



UNFPA'S YOUTH VOLUNTEERS: CATALYSTS FOR CHANGE

Humanitarian Crisis Overview

The ongoing war on Gaza and the escalated crisis in the West Bank has created a devastating humanitarian situation, with significant loss of life, displacement and destruction of essential infrastructure and livelihoods. People face unimaginable suffering and struggle to access basic necessities such as food, water, medical care, education, and shelter. In this dire situation, UNFPA youth volunteers have become a vital lifeline, providing crucial support and hope.



Our Volunteers' Work

UNFPA's youth volunteers prioritize creating safe environments, promoting public health through awareness and support services, and ensuring educational access for children and their families, while fostering community resilience and cohesion. Our volunteers innovate and collaborate across multiple communities and partners, focusing on areas severely impacted by the war, creating safe spaces, enhancing public health and protection, and providing education and life skills for children, adolescents and their families.

- **Educational Support:** Youth-led tutoring and life skills programs for displaced children and adolescents
- **Health Campaigns:** Improving health awareness including sexual and reproductive and mental health, providing hygiene supplies, supporting mobile medical services, and offering psychological first aid.
- **Community Protection:** Workshops for women and girls addressing gender-based violence, focusing on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, promoting self-care, and social bonding.
- **Leave No One Behind:** Reach people with disabilities through tailored interventions.
- **Food Security:** Distributing food and facilitating community meals.
- **Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Building sanitation facilities and distributing water tanks.
- **Shelter Assistance:** Providing clothing, non-food items (NFI), and improving living conditions for displaced families.
- **Documentation and Monitoring:** Collecting data and assessing the needs of internally displaced persons in shelters.

“The volunteers have been a great support to us. They have provided us with food, water, and clothes when we had nowhere else to turn. Their kindness and compassion have given us the strength to carry on.”
-Ahlam, 42, beneficiary.

Impact

- **People Reached:** Provide essential services to tens of thousands of individuals in need.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Young volunteers are assisting key organizations and service providers in humanitarian efforts. They deliver food, water, essential supplies, and address various community needs, significantly enhancing outreach and support in affected areas.
- **Volunteers Recognized:** Our diverse team, including individuals with disabilities, works to restore hope and recognize the positive contributions of youth as partners facing significant challenges.





Partnerships

UNFPA collaborates with local organizations and youth groups including the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP), the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER), and youth local councils. We also extend our engagement beyond implementing partners to local community-based and youth led organisations through sub-contracting and collaborations, enhancing the delivery of humanitarian assistance and maximizing impact.

Conclusion

The dedication of youth volunteers in Palestine highlights the power of solidarity and compassion in times of crisis. Their work not only provides vital assistance but also fosters hope. It is our humanitarian duty and responsibility to engage with and inspire hope in young people during this prolonged period of conflict both as leaders and agents of change.

Volunteerism helps young people explore their interests and connect with others in their communities, and promotes a sense of purpose and fulfillment. By building skills and confidence, UNFPA's volunteer programme aims to strengthen community cohesion and inclusivity. UNFPA empowers youth volunteers by creating opportunities and connections for social resilience and helping them reach their full potential to create positive change.

“Many of the children we support have lost so much, yet their resilience is inspiring. By providing educational activities and important resources, we help create a safe and nurturing environment for them to heal and grow.”

-Hanan, 27, volunteer

Call to Action

The crisis in Palestine requires ongoing support.

Here's how you can help:

- Engage and work with young volunteers and support their contributions throughout all phases of the initiative.
- Enhance/establish structured mechanisms for youth engagement in humanitarian action.
- Donate to organizations aiding volunteer efforts.
- Raise awareness by sharing information about the impact of young volunteers during crises.



For more information on supporting UNFPA's adolescent and youth humanitarian response, visit our website or contact Programme Analyst, Sima Alami, alami@unfpa.org and Programme Officer Amany Haniya: haniya@unfpa.org.