

We present in this section a Theory of Change (ToC) which explains why we understand that our proposed workplan will fully deliver on the ToR. We have based this ToC upon a results chain hierarchy which connects programme activities, outputs, outcomes and the overall intended impact of the programme through a logical framework. Where possible our ToC assumptions are evidence based, and where we rely on assumptions these are made explicit. Our desired long-term impact, is change that creates **“a more stable, inclusive and equitable Lebanon, where Lebanese youth are empowered to engage in the political processes through greater communication and engagement with municipal governance and parliamentary structures contributing to better state-society relations.”** The ToC ensures that all activities, outputs and outcomes will build towards this long-term impact. Our mapping of the critical pathways of change from activities, outputs, outcomes to impact is set out below.

Activity to Output: Outputs are the short-term results, which are achieved by the aggregation of activities; they are within the control of the programme. We propose below a programme of activities which cluster into programme outputs. Each activity contributes to a specific output forming a pathway to change. In doing so it relies upon our assumptions around the continuance of a number of enabling factors that include: positive and open attitudes towards youth engagement in politics and civic affairs; a suitable level of democratisation that can support youth empowerment and political engagement; a willingness by decision-makers to support pro-youth policies and interventions and to open up the decision-making process to young people; socio-political stability; and political commitment by policy and decision-makers to transition away from identity-based or confessional lines of politics towards issue-based politics when engaging youth.

Activity	Duration (M)onth	Personnel	Stakeholders
Output one: Youth Councils are set-up and functioning political bodies in 4 Federations of Municipalities			
Organise inspiration session for all FoMs, to share Jebel el-Sheikh Youth Council experiences, lobby selected FoMs to establish YC and allocate required budget	M 1-6	Governance Advisor	FoM Councillors and Presidents.
Perform youth needs & concern analysis and local CSO stakeholder assessment, review current mandate of Jebel el-Sheikh FoM YC to formulate the other YC mandates, budgets requirements in close cooperation with FoMs and support on organising Youth Council Elections (from months7)	M1-12 M1-15	Civic engagement expert, Governance Advisor, gender expert, communication expert	CSO members, FoM of Jebel el-Sheikh Councillors and President. Youth representatives and candidates, Youth Councillors, FoM logistical staff
Review all mandates based on working experiences and advice FoM Council.	M 12-15	Governance Advisor, civic engagement expert	FoM Councillors and President
Organise 3 training workshops for CSO delegates and private young citizens on how to stand for Youth Council and execute Youth Council functions (m 4-14) followed by the development and implementation of Youth Council Training Modules on political skills and democratic principles (m 10-20)	M 3-20	Civic engagement expert, communication expert, gender expert	Youth Council candidates & councillors
Output two: Public sessions and retreats are organised to empower young female political Change-Makers			
Performing gender needs assessment for female citizens of targeted FoMs concerning political participation.	M 10-12	Gender Expert	Female Federation & Youth Councillors, CSO representatives, citizen focus groups.
Selection process for candidates of Young Female Change-Makers group	M 12,15,18	Governance Advisor, Gender Expert	Female Federation & Youth Councillors
Organisation of quarterly Retreat Days	M 4,7,10,13,16,19,	Gender Expert	Female Federation & Youth Councillors
Output three: Political Marketplaces are established and a standard methods of targeted FoMs for the open exchange of ideas and policies.			

