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Presentation to Effective Partnerships and Implementation Working Group

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Next Generation

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www.britishcouncil.org

Next Generation: a global British Council research series focusing on young people

We believe that young people are active in transforming their own circumstances, that they have agency, and that they should be supported in their desire to make change.

We do not take a deficit approach – looking at young people as a 'problem' to be solved, or focusing only on their challenges.

Nor an instrumentalist approach – seeing them as assets for the economy. These approaches risk focusing on micro structures – such as employability initiatives – at the expense of the bigger picture.

Instead, our approach is based on empowerment and capability.

What is Next Generation?

The Next Generation research series examines the conditions that support young people in becoming creative, fulfilled and active citizens in their countries.
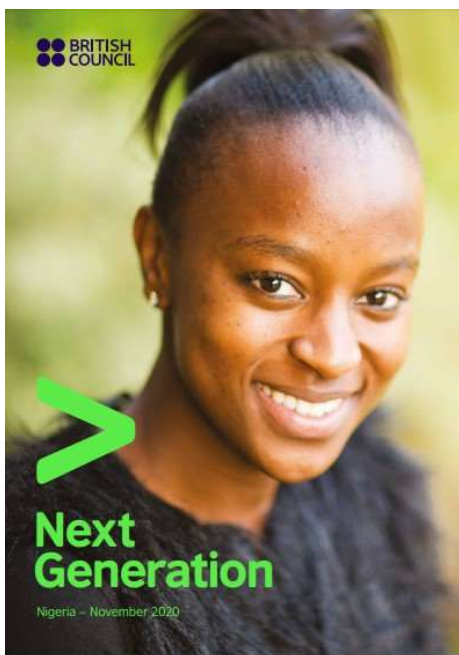
To do so, the reports look at young people's views on:

- education, skills and employment

- civic and community engagement, and their ability to participate and influence

- their degree of international engagement and opinions on the wider world

- the values and beliefs that affect their lives

- their futures – aspirations and concerns

Approach

The Next Generation series uses a mixed-methodology approach to gathering data. The exact methodology and sample size vary slightly between countries and are detailed in each report. Next Generation reports include:

- Literature review

- A survey of a representative sample of young people, often with booster samples of excluded communities (LGBT youth, disabled youth etc)

- Qualitative research, such as interviews and focus groups

- Analysis and conclusions

- Recommendations for a range of stakeholders focused on policy change

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> Next Generation

Lebanon – July 2020

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Vietnam – August 2020

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Ireland–Northern Ireland
December 2018

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Nigeria – November 2020

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Research

Next Generation

Poland

May 2021

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Sri Lanka | March 2019

Next Steps

Next Steps
Myanmar

Next Steps
Lebanon

Background of the Study

Initial NGL	NGL Next Steps
• Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Taif agreement; • **Timeline:** September to December 2019; • **Context:** Early days of October 17 uprising, and early beginning economic crisis; • **Method(s)**: quantitative surveys with a representative sample of youth in Lebanon.	• Commissioned to assess the relevance of initial findings and identify emerging trends; • **Timeline:** January to March 2021; • **Context:** Socio-political standstill, deepening economic and COVID-19 crises and recovery from the Beirut Blast; • **Method(s):** qualitative group and individual discussion with youth and KIIs; • Inclusion of Persons with Disability.

Daily lives of youth in Lebanon- Education

NGL Initial Findings

- 42% of all youth aged 25-29 obtained HE or technical degree. 45% women and 39% men
- 47% Lebanese, 29% Palestinian, 6% Syrian aged 25-29 hold HE or technical degrees

- 20% of all youth aged 25-29 dropped out of high school, due to high costs, need to work or marriage.
- 49% of all youth who dropped out still interested in completing education
- 3% of all youth never received education due to economic barriers or no enrolment
- 47% of those who never received education interested in enrolling in adult education programmes

- 58-59% of all youth believe school curriculum and system is very good
- 65% of all youth believe Lebanese education system needs serious reform
- 17% Lebanese youth received HE scholarships, compared to 38% Syrians and 40% Palestinians

NGL: Next Steps Findings

Most educated youth at all levels (school, undergrad, and graduate) wish to continue their education, preferably aboard.

Youth in Lebanon face common barriers to accessing and staying in education, including financial limitations, inequitable distribution of available majors across areas, and COVID-19.

More and more youth are being forced to drop-out due to their inability to meet educational costs.

Many participating uneducated youth and drop-outs want to return to education, but find it increasingly harder to do so.

Almost all youth agreed that the education curriculum is in need of revision, to meet the demands of youth starting a life in the 21st century.
Youth perceived a chasm in quality of education between public and private institutes.
Almost all Palestinian and Syrian youth at the university level rely on scholarship.

Youth civic and political engagement

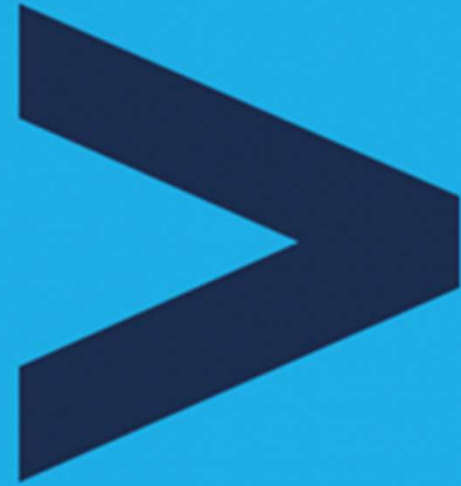| NGL Initial Findings	NGL: Next Steps Findings
Substantial increase in political engagement since 17 October 2019 uprising. Youth confident in themselves as agents of change, with desire to engage in political discussions and processes.	Political engagement has increased significantly since October 2019 uprising, but dipped dramatically after the Beirut Blast. Youth mostly feel oppressed by government and society, and are not confident in their ability as agents of change.
Low trust in current political system, government continues in addition to perception that communities are not supportive of youth. Citizenship laws restrict rights of numerous groups.	Youth still do not feel empowered by government or society to take part in political life, as they often hinder their participation. Refugees youth expressed their willingness to contribute to civic life, but are hindered by laws and racism.
The National Youth Policy (NYP) of 2012 has had little affect and substantial proportions of youth believe religion and state should be separate.	The NYP 2012 is almost completely unknown among youth from all background (except for one participant). The majority of youth identify that the link between religion and state is detrimental to the progress of the country.

Recommendations

Future programming, policies and decisions can capitalize on what unites youth, to set a new social contract.

Recommendations for educational institutes and youth groups/associations:

- Focus on developing marketable skills that youth can apply in the local, regional and global market;

- Promote a secular, civic, and humanistic view of society, by discussing social issues with youth outside of a group identity lens;

- Promote diverse and open inter-youth dialogue, to overcome societal beliefs (often passed by parents).

https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-policy-insight/research-series/next-generation