MENA Youth Capacity Building in Humanitarian Action (MYCHA)

An Initiative of Reach Out to Asia/Education Above All Foundation
WHAT IS MYCHA?

MYCHA is part of a global movement to promote the participation and leadership of young people in national, local and international humanitarian processes. The initiative aligns with ROTA’s strategic objective of supporting young people across various contexts to realize their full potential and contribute to the development of their communities. MYCHA contributes directly to Key Action 3 of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, which in turn contributes to Transformation 3F of the Agenda for Humanity.

WHAT ARE THE ORIGINS OF MYCHA?

WHS Global Youth Consultation
To ensure that the views and recommendations of young people were effectively integrated into the UN Secretary General’s WHS report, ROTA co-organized the World Humanitarian Summit’s Global Youth Consultation (WHSGYC) in Doha in September 2015 in partnership with the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth. The key outcome of the WHSGYC was the Doha Youth Declaration on Reshaping the Humanitarian Agenda.

World Humanitarian Summit
To further advance the Doha Youth Declaration, ROTA contributed to the planning of the World Humanitarian Summit High-Level Special Session on Transforming Humanitarian Action with and for Young People in Istanbul. It was at this Special Session where ROTA committed to launching a three-year initiative in the MENA region to increase young people’s capacities, knowledge and active participation in humanitarian action.

Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action
The Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action was launched at the WHS and represents a global commitment of humanitarian partners - representing government, civil society, United Nations entities and the private sector - to guarantee that the priorities of young people are addressed by the humanitarian system.

MYCHA
In November 2017, the first MENA Youth Capacity-Building in Humanitarian Action (MYCHA) was hosted in Doha by ROTA. The MYCHA Initiative represents ROTA delivering on our commitment and is a direct contribution to Key Action 3 of the Compact - capacity building and local action.
HOW DOES MYCHA CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPACT?

The Compact guides long-term commitment based on 5 Key Actions. ROTA holds a leadership role on the Compact Technical Working Group, where we are the co-chair of the Key Action 3 Taskforce.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPACT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

1. Make humanitarian programmes contribute to protection, health, development of young women, young men, girls, and boys.
2. Support systematic engagement and partnership with youth in all phases of humanitarian action, especially decision-making and budget allocations.
3. Strengthen young people’s capacities to be effective humanitarian actors, and support local youth-led initiatives and organizations in humanitarian response. This includes young refugees and internally displaced persons living in informal urban settlements and slums.
4. Increase resources to address the needs and priorities of adolescents and youth affected by humanitarian crises and use the new gender and age marker for better tracking and reporting.
5. Generate and systematically use age- and sex- disaggregated data.

MEMBERS OF THE COMPACT:
**HOW DOES MYCHA CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPACT?**

**MYCHA** has six interrelated components. Each is designed to increase capacity among youth from crisis-affected contexts and to provide platforms for them to demonstrate their ability to contribute in positive ways. The development, refinement, and delivery of youth-focused training content forms the core of the model. Components of the emergent model will be synthesized into open source tools and resources which are replicable and adaptable by other agencies to meet their needs for engaging youth at the local level.

**WHAT HAS MYCHA ACHIEVED SO FAR?**

At the core of MYCHA is a series of three regional trainings held annually in Doha. The first such training was hosted in November 2017 by ROTA/EAA, along with partners UNHCR, OCHA, and Qatar Red Crescent (QRC). It provided a unique opportunity for 120 youth between the ages of 18-30 to acquire knowledge and skills in humanitarian action. Once participants complete a MYCHA training, they receive six months of ongoing support and mentorship by local NGOs in their home countries to help them deliver youth-led humanitarian actions which they plan themselves.
WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

MYCHA is a partnership based initiative. From the development of the training content, to the replication of MYCHA trainings at the local level, each component of MYCHA is being supported by a key group of partners.

MYCHA 2017 Partners and Sponsors

OCHA
UNHCR
الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent

25
years
human appeal
INEE

MYCHA 2018 Partners and Sponsors

OCHA
UNHCR
الهلال الأحمر القطري
Qatar Red Crescent
INEE
OSMAN
NRC
UNICEF
QF

WHERE ARE LOCAL MYCHA TRAININGS HAPPENING?

MYCHA trainings are now being localized across many countries in the MENA region, including Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.

MYCHA Jordan September 2018

In line with plans to replicate MYCHA trainings across the region, United Muslim Relief (UMR), in partnership with ROTA, numerous local partners, and various members of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action, hosted a MYCHA training in Jordan. MYCHA Jordan was a five-day event, held from 13-19 September 2018. Forty-six (46) young people from across Jordan attended the training. ROTA supported all technical aspects of MYCHA Jordan including technical backstopping during the planning and delivery phases. The MYCHA training content being developed by ROTA at the regional level formed the basis of the training materials used at MYCHA Jordan.

For MYCHA Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey

Partners from each of these countries have expressed interest in hosting their own local MYCHA trainings.
HOW DOES MYCHA ENGAGE YOUTH AS LEADERS?

The MYCHA Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) and Taskforces are a key element of our model and a way to “anchor” the skills youth are developing through the initiative. The rationale is that as an initiative aimed at recognizing and strengthening the capabilities of young people, MYCHA must meaningfully engage them in its design and leadership. The aim is to:

- Showcase the potential/capacity of young people as humanitarian actors and contributors
- Supplement the MYCHA training and capacity building by providing further outlets for youth to demonstrate and further improve their skills and knowledge
- Mobilize a pool of youth ready to work with different stakeholders at various levels
- Generate new knowledge by documenting and sharing experiences and best practices

WHAT’S NEXT?

ROTA has committed to hosting the regional level MYCHA trainings for three consecutive years in Doha (2019-2017). After the third year, it is ROTA’s vision that other MENA-based organizations will continue to host at least one regional level training annually. ROTA intends to support this effort by providing all the tools and resources developed so far under the initiative.
Tareq Ali Al Ansari
International Collaboration Manager, MOFA

Essa Al Mannai
Executive Director, ROTA, EAA.