



**The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Higher Council for Youth**

**National Youth Strategy for Jordan
2005- 2009**

Summary

Prepared by



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&



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PREFACE / INTRODUCTION:

This National Youth Strategy represents a declaration and a commitment by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of the priorities, directions and support it intends to give to the development of the capabilities of its young men and women between 2005 - 2009. As a statement, it is hoped that it will raise the profile of, and understanding of Jordanian young people. It is intended to act as a national vision, framework and consensus regarding their development and their active involvement in, and contribution to community and national life. The National Youth Strategy is a national document which national institutions are committed to implement.

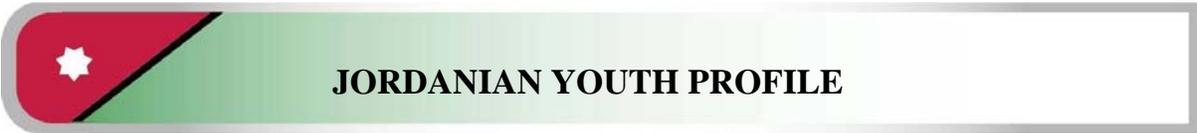
This National Youth Strategy is a response to the directives of His Majesty King Abdullah II, which called for the needs and contributions of Jordanian young people to become a national priority. Writing the Forward to the Jordan Human Development Report in the year 2000, His Majesty King Abdullah II declared Jordan's young people as 'its greatest asset and hope for the future. We must tap our young people's intellectual, creative, and reproductive potential in order for Jordan to keep up with new developments in global scientific, economic and social factors'

Our Majesty King Abdullah II in His Throne Speech at the opening of the 14th Parliament (2003) referred to "activating society's potential and involving all parties in its development, especially young people and women. The change which we aspire can only be achieved through mobilising young people and listening to their views as they are the pillars of tomorrow and the substance of change." In His Royal Letter of Mandate for the Government, dated 20 July, 2003, His Majesty stated "Youth are our weapon for the future, therefore it is imperative to launch their potential and direct it towards public national service ,and organise it in group frameworks to include concerns of our country"

The National Youth Strategy formulation process utilised a scientific, participatory and cooperative approach, involving national government, private sector, voluntary organisations and international agencies. It involved 18 months of research and consultation. It tapped into the insights of many workers within the youth work sector. Above all, the Strategy formulation involved a process that listened to the voices of young women and men. The National Youth Strategy is built on the expressed needs and aspirations of young women and men. A total of nearly 50,000 Jordanian young people contributed their ideas and opinions (see Annex II for a summary of activities and participant numbers).

This National Youth Strategy identifies and explores nine central themes that impinge strongly on the lives of young Jordanians, namely participation, civil rights and citizenship, recreation activities and leisure time, media and culture, ICT and globalization, education and training, employment, health and environment. This Strategy provides strategic objectives and operational objectives for each.

Finally, this National Youth Strategy is unique in the Arab world - Jordan is the first country to produce a national strategy that outlines a comprehensive and long term vision and plan for the development of its young women and men.



JORDANIAN YOUTH PROFILE

3.1 Youth Definition

This National Youth Strategy is directed towards young Jordanian males and females who are aged 12 to 30 years old. These are the years that most people move from childhood to adulthood, from dependence to independence. It is acknowledged that this group requires special interventions to ensure a positive transition, and enable them to reach their full potential. The Jordan National Human Development Report (2000) summarized this age period with these words – ‘Jordan youth stand at a critical cross-roads in their personal lives, as they navigate the challenging passage from childhood to adulthood. Most of them are making the shift from being recipient of society’s care and services, to becoming contributors to society’s growth and development. In a fast changing world, they are the generation of Jordanians that must make the fastest changes to exploit new opportunities, meet fresh challenges, and vanquish old constraints.’

This Strategy acknowledges that even within the 12-30 age range there are a number of youth age brackets whose needs and issues may vary. This Strategy and its subsequent Action Plan specifically uses the four age brackets to differentiate actions, namely 12 – 15, 16 – 18, 19 – 22 and 23 – 30 years.

This Strategy recognizes that young Jordanians are by no means a homogeneous group. While some young women and men are still at school, others have completed their education or left early; some are rurally based, others experience an urban lifestyle; while some are employed or self employed, others are unemployed; and while many young people live with their parents, others are themselves parents. Young people in Jordan experience a diversity of circumstances. This National Youth Strategy seeks to provide a vision and framework for the development of all young Jordanians, irrespective of their social, economic and locational circumstances.

