media advisory

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UNFPA and Norway Representative Office to launch "Youth in Palestine: Policy and Program Recommendations to Address Demographic Risks and Opportunities"

Ramallah, Palestine, 25 October 2017 – Youth between the age 15 – 29 years old comprise 30% of the total population, and youth population is set to continue growing at a concerning rate. Although a rapidly increasing youth population can cause extreme stress on already underdeveloped infrastructure (education, health, social services, urban infrastructure, housing, and access to economic opportunity), a large youth population can also be seen as a "missed opportunity."

Today, UNFPA in partnership with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a report on Palestinian Youth titled "Youth in Palestine: Policy and Recommendations to Address Demographic Risks and Opportunities". The report addresses the main challenges and barriers Palestinian youth are faced with including the occupation, patriarchy, power and inequality. The report proposes a set of policy and program recommendations towards empowered, resilient and influential Palestinian youth. The recommendations are various in nature and tackle innovative ways on how to approach youth's challenges in order to find alternatives, solutions, and sustainable development.

The launch included various segments including youth showcasing their community initiatives, creative Tedx Talks, and a play addressing lack of youth participation in the electoral process.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Anders Thomsen, UNFPA Representative, welcomed the partnership with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and spoke about the importance of planning strategically for youth's brighter future. "Planned succession for youth will allow and enable their success, participation and pave the way for a successful future Palestine." he commented.

Ms.Hilde Haraldstad, Representative of the Representative Office of Norway to the PA expressed the importance of youth as a resource for the future of Palestine and referred to youth as a cross cutting issue in the National Policy Agenda.

Report is accessible at palestine.unfpa.org

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