in 2020.³ Moreover, the disruption in the access to public services, such as education, has put young people on a much more volatile trajectory in finding decent jobs, housing and other milestones of adulthood. With the closure of youth centres and youth clubs due to sanitary reasons, spaces for social interaction and non-formal learning largely shifted to online platforms. This has raised new concerns about the exclusion of vulnerable groups from online spaces but also the risk of increased exposure to disinformation via social media. In parallel, since the onset of the crisis, young people have shown resilience, solidarity with older age cohorts, and agency in mitigating the crisis by supporting vulnerable groups in society, thus fostering social cohesion.

In a context of tight fiscal space, governments must include youth considerations in the implementation of recovery measures to avoid an inflation of its social and economic costs. A future-oriented inclusive dialogue is needed to build a consensus around the decisions that are necessary today to lift youth on a trajectory of better opportunities.

Objective of the event

The event will gather high-level government officials, policy makers, youth-led organisation, youth and social entrepreneurs from the MENA region and OECD countries to discuss prospects for a more youth-responsive future post-COVID-19.

The OECD will present new regional comparative evidence and recommendations from its Youth Reviews of Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The evidence will also pave the way for a MENA regional report on this topic later in 2021. In interactive sessions, government officials and young people will envisage a post-COVID-19

¹ OECD (2020), [COVID-19 and Youth: Response, recovery and resilience](#)

² OECD (2020), [COVID-19 crisis response in MENA countries](#)

³ ILO (2020), [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the future of jobs](#).



world, in which policies, programmes and services are more responsive to their needs; young people have an active stake in decisions that affect their future and current governance challenges to their participation in economic, social, and public and political life. Participants will also discuss how to get there – based on an exchange of good practices and lessons learned.

The event is organised in the context of the “Youth in Public Life” project, which is financially supported by the MENA Transition Fund of the G7 Deauville Partnership.

Registration

The event will take place virtually via Inwink. A livestream and interactive online forum will be embedded into the website for participants to exchange and interact during and after the event.

Kindly note that the meeting will be held in English, French and Arabic and that simultaneous interpretation will be available.

Follow the event on social media: [#shabab4MENA](https://twitter.com/shabab4MENA).

AGENDA

15 June 2021 via Inwink

Kindly note that the meeting will be held in English, French and Arabic and that simultaneous interpretation will be available.

10:45 – 11:00	Registration
	Speakers will be invited to log-in and test their audio/visual connection
11:00 – 11:30	Opening session
	<i>The session will open the event by highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on young people in Jordan and across the MENA region and discuss the role young people have played in mitigating its impact.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. M. Mohammad Salameh Faris Nabulsi, Minister of Youth, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan• H.E. Ms. Bridget Brind, British Ambassador to Jordan• Ms. Miriam Allam, Head of MENA-OECD Governance Programme, OECD
	<u>Master of Ceremony:</u> Mr. Aimane Cherragui , Youth and Civil Society Expert



11:30 – 12:30

**Presentation of the OECD Youth Reviews
and youth-led dialogue on turning findings into action**

Following a brief presentation of the report findings by the OECD Secretariat, youth policy makers from Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia will discuss findings and recommendations in an interactive dialogue format in the first part of the session.

- **Mr. Moritz Ader**, Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Mr. Jehad Masadeh**, Planning Affairs Advisor to the Minister of Youth, Jordan
- **Ms. Charlotte Denise-Adam**, Policy Analyst, OECD
- **M. Mohammed Reda Bouayad**, Head of Youth Division, Morocco, **M. Mohamed Aouzen**, Head of Service of Youth Centres, Morocco
- **Ms. Amira Tlili**, Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Mr. Foued Ouni**, Director General of the National Observatory for Youth, Tunisia

In the second part, based on the finding and recommendations discussed, youth-led civil society organisations from Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia will discuss priorities for a post-COVID-19 world, in which the concerns of young people across the MENA region are more systematically embedded in policy making and programming. The session will focus on practical steps that are necessary today to lift youth on a positive life trajectory post COVID-19.

- **Mr. Aimane Cherragui**, Youth and Civil Society Expert
- **Mr. Moutasem Abuhamdan**, Opinions Without Borders, Jordan
- **Ms. Ikram Ben Hassine**, Club Culturel Ali Belhouane, Tunisia
- **Ms. Yasmine Boutaib**, Institut Prometheus pour la Démocratie et les Droits Humains, Morocco

Followed by Q/A.

12:30 – 12:40

Keynote intervention

H.E. Ms. Shamma Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth Affairs, United Arab Emirates (recorded message)

12:40 – 13:45

Building resilience with and for youth in the MENA region



MENA-OECD
Governance Programme
Training Centre

**Organised with the MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training
Centre of Caserta**



The fast pace of transformations are posing new challenges to resilience in the MENA region. Young people have been at the forefront of mitigating the COVID-19 crisis and harnessing the opportunities of digitalisation while addressing new challenges for future well-being, such as climate change. This session will discuss ways to build resilience with and for young people and future generations in the MENA region.

Welcome remarks: **Mr. Maurizio Mensi**, Executive Director, MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta

Moderator: **Ms. Chiara Lovotti**, Associate Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies

- **Dr. Sherifa Sherif**, Director, National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, Egypt
- **Mr. Assaad Thebian**, Founder of Gherbal Initiative, Lebanon
- **Ms. Monika Skadborg**, Board Member in the European Youth Forum and Chair of the Youth Climate Council in Denmark
- **Ms. Farah Aladra**, Acting Head of Projects and Engagement, Arab Youth Center, UAE
- **Ms. Alya Al-Shanfari**, Member of Youth Development Committee, Oman

Followed by Q/A.

13:45 – 14:00

Concluding remarks

- **Dr. Hussein Jbour**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Youth, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **H.E. Ms. Hasna Ben Slimane**, Minister to the Head of Government in charge of Civil Service in Tunisia, Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **H.E. Amb. Antonio Bernardini**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD, Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme