

World E-News October 2013



empowering young people
SPACE | TRANSFORMATION | IMPACT



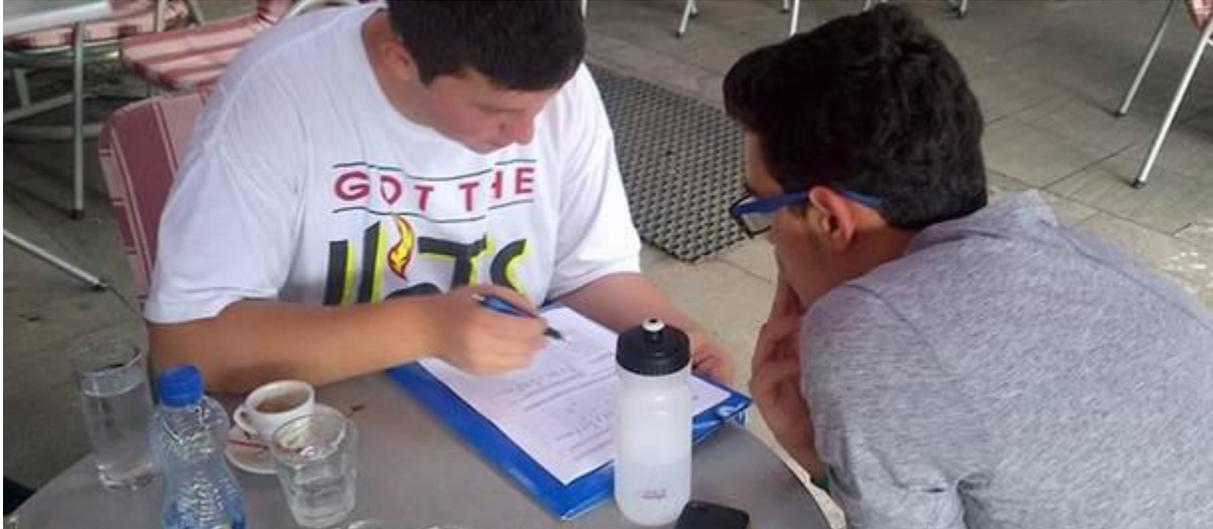
Young Volunteer
YMCA Palestine

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One Million Voices

- October 31, 2013



Wow! This YMCA movement is awesome! The World YMCA One Million Voices (OMV) pilot project is building and results are coming in every day from Armenia to New Zealand, Gaza to Ghana, Denmark to Uruguay, South Africa to Ukraine.

Young people aged 15 to 24 are being engaged and are testing our survey tool for the One Million Voices project.

Results so far:

- 65 countries are involved in the One Million Voices research project.
- 40 National Coordinators for One Million Voices have been appointed; 7 are Change Agents.
- 220 Change Agents are briefed on OMV.
- Data collection on members and participants aged 15 to 24 is in process and new information being received daily.
- The One Million Voices questionnaire has been translated to 15 languages: Arabic, Armenian, Finnish, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malayam, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhala, Spanish, Tamil.
- The Pilot Project with young men and women - ages 15 to 18 and 19 to 24 is

testing the questionnaire for wording, understanding, flow and sequence, and clarity of instructions.

We are all getting ready. The full One Million Voices research project will be launched in January 2014. Professor Fred Coalter will lead an interview training session for enumerators for data collection on January 13 - 14, 2014. The training will be videotaped and shared with all national movements. We will hold a series of live Q & A webinars - OMV talks in January. Come Join Us!

Stay tuned - This is transformational! This is youth empowerment in action!