3.2 Key Youth Demographics

Jordanian society is very youthful in nature. Those under 30 represent 74% of the entire population. Young people (12 – 30) represent 40% of the population of Jordan, approximately 2.2 million in numbers. They are the single largest population group in the country.

In terms of distribution for strategy's target group, 25% of young Jordanians reside within the Middle region, with over 50% of this number residing in the two cities of Amman and Zarqa. 11% and 4 % of young Jordanians are located within the Northern region and Southern region respectively.

3.3 Education and Training Participation

Jordan’s considerable investment in its human resources is reflected in its well educated workforce, and a large number of university graduates, both male and female. Jordan’s educational enrolment rate is very impressive when compared to other countries in the region.

65.8% of 10 – 24 year olds are enrolled in educational and / or training institutes, thus ensuring that education and training participation is a very significant issue in this National Youth Strategy. By age 20 years, the majority of both young women and men have left education, though 20.5% of females and 22% of males continue education, pursuing a degree at university. Among the 20 – 24 age group, only 13% of females and 14% of boys have not completed less than a basic education. Each year, 130,000 new students join the education system.

A National Youth Survey of 16 – 24 year olds in 2002 – ‘Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views’* provided many interesting insights into the educational experiences and opinions of Jordanian young people, including –

- most see education as a way to better work opportunities, and acquiring both personal and life skills;
- 74% of females and 81% of males in the 15 – 19 year old age group see their current education as beneficial for their future;
- young males strongly see the purpose of education is for job opportunities, while females value the intrinsic value of education first, followed by understanding problems, job opportunities and self confidence;
- the major reasons for not completing a basic education were financial constraints, family pressures and lack of academic success; and
- 58% of young women who leave education early, do so to get married. However, generally the education of females is highly valued in Jordanian society.

3.4 Employment Participation

Employment is a critical issue for young Jordanians. Currently 31% of Jordanian young people are currently unemployed. Unemployed 20 – 24 year olds comprise 41% of the total unemployed within Jordan. Only 11% of females and 54% of males are working for pay in the 20 – 24 year old group. The workforce participation rate of the 15 – 20 year age group is only 4.6%. Success in tertiary education is no guarantee of employment with 40% of holders of a bachelor's degree being unemployed.

Most employment (65%) is concentrated in the Middle region, 37% of young employed people work in the public sector, 63% in the private sector.

The JNHDR 2000 and the 2003 National Youth Study provided many interesting insights into the employment practices and opinions of Jordanian young people, including –

- the unemployment rate for young females is nearly three times higher than that of young men;
- only around one third of all 15 – 24 years work. Among young females, only one in 20 had a job. However, only one in eight males considered himself unemployed, and only one in 20 females did so;

* ‘Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views’ is a 230 page national youth study published by the UNICEF Jordan Country Office in 2002. It is based on a survey of 8,800 households between July and October 2001. It provides for the first time a comprehensive picture of the situation and attitudes of Jordanian young people between the ages of 10 – 24 years, and includes such life themes as education, employment, health, leisure, mobility, self perception, general attitudes and legal awareness. It represents an important exercise prior to formulating a National Youth Strategy.

- young women have the same opportunity as young men to be students, and thus to acquire work qualifications, yet the percentage of employed males is about seven times that of females. Nearly two thirds of females aged 15 and over are housewives;
- on average, young people start working at the age of 16, although one third before attaining the age of 15;
- the need to support the family financially was the most common reason for starting work at age 15/16;
- annually, one in seven Jordanians suffered from a work accident;
- while 80% of young Jordanians like their job, only one third were satisfied with the salary – in 2003, average monthly youth salary was only JD 129 (US\$178). Other reasons for work dissatisfaction included work related exhaustion and boring or dangerous work; and
- the entrepreneurial spirit is largely missing among Jordanian young people as most see only limited opportunities to achieve economic self-reliance through their own work.

3.5 Health Picture

Young Jordanians enjoy good general health. According to previous and recent studies, over 90% of young Jordanians had a positive view of their health. Smoking was regarded by almost 70% as the most negative factor that affected the health of young people, followed by drugs (7.7%) and alcohol (4.3%). Approximately 25% of Jordanian male adolescents smoke on a daily basis.

Other health issues to emerge from the studies included –

- half of the youth population is concerned about their body weight;
- preventative health awareness and practices tends to be very limited, especially dental hygiene habits;
- there is considerable ignorance about reproductive health knowledge;
- 5% of young females begin child bearing aged 15 – 19 years, though the proportion is decreasing (76% in 1999);
- 35% of young people see that current awareness programmes related to issues like smoking, drugs, and AIDS as ineffectual; and
- criticism of public health services increases with age, and particularly among young women.

3.6 Leisure Activity Preferences

The ‘Jordanian Youth: Their Lives and Views’ study, and field studies carried out through out the process of formulating the national youth strategy, clearly demonstrate the leisure activity preferences for young Jordanians –

- watching television was the most popular activity for both sexes as 43.4% of young people nominating it is a most important leisure time activity;
- physical activity rated most important activity for young males (58.5%), but only 15.6% for young females;
- reading rated third most important activity for both sexes (32.1%) though twice as important to young females (44.2% for females compared to 21.1% for males); and
- only 1.2% of the surveyed sample listed ‘going to a youth club’ in their preferences (and only 0.4% of young females).

3.7 Social Interaction Patterns

Mobility serves to create or limit opportunities for young people. In Jordan, mobility is primarily defined by gender, Young women experience significantly more restrictions on their mobility than young males. Young women are largely confined to activities within education and the home. The gender difference is most dramatic with regard to accessing and using public spaces such as markets, youth clubs/facilities and internet cafes. Young females simply have fewer places in which to enjoy each other's company, to be part of social networks, to receive mentoring and other support, to acquire skills outside the classroom, and to work for pay.

Over three quarters of all young Jordanians believe that young people need to participate more actively in decision making processes at home, at school, college, and university, at work and in their local communities.

The National Youth Study showed that less than 10% of young Jordanians participated in civil society organisations. (including student councils, professional associations and political parties), with young women showing a very low rate of involvement.

3.8 Family Relationships

Jordanian young people –

- are proud of their traditions and culture, and have a strong commitment to their families;
- experience stable home environments with most living with both parents (only 0.5% of children are not living with at least one of their biological parents);
- view parents as an important part of their support system and sources of information, though this decreases with age, as other confidants such as siblings, friends, and work supervisors become important;
- tend to share problems at home with the mother first, and then the father; and
- the great majority of young Jordanians decide independently on daily issues such as the way they dress, how they spend their leisure time and how they choose their friends. Independent decision making increases with age. Parents exert most influence in regard to dress code, particularly for young women.

Regarding gender roles –

- young Jordanians hold rather traditional views. They believe rather unanimously across both genders and all age groups that husbands / fathers should provide the family income and be responsible for financial decisions while wives / mothers should have the prime responsibility for housework and childcare;
- 49.3% of fathers, 41.2% of mothers, 46.5% of males and 25.8% of females believe that women are not equal to men in status; and
- one in six young Jordanians believes that parents should decide on young women's spouses without their participation.

3.9 Key Hopes and Aspirations

Young Jordanians are generally optimistic. Four out of five young Jordanians hope firmly that their future will be better than the present. However, young females have less positive expectations than young males.

According to the National Youth Studies, young people's priorities in life are dominated by educational aspirations. 55% of young people indicated that their main concern was to complete their education or pursue higher education. Finishing education was equally important for both males and females, though the pursuit of higher education was twice as important to young females.

Work related goals mattered to 20% of young people, though more important to young males and with older youth age groups. However, only 5% of young people thought of establishing his/her own business.

Marriage and family related goals ranked third with some gender differences – while more young males think about marriage, young females emphasise the importance of finding an understanding partner for life.

Leadership ambitions ranked low in comparison to all other goals.



The rationale of the National Youth Strategy for Jordan is summarized by the Jordan National Human Development Report in 2000 which stated – *'Given that three out of every four Jordanians are under the age of 29, the common saying that "the young are the future of the country" should be amended to "the young are the country, today, and in the foreseeable future.'*

Young men and women both represent the largest segment of Jordanian society, and face the greatest challenges in terms of issues like employment, health and globalisation. Thus the significance of a National Youth Strategy statement is clear.

In particular, such a strategy statement is important as it provides young people, and all agencies and groups committed to their development and fulfillment with –

- a common vision;
- a set of agreed priorities achieved through consensus;
- a national framework for action;
- a statement of values and guiding principles;
- an instrument to raise the profile of young women and men;
- a declaration of the relationship between young people and national goals;
- a catalyst for communication, cooperation, and coordination; and
- a tool to benchmark and evaluate youth programme relevance and achievement



GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

In formulating the National Youth Strategy for Jordan, the following guiding principles were recognized as fundamental –

- **Jordan First** – reinforcing a sense of loyalty, unity and belonging to the Homeland, its constitution and leadership
- **Participation** – actively involving young women and men within all aspects of community and national life, and as such have a role and responsibility in making the decisions which affect their lives.
- **Gender Equality** – ensuring justice, balance and equal opportunity for all young women and men.
- **Representative** – building upon a deep understanding of the realities, potential, strengths, issues and aspirations of Jordanian young people.
- **Access** – enabling access to appropriate programs and services by all young Jordanians regardless of age, gender, physical abilities, geographic location, social, cultural or economic circumstances.
- **Collaborative Ownership** – seeks the mobilization and participation of all stakeholders – government agencies, civil society, national and international institutions, private sector, and young people – in designing and implementing the strategy, and maximizing collaboration and coordination efforts.



THE VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement of the National Youth Strategy of Jordan captures the qualities desired in Jordanian young people, namely –

‘Raising and developing Jordanian young men and women who are aware of themselves and their abilities, loyal to their country and proactively take part in its progress and development, able to deal with the variables and developments of this age in a confident, aware and steadfast manner, within a secure and supporting environment.’



PRIORITY THEMES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The National Youth Strategy for Jordan aims to provide an organized framework for the efforts of those concerned with the care and development of Jordanian young people, seeking to unify the efforts undertaken in this area, and setting the work priorities in order to reach a common vision for national youth development.

The strategy also aims at enhancing youth development in a way that reflects the uniqueness of Jordan and the guiding principles enunciated in Section 5. This will be achieved through the plans, programmes and interventions of the Strategy and which aim at responding to the issues and aspirations of young people, as well as improving the performance of youth development institutions within a framework of coordination, cooperation and integration.

In order to achieve the Strategy goals, nine themes have been identified. A summary of each theme and its strategic objectives and operational objectives are as follows -

7.1 Participation and Young People:

This theme focuses on the creation of a safe and conducive environment for young women and men to participate fully in all the fields of national activities.

Strategic Objective 1: Institutionalise democracy through strengthening youth political participation

- Operational Objectives:

1. support greater youth participation in political parties.
2. promote youth participation in parliamentary elections.
3. greater youth interest and participation in the councils of civil institutions, including student councils in universities and schools.

Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen youth participation in economic life, especially within the labor market

- Operational Objectives:

1. Promote greater awareness and interest in the option of vocational training.
2. Provide young people with enhanced career education support and direction.
3. Encourage young people to protect their labour rights.

Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen youth participation in community life

- Operational Objectives:

1. Provide greater support and direction to youth centres to become more youth friendly, especially to young people with special needs.

2. Create new opportunities for all young people to plan and instigate community service actions/initiatives in response to their challenges and community opportunities.

Strategic Objective 4: Strengthen youth participation in cultural life.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Promote participatory structures in educational institutions.
2. Activating participating methodologies and structures in cultural and recreational activities.

7.2 Civil Rights, Citizenship and Young People

This theme has two major components. Firstly, it relates to the rights, responsibilities and obligations of citizenship. Secondly, it focuses on civil and political rights. Overall, this theme and its objectives seek to build a culture of democracy and pride and loyalty to Jordan and its leadership.

Strategic Objective 1. : Development of young people who are well aware of their rights, obligations and responsibilities, and whose are active participants in the democratic life in Jordan

- Operational Objectives:

1. To utilize the media and religious gatherings to promote the principles and practices of citizenship and democracy.
2. To enhance the skills of youth service providers who work in educational, youth and social institutions to apply the concepts of citizenship, democracy and human values in activities and everyday interaction.
3. To promote national awareness, discussion and debate about citizenship and democracy with, and among young people.
4. To strengthen the life, personal and leadership skills of young men and women to enhance their active participation in national and community life.

Strategic Objective 2. : To enhance the civil and political rights and responsibilities of Jordanian young women and men

- Operational Objectives:

1. To raise youth awareness and knowledge of human, civil and political rights and responsibilities.
2. To strengthen youth participation and decision making at all levels of civil society institutions.

7.3 Recreation Activities, Leisure Time and Young People

Recreation benefits young people at different levels; personal – increasing self confidence and participation, enhancing personal skills, health, growth and development; institutional – bridging the intergenerational gap and building leadership; community – creating healthy and safe environments through social connectedness, community ownership and sustainability.

This theme and its objectives seeks to enhance these personal, institutional and community benefits through increasing the options and spaces available to young women and men.

Strategic Objective 1. : Create enabling youth friendly environments for young people to access quality recreational activities with a focus on young women.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Create awareness and sensitization for parents and stakeholders on the importance of recreational activities to the personal development and growth of young people, with a focus on young women.
2. Sensitize youth service workers on the importance of recreation and equip them with the knowledge and skills to conduct low cost recreational activities.
3. Build on already existing recreational programmes to enhance the participation of young women and young people with special needs.

Strategic Objective 2. : Create culture through youth community service activities.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Enhance a sense of social responsibility within the private sector to support recreational activities.
2. Promote cultural activities in local communities.
3. Integrate non-formal educational activities (community service, sports, hobbies), and provide leadership roles for young people in their conduct.
4. Enhance young people's innovative thinking through the use of multi media tools that enable them to express themselves in creative and dynamic ways.

Strategic Objective 3. : Develop shared responsibility between stakeholders on activating appropriate leisure activities available and accessible to all young people.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Work closely with the Ministry of Tourism in identifying tourism opportunities related to youth recreational activities and ways to involve young people in promoting tourism in Jordan.

7.4 Media, Culture and Young People

This theme of the National Youth Strategy for Jordan focuses on deepening the comprehensive concept of national culture within the minds of young people, and finding effective ways to enable them to contribute positively to the formulation of national information.

Strategic Objective 1. : Enhance the understanding and appreciation of young people regarding their national culture.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Identify and promote among young people in schools and the media, clear concepts of Jordanian national culture.
2. Promote the elements of positive culture, values, customs and behaviours.
3. Ensure participation of all youth categories in disseminating and deepening national culture throughout Jordan.

Strategic Objective 2. : Enhancing the awareness and skills of Jordanian young people in terms of the field of media.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Create effective understanding and roles for young people within the area of Media.
2. Enhance and support opportunities for youth participation in presenting social issues.
3. Strengthen the understanding of Jordanian young people regarding the concept, challenges and opportunities related to globalisation.

Strategic Objective 3. : Empower Jordanian young women and men to participate fully in the formulation of national media.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Develop youth awareness through curriculum opportunities, publications and the media of clear concepts of the state and national media.
2. Provide young people with skills to ensure their effective participation in the process of formulating national media.
3. Create a conducive environment to help young people utilize the knowledge and skills acquired in terms of formulating national media.

7.5 Information Technology, Globalisation and Young People

This theme focuses on issues and strategies that will enable Jordanian young women and men to effectively benefit from national investment in information technology and global opportunities available through ICT. The critical issues relate to demystifying ICT, and developing awareness and acceptance among young Jordanians of how it can positively affect their daily lives and create opportunities and options which would otherwise be non-existent.

Strategic Objective : Harness ICT as a tool to empower Jordanian young women and men to lead more prosperous and meaningful lives.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Promote awareness through education, electronic games and the media of the importance, uses and benefits of ICT.
2. Develop and promote training and employment opportunities available through ICT.
3. Continually upgrade national and community capacity regarding ICT infrastructure and opportunities.
4. Broaden the understanding of Jordanian young people about the concepts, challenges and opportunities relating to globalisation.

7.6 Education, Training and Young People

Quality education and training are prerequisites for sustainable national development. Jordan has developed one of the best educational systems in the Middle East, and ensured that educational programs are linked to national development plans and females are fully integrated. This Strategy theme focuses on the vision of further enhancing educational options, and developing a comprehensive and integrated national education and training approach which develops the thinking and creativity of young people. This will be achieved through the continuous development of educational curricula, upgrading of teacher skill levels, building closer links between the educational training systems and the labour market, reconciling educational system

outputs with job market requirements, lifting the status of vocational education, and enhancing career counseling for both young people and their parents.

Strategic Objective 1. : Strengthen the links between education and training organisations and community and national social and economic institutions.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Promote the active involvement of young people in implementing programs and programs of civil society organisations at the community and national levels.
2. Encourage greater linkages and collaboration between educational and training institutes, and their local communities and their organisations.
3. Foster greater involvement of the private sector in adapting and contributing to youth educational and training initiatives.
4. Promote opportunities and mechanisms to integrate young people with special needs into educational and training institutes.
5. Provide mechanisms to link young Jordanians studying abroad with the Homeland.

Strategic Objective 2. : Improve the quality of educational provision and link it with a culture of continuous learning and training.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Support continuous teacher education and a focus on greater use of interactive learning methodologies.
2. Link educational outcomes and curriculum with available training and employment opportunities.
3. Raise the status of vocational education, and promote its value to both males and females.