Formulation of rules and procedures for the establishment of Lebanese Political Markets	M 3-5	European Municipal Expert, Civic engagement expert.	FoM Councillors & Presidents. Local citizen advocacy groups.
Training and coaching sessions of FoM technical staff, FoM Leadership and Youth Councillors, set-up Social Media Pages and organisation of monthly Political Marketplace sessions	M 2-20	Civic engagement Expert, Communication expert, European Municipal Expert	FoM logistical staff; FoM councillors & Presidents, FoM citizens and Youth Councillors
On-call coaching facility for FoM staff and (Youth) Councillors.	M 6-15	Civic engagement expert, Communication expert	FoM staff & Leadership. FoM citizens. Youth Councillors
Output four: Lebanese Civic Youth Centre is institutionalised and digital platform is developed for national youth political engagement			
Draft ToR for the establishment of the L-CYC and attain support for the institutionalisation of L-CYC at Lebanese University; Recruit Coordinator and (university) volunteers and formulation of development and outreach strategy with recruited L-CYC staff; Procurement Design, development and maintenance of National Youth Engagement Platform website	M 3-6	Civic engagement expert, communication expert, Governance Advisor, L-CYC Coordinator	University leadership, Parliamentary Committee on Youth and Sports, University Leadership, L-CYC applicants and volunteers
Procurement for design, development and maintenance of National Youth Engagement Platform website	M 10-13	L-CYC Coordinator	IT firms
High level Public Launch of L-CYC	M10-15	Governance Advisor, L-CYC staff	Public officials, FCO representatives, media, L-CYC volunteers
Training of L-CYC volunteers on usage & maintenance of website as well as youth outreach & event coordination	M7-21	Civic engagement expert, communication expert, IT expert	L-CYC volunteers

Output to Outcomes: The outputs, which are the immediate results of activities, are also the building blocks leading to outcomes. Each of the outcomes outlined below are within the realm of influence of the programme but not within the sphere of control. We set out below the evidence and assumptions underpinning our approach to achieving each. References for evidence in each case are italicised.

Outcome One: More responsive, accountable and transparent political governance towards domestic political issues to address youth needs.

The ToC's first outcome is to be achieved by the following outputs: Youth Councils are set up as functioning and effective political bodies in four (4) Federations of Municipalities (FoMs); Political market places are established and standard methods of targeted FoMs for the open exchange of ideas and policies; and Lebanese Civic Youth Centre (L-CYC) is institutionalised and a digital platform is developed for national youth political engagement.

Outputs 1 and 3 deliver outcome one, as Youth Councils and political market places engender political and civic engagement by youth and provide an avenue in which they can contribute to and influence decision-making and hold public institutions and officials to account. Through political and civic participation, youth become empowered to improve their competencies and social connections (*Zeldin et al., 2007*). Moreover, participation in Youth Councils and political market places improves the prospects of youth engaging in community, civic and political activities (*Bessant, 2004*). Lastly, through both Youth Councils and political market places that provide access to decision-makers, channels would be provided to youth to positively affect domestic political issues by making policymaking more effective, efficient, responsive and grounded in the needs of youth. The fourth output, the Civic Youth Centre and digital platform, is underpinned by evidence that politically and civically educated youth take an interest in learning and understanding their domestic political issues and government. The Civic Youth Centre serves the purpose of educating the youth and providing real-time information on political and governance issues as a higher level of political knowledge has been shown to increase political and civic engagement of young people (*Amadeo et.al, 2002*), equipping youth to hold their elected representatives to account on important issues. Studies show that youth in the Middle East that have regular access to online media sources not only are more politically informed but are more likely to participate in political activities and be civically engaged (*Mercy Corps, 2011*). By developing a digital platform, this output allows youth to engage in political and civic activities that are outside formal institutions and processes.

Outcome Two: Increased inclusion of youth in municipal decision-making processes.

