Building youth resilience:
The use of System-based approach in Tunisia

Joseph Sany, PhD

Technical Advisor, FHI 360
Tunisia : Cradle of the Arab Spring

The Revolution

• Relative deprivation (economic inequality, abuse of power, injustice)

• Corruption

One Externality

• Violent extremism
Structures and tools for Collective impact: SCALE +

(http://scaleplus.fhi360.org/)

- **Advisory Committee**
  - 8-10 members
  - Intergenerational
  - Multi-stakeholders
  - Advise, coach, connectors

- **Backbone organization / Implementer**
  - Facilitate communication / information sharing
  - Monitor and assess

- **Collaborative planning**
  - Mapping the issue
  - Common agenda for action
  - Building commitment

- **Collective Impact**
  - Collaboration/ social capital
  - Pro-social outcomes
Sharekna's goal was to strengthen four Tunisian communities’ resilience to economic, political and social stresses, including the threat of violent extremism.

**Objective 1:** Community stakeholders, particularly youth, are engaged and empowered to identify community-level stresses, as well as points of entry for programming.

**Objective 2:** Youth and community stakeholders collaboratively implement community-level actions aimed at mitigating against or adapting to identified stresses and VE drivers.

**Objective 3:** Local civil society partners' capacity to collaborate with youth and community stakeholders to address identified stresses and VE drivers is strengthened.
System based approach: A practical example

Youth Mapping

- Cite ettadhamen, Douar Hicher, El Kef and Sidi Bouzid
- Mapping: resources (people, places and institutions)
- Issues and aspirations

Collaborative stakeholder planning

- Community advisory Committee
- Whole system in the Room workshop (collaborative planning)
- 140 collaborative actions

Youth led activities: 15 sub-grants

- Refurbished Youth centers
- Cleaning campaigns
- Rehabilitation of community park
- Sports and recreational activities
- Training and information-sharing on civic education and violent extremism
Youth engagement and contribution

- Youth led community mapping to identify and understand resourceful institutions, people and places; youth aspirations and challenges
- Alliance, inter-generational dialogue and youth involvement in decision-making
- Youth led community activities to achieve pro-social outcomes
Collective impact: Resilient youth and community

(preliminary findings)

Resilient youth

(self reported data and observations)

• **Social** - Increased “connections” and relations to resource people and peers
• **Attitudes**: Increased optimism
• **Increased skills**: Problem solving, communication
• **Pro-social outcomes**: Increased interest in pro-social outcomes

Here is a difference between how I used to deal with problems and now. Before I used to think in a negative way as we said “problem is a problem I cannot overcome it”....I used to see the problem as a problem even am going to do [make] an effort but it’s always an obstacle in my life….but now it improved, it's an opportunity. – Female, respondent, 24 years, Douar Hicher

Community

• Commitment to address societal issues (e.g. Pollution in Douar Hicher)
Lessons learned for implementers

1. A system based approach should be an integral part of the project
2. Clear scope of work for the Advisory committee and the backbone organization
3. Ensure that the common agenda leads to collaborative activities
4. Set realistic timelines for implementation
5. Set aside grants to support some activities
6. Facilitate communication, monitoring, evaluation and learning