Strategic Objective 3: Develop the human and social capitals of the country through young people.

- **Operational objectives:**

1. Encourage greater opportunities for the participation of Jordanian young people in curricula and extra curricula activities, and in activities that relate to the needs of local communities.

7.7 Employment of Young People

Young people in Jordan suffer disproportionately in regards to the burden of unemployment. This Strategy theme focuses on preparing young people for the job market; increasing the net number and variety of youth employment opportunities; increasing the productivity of young people, and motivating them to be self reliant; and eliminating discrimination with the Jordanian job market.

Strategic Objective 1. : Prepare young people for the job market according to the markets requirements.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Reconcile training and educational systems to job market requirements.
2. Promote the role of the family in building a work culture and providing young people with the proper career counseling.
3. Eliminate child labour.

Strategic Objective 2. : Generate new job opportunities for young people.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Focus on investment and worker support programs/initiatives aimed at replacing foreign workers with Jordanian workers.
2. Create a National Council on Youth Employment involving representatives from the private and public sector, and youth organisations.
3. Promote awareness of the opportunities within the Jordanian job market.
4. Foster awareness of the self employment option as a career, and establish support and legislative mechanisms to enhance youth entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 3. : Provide young people with decent work opportunities.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Increase the productivity of young people and motivate them to become enterprising and creative.
2. Eliminate all forms of discrimination in the job market.

7.8 Health and Young People

This theme focuses on strategic actions required to promote healthy lifestyles among Jordanian young men and women, and the collaboration required among all stakeholders. Fundamental is the use of a holistic multi disciplinary approach which views young people as people not problems, and involves them actively in all aspects of the Strategy.

Strategic Objective 1. : Promotion of healthy attitudes and lifestyles.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Promote awareness of personal health including the importance of hygiene, good nutrition, exercise and dental health.
2. Mobilise the active involvement of young people in the design and implementation of positive healthy lifestyle promotions.
3. Involve young people with special needs in all activities that reinforce healthy and positive behaviours.

Strategic Objective 2. : Encourage youth participation in meeting the youth mental health needs.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Increase the awareness of parents, decision makers and the wider society about the needs of young people, and especially their psychological needs.
2. Mobilise young people to define and actively fulfil their psychological needs.
3. Expand and enhance current available psychological youth health services.
4. Provide counselling and advanced psychological health services for young people with special needs.

Strategic Objective 3. : Support and develop reproductive health and family planning facilities and services.

- **Operational Objectives:**

1. Enhance services aimed at preparing young people for family life.
2. Provide youth friendly health facilities that provide support in terms of reproductive health.

7.9 Environment and Young People

The environment is a vital and essential component of the national agenda for sustainment. This Strategy theme focuses on the unique contribution to, and involvement of young people with regard to environment issues, and the ways the environment sector can provide important development opportunities for young people.

Strategic Objective 1. : Enhance environmental knowledge and awareness amongst Jordanian young people, and facilitate their access to information.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Support the school curriculum reform program in regard to its comprehensiveness and depth in terms of environmental concepts and information, being based on modern interactive and participative approaches.
2. Introduce the environmental and sustainable development concepts within all general and specialized curricula and extra curricula activities in all Jordanian higher education institutions.
3. Benefit from building on national, Arab and international successful pioneer experiences for the civil institutions that are active in the field of environmental knowledge directed to youth.
4. Enhance religious and social values which support environmental protection and conservation with emphasis at the family and local community levels.
5. Raise the awareness of environmental issues and problems amongst all professional and vocational sectors with emphasis on sustainable development.
6. Employ and mobilise media for the promotion and support of environmental issues as part of the citizens' civil rights and specifically through modern interactive and participative approaches.
7. Support the Ministry of Environment to adopt a national program which targets young men and women and promotes the role of the environment in all developmental programs.

Strategic Objective 2. : Facilitate the active contribution, participation and leadership of young women and men in national environmental policy development, programs and strategies.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Acquire a royal decree which defines the role of young people in the national environmental program and facilitates their participation in its development and implementation.
2. Enhance the role of all national youth related institutions regarding the organisation and mobilization of youth in support of the environment attitudes at regional and district levels.
3. Facilitate the establishment of national civil society organisation with an environmental specific mandate and focus.
4. Foster the national women's efforts in the field of voluntary environmental work and action.
5. Provide adequate mechanisms for the integration of young people of special needs in the environmental voluntary action.
6. Enhance cooperation with environmental donor organisations towards adopting specific programs for youth empowerment and mobilization in the field of environment.

