



FACT SHEET

Increasing Civic Participation among Youth in Marginalized Urban Morocco



Moroccan youth working toward positive change in their communities. (Photo: USAID)

CONTEXT

Since 1998, Morocco has been implementing major political and government reforms in the areas of democratization, human rights and decentralization, many of which focused on youth participation after the Arab Spring. Lacking genuine channels of dialogue between elected officials and youth, who constitute the majority of the population, youth frustration builds, and susceptibility to extremist ideologies increases.

USAID RESPONSE

USAID is working to increase youth civic participation in local political processes, promote greater transparency, accountability and community interaction with local elected leaders, and lead to tangible positive changes that inspire other youth, by establishing six youth councils supported by Search for Common Ground Morocco (SFCG) and six local partner associations.

The project has three main components:

- **Leadership Development & Civic Engagement:** Encourage youth from marginalized urban neighborhoods to participate constructively in local governance, and bring about positive change in their neighborhoods, nurturing a sense of civic responsibility and community belonging
- **Conflict Transformation:** Build capacities of youth and local authorities in constructive engagement, non-violent communication and advocacy to create spaces for respectful dialogue and exchange
- **Youth Empowerment:** Inspire other youth through online social media, radio and television programming, local round tables and competitions

QUICK FACTS

- **Project Name:** Increasing Civic Participation among Youth in Marginalized Urban Morocco
- **Project Duration:** September 2012- September 2014
- **Program Goal:** to advance Moroccan initiatives for peaceful reform
- **Project Objective:** to increase civil society's contribution in Moroccan public policy processes

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- 150 young leaders from marginalized neighborhoods and 6 local youth councils are increasing skills in citizenship, alternative methods of conflict resolution, and social entrepreneurship;

- 3,000 young people and local and national elected officials are participating in round-table debates;
- Youth councils have been reaching out to 30,000 youths (out of the 60,000) from marginalized urban areas on issues of local governance and democracy using social media, radio and television broadcasts;
- Members of the youth council are establishing e-newspapers and holding intra-regional meetings for knowledge sharing;