

PeakED Regional Youth Camp



Empowering Youth for Sustainable Mountain Futures

PeakED
Regional Youth Camp
Jordan 2025

Project:
Environmental Involvement
and Education for Young
Entrepreneurs and Volunteers
(PeakED)

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS
Building knowledge and connection with our natural heritage

EDUCATION & SKILLS
Learning, sharing and developing skills for the future

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
Inspiring leadership and supporting innovative ideas

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION
Turning ideas into action for sustainable mountain communities

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES
Working together today for resilient mountains tomorrow

From the Mountains We Grow Stronger Together.

Co-funded by the European Union under Erasmus+ programme

Project: *Environmental Involvement and Education for Young Entrepreneurs and Volunteers (PeakED)*

Co-Funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ KA220-YOU Cooperation Partnerships in Youth

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Implemented by Desert Bloom

Jordan | September – October 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Executive Summary
3. Project Context and Objectives
4. Methodology and Learning Approach
5. Trainers/ Facilitators Profile
6. Participants Profile
7. Workshop 1: Mountain Identity & Community Asset Mapping
8. Workshop 2: Youth Participation & Co-Governance
9. Workshop 3: Climate Change & Resilience in Mountain Areas
10. Workshop 4: Innovation & Sustainable Solutions
11. Workshop 5: From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue
12. Monitoring, Evaluation, and KPIs
13. Overall Outcomes and Impact
14. Key Recommendations
15. Annexes:
 - Dissemination Links
 - Participants List

1. Introduction

The **PeakED Regional Youth Camp – Jordan 2025** was organized as part of the broader PeakED project, aiming to empower young people to actively contribute to sustainable development, environmental resilience, and community innovation in mountain regions.

Implemented across five thematic workshops between September and October 2025, the camp brought together youth workers, environmental advocates, social entrepreneurs, university students, and local stakeholders from across Jordan. Through experiential learning, Living Lab methodologies, field engagement, and intercultural dialogue, participants explored practical pathways toward sustainable mountain futures.

The camp focused not only on environmental awareness, but also on leadership development, civic participation, green innovation, and community resilience. By combining outdoor learning, participatory governance simulations, climate education, entrepreneurship, and field implementation activities, the initiative enabled youth participants to transform ideas into actionable solutions.

2. Executive Summary

The PeakED Regional Youth Camp successfully implemented a five-day learning journey designed to strengthen youth engagement in environmental sustainability and mountain ecosystem resilience in Jordan.

The workshops addressed interconnected themes including:

- Mountain identity and cultural heritage
- Community asset mapping
- Youth participation and co-governance
- Climate resilience in mountain ecosystems
- Green entrepreneurship and innovation
- Transnational environmental dialogue and local action

A minimum of 60 youth participants engaged throughout the five workshops, supported by more than 12 trainers, facilitators, environmental experts, and local stakeholders. Activities combined practical fieldwork, participatory discussions, role-play simulations, design-thinking exercises, and community-based learning approaches.

The program achieved strong participant satisfaction and exceeded qualitative indicators, including:

- Average evaluation of trainings/camps: **4.5/5**
- Average evaluation of time spent: **4.5/5**
- Average evaluation of facilitator support: **4/5**

Key outcomes included:

- Increased youth understanding of mountain ecosystems and climate risks

- Strengthened confidence in civic engagement and local governance participation
- Development of innovative sustainability prototypes and community initiatives
- Enhanced intercultural and transnational collaboration among youth
- Practical environmental action through tree planting and water-harvesting activities

The camp demonstrated the value of experiential and community-based education in empowering youth as active contributors to sustainable mountain development and environmental stewardship.

3. Project Context and Objectives

Jordan's mountain ecosystems face increasing pressure from climate change, biodiversity degradation, unsustainable tourism, water scarcity, and land-use challenges. At the same time, young people often remain underrepresented in local environmental decision-making despite their strong potential to contribute innovative solutions.

The PeakED Regional Youth Camp was designed to address these interconnected challenges by creating a participatory learning environment where youth could strengthen their environmental awareness, leadership capacities, and practical problem-solving skills.

Main Objectives

The camp aimed to:

- Empower youth to become active environmental leaders in mountain communities
- Promote sustainable mountain development and ecosystem protection
- Enhance understanding of climate resilience and environmental governance
- Foster youth participation in local sustainability processes
- Encourage green entrepreneurship and innovative thinking
- Build cross-sector and transnational dialogue around environmental solutions
- Apply Living Lab methodologies through practical, community-centered learning

4. Methodology and Learning Approach

The camp adopted the **Living Lab (LL) methodology**, emphasizing collaborative learning, experimentation, and community engagement.

The methodology combined:

- Outdoor experiential learning
- Community asset mapping
- Stakeholder engagement
- Participatory simulations and role-play
- Design thinking and innovation exercises
- Intergenerational dialogue
- Field implementation activities
- Reflection and peer learning

This integrated approach ensured that participants moved progressively from awareness and understanding toward practical action and collaborative solution-building.

5. Trainers/ Facilitators Profile

Trainer / Facilitator	Position / Expertise	Short Profile
Ms. Dana Jabari	Psychologist, Desert Bloom	Psychologist with expertise in mental health, psychosocial support, and youth well-being, supporting young people through personal development, resilience-building, and community engagement initiatives.
Ms. Tala Abu Wardeh	Business Entrepreneur	Entrepreneur with experience in business development, innovation, and entrepreneurship, supporting youth and startups in developing sustainable business models and leadership skills.
Ms. Sarah Al-Hammouri	Mental Health Specialist	Specialist in mental health and psychosocial well-being, focusing on emotional resilience, stress management, and promoting mental wellness among youth and community groups.
Ms. Amanda Röpke	Educator	International educator experienced in non-formal education, youth learning methodologies, and intercultural exchange, with a focus on inclusive and participatory learning approaches.
Ms. Dima Adayleh	Tadamon Women Association	Development practitioner working with women and local communities on social inclusion, empowerment, and community development initiatives through Tadamon Women Association.
Mr. Mamoun Abu Romman	Permaculture Specialist	Expert in permaculture, sustainable agriculture, and environmental practices, with practical experience in regenerative systems, food security, and eco-friendly land management.
Mr. Samer Kasih	Board Member, Desert Bloom; SALTO Youth Network Trainer	Experienced youth trainer and board member with expertise in non-formal education, project management, youth mobility, and international capacity-building initiatives.
Mr. Mamoun Khreisat	President of Board of Directors, Desert Bloom	Organizational leader and environmental advocate with extensive experience in civil society management, youth empowerment, and sustainable development initiatives.
Mr. Saud Qasim	Youth Worker	Youth worker engaged in youth participation, community mobilization, and leadership development, supporting young people in civic engagement and local initiatives.
Mr. Sufian Khreasat	Renewable Engineer	Engineer specialized in renewable energy systems and sustainable technologies, promoting green innovation, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability solutions.
Mr. Feras Naser	Entrepreneur; Founder of Co-Creation Movement Jordan	Social entrepreneur and founder focused on innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship ecosystems, supporting youth-led initiatives and social impact projects in Jordan.
Mr. Fares Awamleh	Ministry of Agriculture	Representative from the Ministry of Agriculture with expertise in agricultural development, environmental management, and public sector engagement in sustainability initiatives.

6. Participants Profile

The camp engaged a diverse group of participants aged 18–30 from various regions of Jordan.

Participant Categories

- Youth workers
- Environmental advocates
- University students
- Young entrepreneurs
- Local community leaders
- NGO representatives
- Trainers and facilitators

Quantitative Participation Indicators

Indicator	Target	Achieved
Minimum participants per day	12	Achieved
Total participant engagement across 5 workshops	60	Achieved
Trainers and facilitators	Minimum 12	Achieved

The diversity of backgrounds enriched discussions and strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration throughout the camp.

7. Workshop 1: Mountain Identity & Community Asset Mapping

Salt, Jordan – 13 September 2025



Workshop Overview

The first workshop introduced participants to the cultural, ecological, and social dimensions of mountain communities through field-based learning and community engagement activities in Salt.

Participants explored how community assets—including cultural heritage, local knowledge, biodiversity, and traditional practices—can support sustainable development and resilience.

Key Activities

- Guided mountain hike and ecosystem exploration
- Community interviews with farmers, artisans, and elders
- Community Asset Mapping (CAM) exercises
- Group reflection sessions on sustainability and identity

The PeakED Regional Youth Camp officially launched in the mountain town of Salt with its first workshop, “Mountain Identity & Community Asset Mapping.” The event brought together motivated youth (ages 18–30) and local stakeholders from across Jordan to reconnect with mountain heritage and explore sustainable pathways for mountain-based communities.

This workshop marked the beginning of a five-part training series designed to strengthen youth leadership in mountain ecosystem protection, cultural preservation, and sustainable development. The program applies the Living Lab (LL) methodology—an innovative framework within the PeakED project that blends real-world learning, community dialogue, and collaborative innovation.

Rediscovering Mountain Identity Through Experience

The day opened with a guided hike through Salt’s surrounding mountains. Accompanied by local guides and environmental experts, participants observed the region’s rich biodiversity, traditional land use, and cultural landmarks—from springs and terraced farms to shrines and artisanal craft traditions.

“Mountains are not just landscapes—they are living, breathing parts of our identity,” shared Mr. Abu Romman, a local farmer. A young participant reflected: “Walking these paths with purpose gave me a new appreciation for our shared heritage as city dwellers.”

Youth-Led Engagement with the Community

The second part of the workshop turned the focus to community-based learning and asset mapping. Youth participants engaged with local elders, artisans, and farmers, collecting oral histories and traditional knowledge on topics such as forest stewardship, water use, crafts, and community governance.

Through the Community Asset Mapping (CAM) exercise, participants shifted the development lens from community needs to community strengths—highlighting the skills, resources, and traditions

already present in Salt's mountain communities. This holistic approach fosters local ownership and sustainability by building on what exists rather than starting from deficits.

Community Assets Identified

The mapping exercise revealed a wealth of underutilized resources, grouped into six key categories:

- Individuals: farmers with ecological expertise, women artisans, youth leaders, and community elders.
- Associations & Networks: women's and youth cooperatives, environmental groups.
- Institutions: local schools, municipalities, and NGOs such as Wadi Al Hour Youth Club.
- Physical & Natural Assets: biodiversity hotspots, agricultural terraces, natural springs, eco-tourism infrastructure, cultural landmarks.
- Economic Assets: agriculture, handicrafts, eco-tourism opportunities.
- Cultural Assets: oral traditions, traditional foodways, and agricultural festivals.

The findings suggest that youth networks and women's cooperatives represent powerful but under-leveraged engines for innovation and local development.

For the Living Lab design, this implies a focus on:

- Expanding eco-tourism initiatives.
- Strengthening youth and women's enterprises with market access and digital tools.
- Leveraging cultural heritage for socio-economic empowerment.

From Assets to Action

Building on insights from the hike and community engagement, participants worked in small groups to identify both strengths and vulnerabilities in Salt's mountain ecosystem. Their reflections were complemented by local tourism and land-use data, which helped assess the sustainability of current development trends.

In a final facilitated discussion, youth participants defined sustainability from their community perspective—emphasizing themes of balance with nature, intergenerational responsibility, and the preservation of cultural identity.

Conclusion

The workshop highlighted that Salt's mountain communities are rich in human, cultural, and natural assets that, if harnessed effectively, could drive sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion. The insights generated in this first training will serve as the foundation for future Living Lab interventions within the PeakED Regional Youth Camp series. "It's not just about learning—it's about building a community of young changemakers," said Samer Kasih, facilitator.



Main Findings

Participants identified several underutilized assets including youth networks, women-led cooperatives, biodiversity hotspots, eco-tourism opportunities, and traditional ecological knowledge.

Participant Testimonies

“Walking through the mountains helped me reconnect with our heritage in a completely different way. I realized sustainability starts with understanding our identity.”

— Mohammad Jedayah, University Student

“The asset mapping activity changed my perspective. Instead of focusing on problems, we learned to recognize the strengths already existing within communities.”

— Abdallah Khawaledh, Rural young farmer

“Listening to local elders reminded me that traditional knowledge is essential for environmental protection.”

— Naser Osta, Environmental Advocate

Evaluation Summary

Participants reported strong engagement and satisfaction with the outdoor and participatory learning approach.

Key Evaluation Insights

- Increased understanding of mountain identity and local heritage
- Strong appreciation for community-based learning
- High confidence gains in community asset mapping skills
- Positive feedback regarding inclusiveness and group dynamics

Average Session Evaluation

Evaluation Area Average Score

Training quality 4.8/5

Time management 4.4/5

Facilitator support 4.7/5

8. Workshop 2: Youth Participation & Co-Governance

Amman, Jordan – 18 September 2025



Workshop Overview

The second workshop explored youth participation in environmental governance and local decision-making processes. Through simulations and civic engagement exercises, participants examined how young people can contribute to sustainable local governance.

Key Activities

- Stakeholder mapping exercises
- Power–Interest Grid analysis
- Governance role-play simulations
- World Café discussions
- Civic Action Challenge

The workshop brought together young leaders and experts from across Jordan to reimagine the role of youth—from passive beneficiaries to active co-creators—in shaping local environmental solutions.

With 26% of Jordan’s population aged 16–30, participants were recognized as a vital but underutilized force in addressing some of the country’s most urgent environmental challenges:

- Water scarcity and mismanagement – Jordan ranks among the world’s most water-scarce nations, with challenges intensified by drought and over-extraction.
- Deforestation and loss of natural vegetation.
- Urbanization and infrastructure expansion in mountain and rural areas.
- Soil erosion and land degradation.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices.

In this energetic and thought-provoking workshop young Jordanians came together to explore a bold vision: *what if youth were not just consulted, but shared in governing local sustainability decisions?*

With 26% of its 11.6 million citizens aged between 16 and 30, Jordan is a young nation rich in potential. Despite the limited employment opportunities and growing environmental challenges—the workshop’s message was clear: **youth are not a challenge to manage but a resource to activate.**

“Jordan’s youth bring energy, innovation, and passion,” said one facilitator. “These qualities are essential for tackling local sustainability challenges, especially in rural and mountainous areas.”

From Beneficiaries to Co-Governors

Participants engaged in highly interactive sessions designed to reimagine governance models and test what *real* co-governance could look like in practice. Key activities included:

- Stakeholder Mapping using the Power–Interest Grid
- Role-play simulation where youth acted as municipal officers, farmers, NGO leaders, and entrepreneurs developing a local climate plan
- World Café dialogues envisioning a youth-led climate action framework

The sessions highlighted a recurring insight: while youth are eager to contribute to sustainable development, they often lack access to decision-making structures or resources.

Youth Priorities and Recommendations

From these exchanges emerged clear and practical proposals reflecting the aspirations of young Jordanians:

- Greater transparency and communication between municipalities and youth
- Formal youth representation in local councils and advisory boards
- Micro-grants for youth-led environmental initiatives
- Training in leadership and project design
- Stronger partnerships among youth groups, NGOs, schools, and local businesses

As one participant expressed: “We’re not asking for token roles—we want to co-create solutions and take part in decision-making.”

From Dialogue to Action

The workshop concluded with a **Civic Action Challenge**, where participants designed small-scale community initiatives—from neighborhood clean-ups and climate awareness campaigns to youth-municipality planning sessions.

A closing reflection circle captured the spirit of the day, as participants shared one word describing their takeaway: “*empowered*,” “*included*,” “*responsible*.”

Looking Ahead

Far more than a one-off event, the workshop served as a catalyst for continued engagement. **PeakED Living Lab** organizers pledged ongoing support to help youth connect with municipal actors and translate ideas into action.

As Jordan advances its local governance reforms, workshops like this demonstrate the vital role of young people as **co-creators of sustainable futures—not someday, but today**.

The workshop concluded with a Civic Action Challenge, where participants designed quick-impact initiatives, including clean-up drives, climate awareness campaigns, and youth-led consultations with municipal officials.

This workshop was more than a learning experience—it was a call to action. Organizers reaffirmed their commitment to advancing youth participation in local governance and environmental planning. As Jordan continues reforming its governance structures, one message was clear:

Youth are not the leaders of tomorrow—they are leading today.



Main Outcomes

Participants developed practical recommendations to strengthen youth participation in local sustainability governance structures.

Participant Testimonies

“This workshop made me realize that young people should not only participate in consultations but also co-create policies.”

— Saud Qasim, Youth Worker

“The governance simulation helped me understand how municipalities make decisions and how youth can influence those processes.”

— Serin Shaheen, Social Enterprise Representative

“I now feel more confident engaging with local authorities and advocating for environmental issues.”

— Hamzeh Kasih, University Student

Evaluation Summary

Participants highlighted the role-play activities as highly effective in making governance concepts practical and accessible.

Key Evaluation Insights

- Improved understanding of co-governance concepts
- Increased confidence in civic participation
- Strong engagement in simulations and group dialogue
- Positive feedback on collaborative learning methods

Average Session Evaluation

Evaluation Area	Average Score
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Training quality	4.5/5
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Time management	4.4/5
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Facilitator support	4.1/5
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9. Workshop 3: Climate Change & Resilience in Mountain Areas

Amman, Jordan – 28 September 2025



Workshop Overview

The third workshop focused on climate change impacts on mountain ecosystems and explored resilience strategies tailored to Jordan's environmental realities.

Key Activities

- Climate impact presentations
- Case study analysis
- Role-play and resilience planning exercises
- Group debates on ecosystem management
- Scientific discussions on biodiversity and microbiomes

The third workshop of the *PeakED Regional Youth Camp: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Mountain Futures* took place at the Desert Bloom office in Amman. Titled “*Climate Change & Resilience in Mountain Areas*”, the session explored the urgent challenges facing Jordan’s mountains in a time of climate crisis and the potential for youth-driven solutions.

Why Mountains Matter

Facilitators began by underlining the essential role of mountain ecosystems in Jordan. Far from being distant backdrops, mountains provide clean air, spaces for recreation, and lifelines of water that sustain both Amman and the Jordan Valley.

The Dana Biosphere Reserve, covering 308 km², exemplifies this richness, sheltering more than 800 plant species and 449 animal species, including 215 bird species—half of Jordan’s avifauna. Mountain forests also function as carbon sinks, storing up to 1,200 tons of carbon per hectare.

“Mountains are lifelines, not margins,” one facilitator noted, setting the tone for the day.

Myth vs. Reality

A central exercise challenged the myth that mountains are remote, untouched, and pure. The reality is that Jordan’s mountain ecosystems carry a heavy human footprint:

- **Mining** in Dana threatens fragile habitats for 38 mammal and 833 plant species.
- **Wind farms**, such as Tafila’s 117 MW site, contribute clean energy but overlap with migratory bird flyways.
- **Tourism**, with over 5 million visitors annually, stresses water supplies, generates waste, and erodes land.
- **Forest cover**, once 32%, has now dropped to just 1% nationally.