For more information contact:

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Countries involved:

Africa

Angola
Cameroon
Ethiopia
Ghana
Gambia
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Senegal
Tanzania
Togo
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia and the Pacific

Australia
Bangladesh
India
New Zealand
Hong Kong
Korea
Pakistan
Philippines
Japan

Sri Lanka

Europe

Armenia

Belarus

Denmark

England

Finland

Iceland

Ireland

Kosovo

Macedonia

Netherlands

Norway

Portugal

Russia

Scotland

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Ukraine

Wales

Latin America and Caribbean

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Guatemala

Ecuador

Haiti

Honduras

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Peru

Uruguay

Middle East

Egypt

Lebanon

East Jerusalem

Gaza

Canada

USA

Influencing our new strategy - We need your response

- October 15, 2013



STRATEGY CONSULTATION
WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE!

We need your response.

See below the draft for a new strategy for the world movement of YMCAs for 2014-2018. The Executive Committee has expressed its vision for the future and so has the meeting of the National General Secretaries.

Now the question is: What do you think?

We would be very happy if you would help us to distribute this paper widely in your movement, to discuss this paper with your colleagues and friends and to send us a written feedback before November 20. In this way you will influence our joint future as YMCA in the world.

The final debate and decision will take place at World Council June 29- July 5 2014 in Estes Park. This will help all of us to be well prepared for that important decision.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik
Secretary General

[Strategy Directions document in pdf format](#)

World Council 2014 - Empowering Young People

- October 9, 2013



Planning for the 18th World Council is underway and an exciting programme and business agenda is being developed. In 2014 we are planning for 1,500 people to come together to celebrate the global YMCA movement and to discuss critical issues of youth empowerment and strengthening our collective YMCA movement.

In April, the World Alliance Executive Committee approved the World Council plans and endorsed the concept to integrate the strategic planning process in the preparations for 2014. A preliminary Strategic Planning document, OUR WAY, has been developed and shared with the global movement.

In August, we launched the 1st preparatory leadership engagement event with more than 200 young Change Agents from all over the world. Change Agents will have an important leadership role at the World Council.

We signed an agreement with a keynote speaker who will motivate and engage the audience on youth empowerment and action for social change. Stay tuned for more information on her profile and bio!

We initiated the pilot of our One Million Voices (OMV) research project engaging young people from local communities in 60 countries around the world in a global youth opinion survey. Preliminary information will be shared at the World Council.

In September, we began to receive nominations for candidates for the World Alliance Executive Committee for 2014 to 2018. We welcome a robust and broad range of nominations of diverse candidates from National Movements.

We launched the 1st ever interactive combined social media and website platform on the

World Council. On the platform you will find information on the World Council and you can share twitter messages and instagram photos. We are planning for a thunderclap of communication messages on the global YMCA. Check it out at 2014.ymca.int!

The World Alliance Secretariat has opened the online registration platform. Please register now on: registration.ymca.int The early bird rate ends on 31 January 2014.

In October, we are developing the plans for the programme, including a unique performance of collective 'Our Journey' as a global YMCA movement. 'Our Journey' will feature highlights of our past, present and the vision of our future of a strong sustainable YMCA movement empowering young people.

We are now developing the learning sessions with high-level content on issues of movement strengthening, civic engagement, youth employment, health, and a sustainable environment. The sessions will feature YMCA and partner expertise on the issues with opportunities for dialogue and discussion on policies and programmes for action. Together with the Global Staff Team we will design a learning programme that will feature best practices and new learning opportunities

The YMCA of the Rockies has developed 28 civic engagement learning and exposure experiences and the YMCA of the USA has developed post World Council tours to Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco.

Selma Zaidi

Senior Executive Secretary for Movement Strengthening and Resource Mobilisation

Egypt: from the ground by Meram Dawoud

- October 7, 2013



Meram Dawoud

In the past three years, I have seen things I never thought I would see and I have experienced things that I only read about in books. In the past three years, I have changed.....

As it is known for all of you that the once stable and peaceful Egypt, known for its peaceful nature, wonderful weather, people working in more than one job a day to earn a good living and tourists visiting all year long, this Egypt that I have known till the age of 24, has been experiencing very fast & very critical changes in the last three years of my 27 year old life!

