Virtual Round Table ‘Learning and Skilling’:
‘Young People’s Learning and Skilling – Second-Chance Learning and Skilling Opportunities to reach the most vulnerable Young People in the Middle East and North Africa
24. November 2021, 1-4pm (Amman-time)

Key Audience: Young People, Ministries (MOE, MOY, MOL), Private Sector, Practitioners, Donors

Expected Outcome: Dialogue between young people, governments, practitioners and private sector – led by young people themselves. Joint recommendations, owned by young people, on ‘Second-Chance Learning and Skilling Opportunities’ to inform and feed into the MENA Regional Summit, planned for Q2/2022.

Thematic Focus: Young People’s Learning and Skilling – ‘Second-Chance’ Learning and Skilling Opportunities to reach the most vulnerable Young People with skills for lifelong learning, employability, personal empowerment and active citizenship – Dialogue with Young People, led by Young People.

Guiding Questions:
Why do young people drop out of school in the first place?
What motivates young people to re-engage in learning?
What do young people consider important to remain re-engaged in learning?
What are young people’s expectations of second-chance education?
What are some good examples of second-chance education?
What is the role of the private sector, specifically Small and Medium Enterprises (SME), engaging in localized approaches for market-relevant second-chance education?
What motivates young people to re-engage in learning?
What do young people consider important to remain re-engaged in learning?
What are some key recommendations for designing and improving second-chance education?
What are some key lessons learned on ‘what works’ or ‘what does not work’ for second-chance education, skills development and transition into decent employment?

What are some key recommendations for designing and improving second-chance education?
Joint Recommendations to inform the **MENA Regional Summit ‘Young People’s Learning, Skilling, Social Inclusion and Transition to Work’**, hosted by **UNICEF Middle East and North Africa, ILO Arab States and North Africa, UNDP Arab States, UNFPA Arab States** in Q2/2022.

**Background**: One of the greatest opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is to invest in future changemakers – children and young people. They have the potential to contribute to peace and stability and to expand economic opportunities. Now is a window of opportunity. During the first half of the 21st century, an unprecedented proportion of the region’s population will transition into their most productive years. As we build the next and better normal in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a unique opportunity to reimagine education and to transform education systems, make them more flexible, inclusive and innovative in reaching all children, and improve the quality and relevance of teaching and learning across the region.

Children and young people in the region face unprecedented challenges – in terms of learning, employment and social cohesion – aggravated by political instability and conflicts. While most children go to primary education, the likelihood of not being in school reaches 16 per cent for lower-secondary education and an estimated 35 per cent for upper-secondary education. This is accompanied by high inequalities – there is a difference of up to 10 years of schooling between the top 20 per cent of the most educated and the bottom 20 per cent of the least educated. Young people who are girls, poor, displaced, with disabilities, from rural areas or with uneducated parents are those most likely to be left behind.

Education systems are often constrained by outdated pedagogy, learning techniques and examination practices, and are not aligned with contemporary realities and labour market requirements. Traditional teacher-centred and knowledge-based approaches are failing to develop the skills that are essential for lifelong learning, employability, personal empowerment and active citizenship.

The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has amplified the challenges and disparities. It poses a real threat to young people’s education – the speed and the scale of the education disruption are unparalleled.

- The pandemic has further stressed the increasing **importance of life skills** – to navigate anxiety and foster resilience and empathy among young people, to develop critical thinking skills in the context of the ‘infodemic’ and fake news, and to build the self-learning and communication capacity of young people during times of remote and blended learning.

- The pandemic has further showcased the **importance of multiple pathways of learning** – to ensure continues learning through formal and non-formal/second-chance education opportunities. The medium-to long-term socio-economic impact of the pandemic is expected to lead to increased poverty and increased school dropout, especially among the most vulnerable young people.

**Objective**: This Virtual Round Table aims at kickstarting a Dialogue with Young People, let by Young People, with ministries, private sector and practitioners – to learn from Young People and to agree on joint recommendations for designing and improving second-chance education across the MENA region. These joint recommendations will inform the **MENA Regional Summit ‘Young People’s Learning, Skilling, Social Inclusion and Transition to Work’** with governments and private sectors across the region, planned for Q2/2022.
**Agenda:**

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24. November 2021, 1-4pm (Amman-time)

→ Please register here ←

**Countries:** Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, State of Palestine, Tunisia; **Audience:** Young People, Ministries of Education, Youth and Labour, Private Sector, Practitioners, Donors

– Simultaneous translation into English, Arabic and French will be available –

**Moderation:**

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<th>Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Director</th>
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<td>Saddam Sayyaleh, ‘I Learn Jordan’ Social Entrepreneur, Generation Unlimited Global Board Member</td>
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<td><strong>Closing</strong></td>
<td>Kishore Kumar Singh, ILO Arab States Regional Skills and Employability Specialist</td>
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Co-hosted by:

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