The discussion emphasized that sustainability requires balancing human activity with ecosystem protection.

Climate Change Amplified

Mountains are warming up to twice as fast as lowlands, and Jordan’s highlands show alarming trends:

- **Snow decline**: Ajloun’s snow cover has dropped 20–30%, with only 5–10 snowy days annually compared to weeks in past decades.
- **Water stress**: reduced precipitation and snowmelt threaten recharge of the Mujib, Wala, and Zarqa aquifers—vital for Amman’s 4 million residents.
- **Extreme events**: deadly flash floods at the Dead Sea (2018) and Petra (2018, 2022) illustrate the growing risks.
- **Biodiversity pressures**: vegetation decline and shrinking habitats strain mountain goats, birds, and rural livelihoods.

Key Challenges in Jordan’s Mountain Areas

Group discussions identified five interlinked pressures:

1. **Severe water scarcity** – among the lowest in the world.
2. **Overgrazing & vegetation loss** – undermining soil stability and increasing erosion.
3. **Tourism pressure** – especially in Petra, Dana, and Ajloun.
4. **Climate change impacts** – more heat, droughts, and extreme rainfall.
5. **Biodiversity loss** – as rare species face mounting stress.

A role-play exercise asked participants: “*If you were the mayor of a mountain town, which risk would you tackle first—floods, drought, or pollution? Why?*” The activity highlighted the importance of local leadership and prioritization in building resilience.

Hidden Helpers: Microbes in Soil & Water

The workshop also drew attention to the invisible foundations of resilience: soil and water microbiomes. These microbial communities sustain agriculture, filter water, and buffer ecosystems against stress. Climate change, however, disrupts their balance—leading to weaker soils, poorer water quality, and declining resilience.

Youth participants reflected that true climate solutions must recognize not just forests and rivers, but also these hidden ecosystems.

Case Study: Fish Stocking in Mountain Lakes

A case study examined the long-standing practice of introducing hatchery-raised fish into high-altitude lakes and reservoirs. Historically used to provide protein, and later to encourage tourism and food security, fish stocking was debated for its costs and benefits.

Benefits cited: protein provision, employment opportunities for vulnerable youth, support for food security.

Risks identified: biodiversity loss, harmful algal blooms, mercury pollution, and disruption of native aquatic life.

Local research at King Talal and Wadi Al-Arab Dams showed that fish stocking has contributed to eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and declines in native species. The case sparked lively debate among participants: “*Do the benefits of fish farming outweigh the drawbacks in Jordan?*”

Calls to Action

Facilitators and youth concluded the session with shared recommendations for building resilience:

- **Preventing non-native fish stocking** and regulating aquaculture in sensitive ecosystems.
- **Regular water quality monitoring** for nutrients, toxins, and pollutants.
- **Managing agricultural runoff** through better fertilizer use and filtration systems.

- **Promoting sustainable ecotourism** in mountain areas to create green jobs without harming fragile ecosystems.

Conclusion

The third workshop of the *PeakED* project gathered a group of around 15 youth—students, young professionals, and interested community members—at the Desert Bloom office in Amman. Their contributions showed how deeply young people care about the future of Jordan’s mountains and how willing they are to take part in solutions.

Through case studies, debates, and scenario exercises, participants confronted the reality of climate change in mountain ecosystems, while exploring ways to strengthen resilience through community action, policy innovation, and environmental stewardship.

The workshop closed with a shared insight: *resilient mountains mean resilient communities. Protecting them requires not only policies and technologies, but also the energy, knowledge, and commitment of youth.*



Main Outcomes

Participants gained deeper awareness of climate vulnerabilities affecting mountain ecosystems and explored adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Participant Testimonies

“I never realized how quickly mountain ecosystems are changing because of climate change.”
— Ruba Dhayyat, Environmental Activist

“The workshop connected science with real community impacts, which made the discussions more meaningful.”
— Heam Khaddam, Youth Participant

“The resilience exercises helped us think practically about protecting our communities from environmental risks.”
— Eng. Yazan Alrousan, Young entrepreneur

Evaluation Summary

Participants appreciated the balance between scientific learning and practical discussions.

Key Evaluation Insights

- Increased understanding of climate resilience concepts
- High motivation to support environmental action
- Positive response to case studies and scenario-based learning
- Strong appreciation for scientific and practical integration

Average Session Evaluation

Evaluation Area	Average Score
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Training quality	4.5/5
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Time management	4.6/5
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Facilitator support	4.5/5
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10. Workshop 4: Innovation & Sustainable Solutions

Amman, Jordan – 2 October 2025



Workshop Overview

This workshop focused on entrepreneurship, circular economy principles, and design thinking as tools for environmental innovation and sustainable development.