7. Encourage the public and private sectors to adopt effective sets of environmental policies and procedures which promote sound codes of conduct amongst professionals and practitioners.
8. Foster environmental action and participation on the family level with special focus on recreation and leisure times.

Strategic Objective 3. : Promote the environmental sector as a development opportunity for young men and women at the individual, local and national levels.

- Operational Objectives:

1. Organise the national network of nature reserves as hubs for youth initiatives in the field of sustainable development.
2. Enhance the usage of information and communication technologies in fostering youth initiatives in sustainable development.
3. Direct national and international development programs to invest in young people in the field of environmental and sustainable development.
4. Expand the scope of environmental specializations in higher education and vocational training institutions to respond to the local and regional job market needs and opportunities.
5. Encourage the private sector and civil society organisations to invest in the fields of sustainable development with focus on youth-lead initiatives in eco-tourism and sustainable use of natural resources.

Strategic Objective 4. : Promote youth participation in fighting desertification.

- Operational Objectives:

Increase youth participation in tree planting

Strategic Objective 5. : Promote youth awareness in regard to standards and metrology , specially those related to the environment..

- Operational Objectives:

Providing Training for youth in regard to the standards and metrology that help keep and preserve the environment

8.1 Cost.

The estimated cost for the years 2005 – 2009 to achieve the strategic objectives of the National Youth Strategy and to implement its recommended programmes, activities and events, is approximately 6,483.000 JD's. Annex III shows the estimated annual cost for each of the themes in the Strategy.

8.2 Coordination and Implementation Responsibilities.

The National Youth Strategy for Jordan recognizes the importance of planning, coordination and collaboration among the various government and non government institutions involved in the implementation of youth development programmes in order to realize strategic and operational objectives as well as to achieve efficient utilization of scarce resources.

Thus, the policy proposes that the Higher Council for Youth will have overall responsibility for the coordination of the Strategy implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review. It will do this in collaboration with other Ministries, civil society organisations and other stakeholders including young people.

To assist this collaboration, this National Youth Strategy for Jordan also recommends the Higher Council of Youth implement action to create and support the operation of –

- a National Youth Forum which enables all civil society groups with a major mandate for youth development to come together to exchange their views and focus on issues of common concern;
- an ongoing Youth Advisory Group to provide feedback to the Higher Council of Youth on the progress with the Strategy's implementation;
- an inter Ministerial Committee for Youth Affairs which would allow on a quarterly basis for senior staff of all ministries with a strong youth focus in terms of programs to come together to enhance a multi sectional and interdisciplinary approach to youth issues by the Government of the Kingdom of Jordan, and review progress in terms of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy.

8.3 Strategic Review

This strategy will be reviewed and updated in five years time. The accompanying Action Plan will be reviewed every two years.

Annex (I)

Strategy Formulation Participants

Counselling Committee:

His Excellency Dr. Mamoun Nour Al-Deen	President of the Higher Council for Youth
Dr. Sari Hamdan	Secretary General of the Higher Council for Youth
Abdel Rahman Armouti	General Director of the National youth and sport fund
Firas Garaybeh	UNDP programe manager
Hania Khoutat	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Eng. Salah Al- Hadidi	Project Manager

Technical Committee:

Dr. Sari Hamdan	Higher Council for Youth
Abdel Rahman Armouti	General Director of the National youth and sport fund
Suad Nabhan	UNICEF
Firas Garaybeh	UNDP
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sarhan	Higher Council for Youth
Saeb Saed Al-Hassan	King Abdallah the Second Fund for Development
Dana Khan Malhas	UNIFEM
Dr. Bassam Hajjawi	Ministry of Health
Ohoud Habashneh	Misnistry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Widad Adas	National Council for Family Affairs
Basheer Abu Jamous	UNDP
Samar Keldani	Al-Hassan Youth Award
Eman Qaraeen	UNESCO
Saif Dawagreh	Misnistry of Education
Randa Hijazi	WHO
Jeehan Abu Tayeh	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Eng. Salah Al- Hadidi	Project Manager

Technical Committees from Youth:

