

RUWWAD EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Overarching recommendations

- There is a need to expand the range of programs for youth available at the Youth Development and Resource Centers through partnerships with local organizations.
- There is a need to expand programming for youth in Affiliated Youth Clubs to reach youth in underserved areas.
- The enhanced facilities at the YDRCs not only allowed for the provision of more diverse offerings appealing to a broader spectrum of Palestinian youth (including females), but offer participating organizations potential opportunities for future income generation and sustainability of their clubs.

Specific recommendations:

1. Develop an even more strategic approach to youth programming – identifying a participation progression with systematic follow-up and ongoing engagement opportunities for program alumni.
2. Continue to strengthen local buy-in and active support for the YDRCs and Affiliated Clubs and ensure development of locally relevant programming as well as programs that encourage female participation.
3. Focus on sustainability - create actionable plans that include income generation ideas and volunteer recruitment and management. Also, provide assistance for plan implementation.
4. Create partnerships with other USAID projects, local organizations, businesses, and international donors to provide additional youth programming at the YDRCs and Affiliated Clubs.
5. Tailor capacity building support to specific club contexts over an extended period of time, perhaps focusing on a smaller number of clubs initially – use international youth club network experts to provide the needed training and technical assistance for both management systems and program development.
6. USAID may wish to focus their follow-on efforts on centers and clubs that have made greater gains under the current project. In many cases, the evaluation team felt that success of these activities was largely dependent upon the commitment and initiative of the center or club management.
7. ICT training has been a great way to increase participation at the YDRCs and Affiliated Clubs among diverse youth, including females, and should be continued.

8. Continue the youth empowerment/leadership training. However, it would be useful to offer the basic training at the YDRC level to cut costs and make it more accessible to a broader spectrum of youth instead of having it be centrally provided in Ramallah by Ruwwad trainers.
9. Offer advanced youth empowerment/leadership training – to reinforce skills learned during the basics course, provide additional skills development and opportunities for hands on application. Perhaps such advanced training could be done centrally to allow for cross-regional interaction and understanding.
10. Training on how to more effectively engage in cross-age activities, joint service projects, and developing private sector partnerships would be useful in building further broad-based community support.
11. In order to strengthen the networks of YDRCs and their clubs, specialized training and technical assistance on organizational network development would be very beneficial including defining new ways to engage, sharing resources, conducting joint service projects, etc.