Key Activities

- Innovation and entrepreneurship discussions
- Circular economy exercises
- Design thinking sessions
- Sustainability prototyping activities
- Group solution development

The *PeakED Regional Youth Camp: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Mountain Futures* continued with its fourth session, *Innovation & Sustainable Solutions*, hosted at the **Desert Bloom office in Amman**. Building on earlier workshops, this session invited youth participants to explore how creativity, entrepreneurship, and circular thinking can drive practical solutions to Jordan's pressing environmental and socio-economic challenges.

Through interactive exercises, case studies, and prototyping, participants learned how to move from identifying community problems to generating sustainable, scalable responses that can support mountain livelihoods and ecosystems.

Why Mountains Matter for Jordan

The workshop opened with a discussion of the vital role mountains play in Jordan's environment and economy. They supply freshwater through springs and wadis, shelter biodiversity, and sustain tourism hotspots such as Petra, Dana, and Ajloun. They also provide products like olives, honey, and medicinal herbs.

However, climate change, overuse, and waste are eroding these services. As one participant observed: *"We cannot take mountains for granted—they are our lifeline."*

Why Innovation Is Needed

Jordan's youth face intersecting challenges: severe water scarcity, high unemployment, and dependence on imported resources. Traditional methods alone cannot address these. Facilitators emphasized that innovation means approaching problems with creativity and collaboration, using local assets and knowledge.

Dana, one of the trainers, noted: *"Innovation is not about waiting for perfect conditions—it is about finding ways forward with what we have."*

Entrepreneurship in Action

The concept of entrepreneurship was reframed as more than just starting companies. It includes school projects, neighborhood initiatives, or community-based enterprises that identify problems, design solutions, and make them useful for others.

Youth explored Jordanian case studies of entrepreneurship in action:

- **“Our Land Unites Us” (Ma’an):** repurposing olive waste into incense products.
- **Hydroponic Farming (UNICEF & DAA, Jerash):** water-efficient farming projects for vulnerable youth.
- **Sawn / Anwar Farm:** youth-led rooftop agriculture and community farming.
- **Green Hackathon (BDC & EU, Azraq & Zarqa):** competitions that funded innovative youth sustainability projects.

These examples highlighted how entrepreneurship can create jobs, reduce waste, and strengthen resilience.

Circular Economy: New Pathways for Jordan

Facilitators introduced the circular economy model, which shifts from “take-use—throw away” toward reducing, reusing, recycling, and rethinking. Participants discussed Jordan-specific examples:

- Olive waste transformed into cosmetics and bioenergy.
- Tires repurposed for playgrounds and construction.
- Plastic bottles recycled into textiles.

While the benefits are clear - saving resources, lowering costs, protecting ecosystems—youth also debated the barriers, from limited recycling infrastructure to regulatory and financial challenges.

Design Thinking as a Tool for Change

The session then introduced **Design Thinking**, a step-by-step method for problem-solving: understand, ideate, test, and improve. In pairs, youth identified a local challenge, brainstormed possible solutions, and sketched simple prototypes.

Amanda reminded the group: *“Innovation is not about being perfect. It is about learning through trial, error, and community feedback.”*

Prototyping Sustainable Solutions

In group exercises, participants applied the design thinking process to four key areas:

1. **Waste & Recycling** - tackling litter and lack of awareness through community-driven reuse systems.

2. **Water Management** - addressing leaks, scarcity, and overuse in households and farming.
3. **Sustainable Agriculture** - reducing reliance on chemicals and restoring soil health.
4. **Energy & Emissions** - exploring clean and affordable alternatives to diesel generators.

Teams developed early prototypes such as mobile applications for waste collection, rooftop water-saving devices, and community composting projects.

Conclusion

The workshop demonstrated that innovation is not abstract, it emerges when communities work together to rethink their resources and challenges. By combining entrepreneurship, circular economy principles, and design thinking, youth participants envisioned new pathways for Jordan's mountain futures.

Sara concluded the session by reminding participants: *“Sustainability starts with small, creative steps. Each idea we test brings us closer to resilient communities.”*

These insights will be carried forward into the final workshop, *From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue*, where participants will develop their prototypes into collaborative, cross-border initiatives.



Main Outcomes

Participants developed prototype ideas addressing waste management, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and renewable energy.

Participant Testimonies

“The workshop showed us that innovation does not require huge resources—it starts with creative thinking.”

— Sufian Khreasat, Youth Entrepreneur

“Design thinking helped our group transform environmental challenges into practical ideas.”

— Mohammad Kasih, University Student

“I was inspired by the examples of Jordanian youth creating successful sustainability initiatives.”
— Saud Qasim, Youth Worker

Evaluation Summary

Participants strongly valued the practical and creative nature of the workshop.