Enas Jihad Abu Shasheyeh	Centre / Amman
Iman Horani	Centre/ Madaba
Yasmeen Garaybeh	Centre / Amman
Ahmad Abdel Kareem Al-Zgoul	Centre / Zarqa
Hamzeh Ali Al-Omoush	Centre / Zarqa
Mohammad Omar Khader	Centre / Zarqa
Otbah Mohamad Al-Shaqareen	South / Tafeeleh
Fares Raja Al-Khalayfeh	South / Wadi Mousa
Nour Mohammad Al-Habahbeh	South / Shobak
Nidal Mahmoud AL-Majali	South / Aqaba
Isra' Nofan Al-Shawaqfeh	North / Mafrag
Mohamad Moneer Al-Homsi	North / Jarash
Islam Mohamad Zatar	North / Irbid
Diana Sameh Maqableh	North / Jarash
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Mohammad Faleh Affan	North / Irbid

Strategy Consultants:

Kamel Nabulsi	National Consultant
Rana Al-Akhal	National Consultant
Peter Kenyon	International Consultant

Thematic Area Consultants:

Nabeeh Rayyal	Youth and Participation
Rand Al-Hindawi	Youth, civil rights and citizenship
Dana Al-Dajani	Youth, Recreational activities and Leisure time
Ahmad Al-Hessban	Youth, culture and Media
Laith Al-Qassem	Youth, information technology and globalisation
Mohammad Al-Jreeb'	Youth, education and training
Fareez Barakat	Youth and Labour
Dr. Riyad Al-Akour	Youth and Health
Tareq Abu Al-Hawa	Youth and the Environment

Drafting Consultant:

Dr. Mostafa Hussein Abu Al-Sheikh	Education and human resources development consultant
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Linguistic Revision:

Yehya Al-Khawaldeh	Consultant – Higher Council for Youth
Peter Kenyon	International Consultant

Revision and Editing Team:

His Excellency Dr. Abdallah Oweidat	National Consultant
Dr. Sari Hamdan	Higher Council for Youth
Abdel Rahman Armouti	National youth and sport fund
Souad Nabhan	Unicef
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sarhan	Higher Council for Youth
Eng. Salah Al- Hadidi	Project Manager
Dr. Mostafa Abu Al-Sheikh	Re-drafting consultant

Annex (II)

Youth Participation in Listening Campaigns and Technical Committees.

Number	Description	Number of Participants
1.	Youth voice Campaign for School Students in the various departments of the Ministry of Education	20400
2.	Youth voice Campaign for parents of school students	40800
3.	Youth voice Campaign for college and university students	8000
4.	Youth voice Campaign for youth at youth centers (70 centers)	15000
5.	Youth voice Campaign to employed and unemployed youth and those with special needs, delinquents and talented	6531
6.	Technical committees of volunteering youth in sub-committees	250
Total		90481

Annex III

ESTIMATED ANNUAL COSTS FOR EACH THEMATIC AREA

Annual Estimated Cost (in thousand JD's) for each of the strategy themes for the period (2005 – 2009)

sector	Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
	Youth and Participation		453	394	464	246	246
Youth, Civil Rights and Citizenship		2	185	106	88	87	468
Youth, entertainment activities and Leisure		26	66	66	46	26	230
Youth, culture and information		83	136	131	108	108	566
Youth, IT and Globalisation		79	142	145	159	177	702
Youth, education and training		65	199	140	115	98	617
Youth and Labour		175	177	127	127	127	733
Youth and Health		71	123	105	85	54	438
Youth and the Environment		104	196	220	232	174	926
Total		1058	1618	1504	1206	1097	6483

- The above was calculated in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance / Mr. Mohammad al-Hammouri and from the National Fund for the Support of youth and Sports Movement / Mr. Mohammad Darwish
-figures quoted in thousand JD's

Annex IV

RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (1948)
- The Political Rights of Women Accord, (1952)
- The Declaration of the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideal of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between People, (1965)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, (1966)
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (1966)
- The Declaration of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, (1967)
- The International Convention for Human Rights, (1968)
- The Declaration of Tehran and the Special Declaration of the Rights of the Disabled, (1975)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Accord, (1979)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, (1985)
- The Declaration of the Social and Legal Principles for the Protection and Welfare of Children, (1986)
- The Declaration of the Right to Development, (1986)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1989)
- United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, (1990)
- United Nations Rules for the Prevention of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, (1990)
- The Declaration of the Rights of Persons of National or Ethnic Minorities of Religious or Linguistic Minorities, (1993)
- The World Programme of Action for Youth to the year 2000 and beyond, (1995)
- The World Women's Convention – The Declaration of Beijing, (1995)
- The World Convention on Human Rights, (1998)
- The Declaration of the United Nations for the Third Millennium, (2000)
- The Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, (2001)