



FACT SHEET

Education and Youth

USAID Non-Formal Education Program



BACKGROUND

Questscope's focus on non-formal education (NFE) began in 1998 as a response to a chronic crisis of exclusion from formal education in Jordan. At that time, more than 80,000 young Jordanian dropouts had no educational option before them. Questscope and the Ministry of Education (MOE) developed two interventions: a national-level 24-month NFE program (general education equivalence for 10th grade certification), and a participatory learning methodology (PLM®) focused on the development of critical thinking. Both NFE and PLM® were in prototype stage until 2004, to allow for iterations with children, youth, families, teachers (referred to as facilitators) and ministry officials. Since 2004, the prototypes have been piloted in a unique GOJ-NGO cooperation in which more than 12,000 children have participated.

The Syria refugee crisis, now entering its fifth year, has forced over 4 million refugees to flee, and has left 6.5 million displaced within Syria. Among those affected are nearly 80,000 school-aged Syrian refugees in Jordan who are out-of-school. Approximately two-thirds of those students are ineligible for formal schooling. Education is repeatedly identified as a fundamental human right for youth and adolescents—*especially* in conflict situations—yet tens of thousands still have no access to quality schooling.

The influx of Syrian refugees has put additional strain on an already struggling public education system, making it even more difficult for out-of-school Jordanians and students at-risk of dropping out to complete their education. In 2014, UNICEF reported that 21,234 12-15 year old Jordanians were not enrolled in school.

Youth without basic educational qualifications take the lowest-skilled, lowest-paid jobs, are exposed to labor exploitation, resort to negative coping mechanisms such as street hustling, and risk the social stigma of being labeled as “failures” or “criminals.” In these contexts, quality education interventions can provide youth and adolescents with a path forward toward a positive and productive future.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Over the next two years, the USAID Non-Formal Education (NFE) Program will provide at least 1,680 out-of-school youth in Jordan with access to a quality education. By establishing 28 new NFE centers and building the capacity of educators in dozens more, the NFE Program will improve educational and social outcomes for youth in Jordan, including for Syrian refugees. The NFE Program will be implemented by Questscope, an Amman-based INGO focusing on youths' social and emotional development, and in collaboration with the Jordan Ministry of Education (MoE) and local community actors. Questscope's NFE program is grounded in a specialized Participatory Learning Methodology® that actively engages students in their own learning and facilitates positive relationships between learners and educators. Over the past ten years, Questscope's NFE program has enrolled over 12,000 youth throughout Jordan.

ACTIVITIES

- 28 new NFE centers will be established and equipped throughout Jordan in collaboration with Questscope and the Jordan Ministry of Education.
- Local community members will serve as Outreach Mobilizers at each NFE center to enroll new students and organize local community committee meetings.
- Every week, enrolled students will participate in ten hours of NFE programming, focused on their individual educational and socio-emotional needs.
- Learners will play an active role in shaping their own classroom environment and the topics covered during NFE sessions.
- An online and in-person Community of Practice will build the capacity of and establish networks among NFE Facilitators.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Through three cycles of NFE over the course of the two-year program, at least 1,680 students will be given equitable access to a quality education, including over 650 Syrian refugees. Students who complete the program will receive a MoE certificate of completion, enabling them to pursue further educational and vocational training opportunities.
- Over 300 educators and community members will collectively have access to 56 days of training—including separate modules on topics that include outreach and advocacy training, conducting needs assessments, child protection, training of trainers, and Questscope's unique Participatory Learning Methodology®.
- Parents will meet on a regular basis with NFE Facilitators to monitor their child's progress in the program. Also, community members will participate in local committee meetings through the NFE program to promote their active involvement in this alternative education initiative.
- Through Technical and Steering Committee meetings, and in collaboration with the Jordan Ministry of Education and Questscope NFE Facilitators, the NFE curriculum will be updated and enhanced. Also, four NFE manuals will be published and disseminated to all NFE centers. Provision of these manuals and updated curriculum to NFE practitioners will increase their capacity to better implement NFE.



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Duration: Two Years

Total Funding: \$4.5 million

Geographic Coverage: Jordan

Implemented by: Questscope

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