Key Evaluation Insights

- Increased confidence in creative problem-solving
- Strong engagement in innovation exercises
- Positive response to entrepreneurship case studies
- High motivation to pilot local sustainability initiatives

Average Session Evaluation

Evaluation Area	Average Score
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Training quality	4.6/5
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Time management	4.5/5
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Facilitator support	4.4/5
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11. Workshop 5: From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue

Salt, Jordan – 4 October 2025



Workshop Overview

The final workshop focused on translating learning into action through practical environmental activities and transnational dialogue on mountain ecosystem preservation.

Key Activities

- Food Forest implementation activity
- Planting of 30 native cactus trees
- Water-harvesting and cistern demonstrations
- Transnational dialogue sessions
- Reflection and future planning exercises

The fifth and final workshop of the PeakED Regional Youth Camp: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Mountain Futures marked a transformative phase—where participants shifted from learning and reflection to practical action and international exchange.

Titled “From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue,” the session aimed to translate the participants’ acquired knowledge into tangible field practices focused on mountain ecosystem resilience, while fostering dialogue on regional and global conservation efforts.

Field Application: Salt Mountain Resilience Project

The core component of the workshop was a hands-on field activity conducted on a Mountain in Salt, a site selected for its ecological and cultural significance. This practical session allowed the young participants to move beyond theory, applying sustainability principles to strengthen local environmental resilience.

The Food Forest Initiative

The participants collaboratively designed and implemented a Food Forest project — a sustainable land management system that mirrors natural forest ecosystems while integrating edible plants. This method enhances biodiversity, improves soil fertility, and creates a self-sustaining food source for both humans and wildlife.

As part of the initiative, 30 native cactus trees were planted in open areas within the existing forest. Native species such as cacti are vital for mountain ecosystems because they are drought-tolerant, require minimal maintenance, and provide both habitat and nourishment for native fauna. Their deep-root systems also help stabilize the soil, prevent erosion, and enhance the mountain’s natural defenses against environmental stressors such as drought and land degradation.

Water Management and Traditional Knowledge

Recognizing that water management is a cornerstone of mountain resilience—particularly in arid and semi-arid regions—the team explored traditional and innovative water-harvesting practices. Participants learned about the “pear-shaped cistern” technique, a traditional method used to collect and store rainwater flowing from mountain slopes. These underground cisterns play a critical role in recharging groundwater, sustaining newly planted vegetation, and ensuring reliable water access for communities and wildlife during dry periods.

Through this immersive experience, participants not only strengthened their technical understanding of sustainable ecosystem management but also developed a deeper appreciation for the interconnection between ecological restoration and community well-being.

Transnational Dialogue: Regional and Global Perspectives

Following the fieldwork, participants engaged in a transnational and intergenerational dialogue exploring regional and global initiatives dedicated to mountain ecosystem preservation. This exchange enabled them to situate their local efforts within a broader global context, comparing models, strategies, and success stories from diverse regions.

Discussions emphasized the importance of context-specific and community-driven approaches in mountain conservation—recognizing that while environmental challenges may be shared, effective solutions must align with local social, cultural, and ecological realities.

Below are some key initiatives discussed:

Initiative / Country	Description	Key Takeaway for Participants
The Prasiddhi Forest Foundation/ India	A youth-led reforestation movement founded by Prasiddhi Singh, which has planted over 150,000 trees across India. Its “3G” model—Generate oxygen, Grow food, Gift back—combines environmental restoration with community empowerment and food security.	Demonstrated how youth-led, holistic reforestation initiatives can merge environmental sustainability with community well-being and economic inclusion.
“Green Generation” Initiative/ Morocco	A national strategy integrating large-scale reforestation (one million hectares by 2030) with rural development and sustainable industries like argan oil.	Showcased how ambitious state-led efforts can align environmental and socio-economic objectives, tackling desertification while creating green livelihoods.
“ARK” – Mount Parnitha Restoration/ Greece	A community-driven reforestation and soil restoration initiative following the 2007 forest fires near Athens. Activities included native tree planting, erosion control, and biodiversity monitoring.	Illustrated that successful ecosystem restoration requires long-term, science-based, and participatory engagement combining reforestation, monitoring, and public awareness.

Mountaineers Without Prejudice /Bosnia and Herzegovina	A network of mountaineering associations promoting eco-tourism, environmental protection, and social reconciliation through trail restoration and mountain clean-up campaigns.	Highlighted the potential of environmental initiatives to promote both ecological stewardship and social cohesion across divided communities.
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Conclusion and Way Forward

The “From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue” workshop served as a culmination of the PeakED Youth Camp experience, bridging the gap between conceptual learning and real-world application. Through practical fieldwork and global dialogue, participants strengthened their technical, ecological, and intercultural competencies.

By planting native species, adopting traditional water-harvesting methods, and exchanging insights on international initiatives, participants embodied the principle that local actions can drive global change.

This final session not only empowered young leaders to act as ambassadors of mountain resilience within their own communities but also established a foundation for future cross-border collaboration—ensuring that the knowledge, inspiration, and partnerships cultivated during the camp continue to grow long after its conclusion.