The ToC's second outcome is to be achieved by the following outputs: Youth Councils are set up as functioning and effective political bodies in four (4) Federations of Municipalities (FoMs); Public sessions and retreats are organised to empower young female political champions; and Lebanese Civic Youth Centre (L-CYC) is institutionalised and a digital platform is developed for national youth political engagement;

Youth Councils can serve as effective and legitimate interlocutors between youth and decision-makers, allowing them to meaningfully voice their concerns and advocate for issues that affect them and their communities. Through establishing Youth Councils in selected FoMs, this output will promote greater youth participation and engagement in municipal and government decision-making processes as elected youth representatives will share their ideas, views and perspectives with decision-makers through both the advocacy and advisory role of Youth Councils. Young women in Lebanon face a number of obstacles related to gender and face age discrimination. Output 2 seeks to address this issue and contribute to increased inclusion of youth in municipal and government decision-making processes, targeting in particular young women. Moreover, output 1 also seeks to increase the participation and engagement of young women by setting a quota for female members in Youth Councils. While output 1 focuses on establishing a quota system that will increase the number of women participating in Youth Councils, output 2 seeks to complement the increased representation of young women in municipal decision-making through Youth Councils by nurturing and mentoring female champions that will meaningfully engage in decision-making processes as opposed to playing a tokenistic role. Retreats and visible and public platforms will give women a port of entry to an otherwise closed channel. Output 4 (the Civic Youth Centre) will effect change by providing youth with relevant political information that is packaged to influence and motivate youth to positive political action through formal political structures and processes and will lower barriers to civic and political engagement of Lebanese youth, by bolstering the voice of citizens and disrupting conventional politics that excludes young people by enhancing non-traditional and new channels for political and civic engagement in decision making.

Outcome Three: New National Discourse: Youth are better equipped with the skills to be increasingly engaged around domestic issue-based politics.

The ToC's third outcome is to be achieved by the following outputs: Youth Councils are set up as functioning and effective political bodies in four (4) Federations of Municipalities (FoMs); and Lebanese Civic Youth Centre (L-CYC) is institutionalised and a digital platform is developed for national youth political engagement;

Output 1 (the establishment of Youth Councils) has the potential to equip youth with the skills to meaningfully and effectively engage in advocacy on issue-based politics and issues of their choice. At the individual level, youth representatives of Youth Councils will acquire new skills in leadership, public speaking, organising and public campaigns, fundraising and planning and managing projects such that they will be empowered with a new found sense of confidence, self-efficacy and purpose that will lead to increased engagement in political issues. Furthermore, there is a body of evidence that shows that politically engaged youth have better employment outcomes as they develop social capital, self-efficacy and build larger social networks (*Douglas and Alessi, 2006*). Moreover, in gaining skills through Youth Councils, youth will be able to effectively engage in productive inter-generational dialogue with decision-makers such that it will help boost the image of youth as credible partners for addressing domestic issue-based politics in the minds of decision-makers. At the core of its mission, output 4 (the Civic Youth Centre) aims to develop the civic competencies of Lebanese youth so that they gain the requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes to meaningfully participate in issue-based domestic politics. Through the centre's events and digital platforms, Lebanese young people will be able to gain knowledge on decision making processes and key domestic issues and will develop the civic (digital) skills and be empowered with the tools to organise themselves to advance their issue-based agendas. In this way, youth will begin to develop a concept of 'Lebanese democratic citizenship' and employ a 'civic culture' that focuses on common issues rather than shared confessional identities.

Outcomes to Long-term Objective/Impact: We describe below the three outcomes that articulate the major pathways that lead to the desired impact. These pathways are: Pathway A - More responsive, accountable and transparent political governance towards domestic political issues to address youth needs; Pathway B - Increased inclusion of youth in municipal and parliamentary decision-making processes; and Pathway C - New National Discourse: Youth are better equipped with the skills to be increasingly engaged around domestic issue-based politics.

Within our ToC, the three pathways interact and have positive feedback loops. For example, as pathway C is attained and youth are better equipped with the skills to increasingly engage around domestic issue-based politics, inclusion of youth in municipal and parliamentary decision-making processes should also increase, thereby achieving success in pathway B. There is no particular sequence or priority between the pathways, but each represent a route to achieving the desired societal change (i.e., the impact) of the programme. Overall, the three pathways link the various levels of results and are inter-linked, ultimately supporting the attainment of the long-term objective or impact.