I have lived a fairly good life in Egypt, my family gave me a good education and I used all the chances and the opportunities given to me, until I became a clever pharmacist. But not all young people like me have been given these chances and not all young people like me have been able to find opportunities to use! And this is why young people rose against the injustice & corruption that deprived them of these chances and these opportunities, dreaming of a new home where there is "Bread, Freedom & Social Justice" for all.

And the president who we thought would die in his chair and deliver the presidency to his descendant, gave up the presidency and gave up the chair, and then, I saw the first thing never thought I'd see and experienced the first thing I read about only in books :

"Revolution"

And one would think he might not experience a revolution in their life, maybe one revolution, but We Egyptian youth experienced two revolutions, two revolutions in a lifetime!! We thought that the Muslim Brotherhood were a harder regime to get rid of, they were worse politicians, worse economists and worse negotiators than Mubarak's regime, but it happened, a second revolution happened against injustice and oppression, still dreaming of changing our nation into a one that provides" Bread, freedom & Social justice" for all!

I never thought it would happen, nevertheless happen twice! For many years we Egyptians have learnt to cope with the current circumstances whether they are good or bad, helpful or strenuous. We coped with bad conditions from the smallest levels of it in children's education, through lack of enforcement of laws and up to Government & Presidency levels where many decisions they took were not in the good of our nation. Some learned to cope, but other

young people just couldn't take it anymore, and this is when I experienced the first change:" I will not cope, I will fight Evil around me".

Many times I gave up, many times I thought that fighting is not going to make a difference, because this is the case in all the world, it is an evil world. Why would bad things that have remained for decades in the society around me change because I stood against them for hours or days? The only way I would achieve a positive change is to improve myself, but that's about it! I believed that if I want to experience a change for the good, it would have only to be what I can change in myself; this is the only way to change my society into a better place. But these young people who rebelled reminded me that it is possible to achieve change not only in me (which is important), but also, in the society around me by standing against the evil in it and by fighting for the good. Revolution can happen not just in me but in the society around me.

Many of these young people gave up their lives for one reason, so that they & others live better! And this is when I was reminded of the third thing I want to tell you about: "My message & the other"

It's been long since I saw people who set the "Message" of their life to be: "Fight for you and for the other". It sort of reminds me of God's commandment: "Thou shall Love thy neighbor as thy self". I personally know a young man who sometimes only went to El Tahrir square during the revolutions against Mubarak's and Muslim brotherhood regimes because others are under attack. He personally told me that he went to El Tahrir square knowing that he might die, but he had to go to protect the others! And this makes one wonder: how far are you ready to go for the sake of the other? How far is the "other" included in your life's "Message"?!

The last thing I have had a changed perspective about during those last three years or let's say a revived one, actually I have always believed that "Injustice is short lived", but it was not always clear in my eyes that this happens in "Big injustices" like bad rulers or widely spread injustices that are affecting the whole globe, but what can I say, Humans have a bad habit of forgetting! I forgot how slavery, apartheid, Nazi rulers and many many other "injustices" in this world have ended someday, however long they stayed, but they always end!

I have seen the unjust regime of Mubarak end, although it took thirty years, but it ended. I saw the more unjust regime of Muslim brotherhood end, although we thought it would be harder to get rid of it than Mubarak's regime, but it ended in a shorter time. Yes still we are suffering from the consequences of what they did when they ruled, but their regimes, their unjust regimes someday ended! And all other "injustices" will do too!

My country has changed, my whole world has changed but most importantly, I have changed! I saw revolutions happen in real life not just in books and not just in me, I learnt not to cope with the wrong or the evil in this world, I will fight it with all the energy I have even if it's not much. I will think of "my neighbor" more, I will appreciate them more. I saw with my own eyes and during my time that "Injustice is short lived". And with all that has changed in me, I pray I will fulfill God's message to my life and be a reason of bringing good to this world like many others have devoted their life to!