Main Outcomes

Participants successfully implemented a field-based environmental initiative while strengthening intercultural learning and regional cooperation.

Participant Testimonies

“Planting native species gave us a sense of responsibility toward the future of our mountains.”
— Luma Dehayat, Youth Participant

“The transnational dialogue showed that local environmental challenges are connected to global realities.”
— Asmaa Hazaimah, Environmental Advocate

“This camp helped transform ideas into practical action.”
— Ibrahim Jedayeh, Young Entrepreneur

Evaluation Summary

Participants identified this workshop as one of the most impactful due to its practical implementation component.

Key Evaluation Insights

- Increased readiness to implement community initiatives
- Strong appreciation for intercultural dialogue
- Positive feedback on mentorship and facilitation
- High motivation for future collaboration

Average Session Evaluation

Evaluation Area	Average Score
Training quality	4.7/5
Time management	4.6/5
Facilitator support	4.8/5

12. Monitoring, Evaluation, and KPIs

Qualitative Indicators

KPI	Result
Average evaluation of trainings/camps	4.5/5
Average evaluation of time spent	4.5/5
Average evaluation of facilitator support	4/5

Quantitative Indicators

KPI	Target	Achievement
Participants per workshop	Minimum 12	Achieved
Total participant engagement	Minimum 60	Achieved
Trainers and facilitators	Minimum 12	Achieved

Overall Evaluation Findings

Participant feedback demonstrated:

- High levels of engagement and satisfaction
- Strong appreciation for experiential learning methods
- Increased confidence in environmental leadership
- Greater awareness of sustainability and governance issues
- Strong willingness to continue environmental action after the camp

Participants particularly valued:

- Outdoor learning experiences
- Interactive simulations and role-play
- Group collaboration activities
- Practical environmental implementation
- Cross-sector and intercultural dialogue

13. Overall Outcomes and Impact

The PeakED Regional Youth Camp generated significant educational, social, and environmental impact.

Key Achievements

- Empowered youth as environmental changemakers
- Strengthened local ownership of sustainability initiatives
- Encouraged practical climate resilience action
- Enhanced understanding of mountain ecosystems and biodiversity
- Fostered innovation and green entrepreneurship
- Promoted intercultural and transnational collaboration
- Built networks among youth, NGOs, municipalities, and environmental actors

Long-Term Impact Potential

The camp established a strong foundation for future youth-led environmental initiatives and community resilience projects in Jordan's mountain regions.

14. Key Recommendations

Based on participant feedback and workshop outcomes, the following recommendations emerged:

1. Expand the duration of field-based activities and practical implementation sessions.
2. Establish follow-up mentorship and incubation support for youth initiatives.
3. Increase partnerships with municipalities and local decision-makers.
4. Create micro-grant opportunities for youth-led sustainability projects.
5. Strengthen regional and transnational exchange opportunities.
6. Continue integrating Living Lab methodologies in environmental education programs.
7. Develop long-term youth networks focused on mountain ecosystem resilience.



16. Annexes

A. Dissemination Links

Workshop 1 Dissemination

- [Facebook Video – Workshop 1](#)
- [Instagram Reel – Workshop 1](#)
- [YouTube Video – Workshop 1](#)

Workshop 2 Dissemination

- [Facebook Video – Workshop 2](#)
- [Instagram Reel – Workshop 2](#)
- [YouTube Video – Workshop 2](#)

Workshop 3 Dissemination

- [Facebook Video – Workshop 3](#)
- [Instagram Reel – Workshop 3](#)
- [YouTube Video – Workshop 3](#)

Workshop 4 Dissemination

- [Facebook Video – Workshop 4](#)

Workshop 5 Dissemination

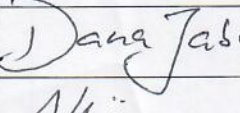
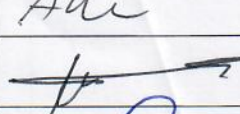
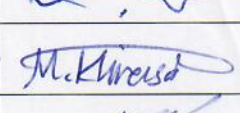
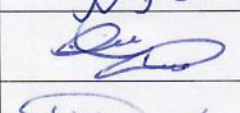
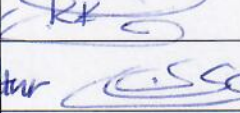
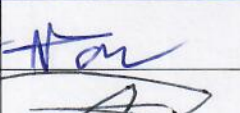
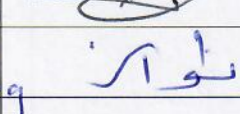
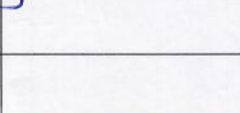
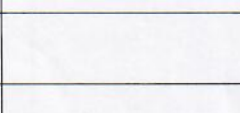
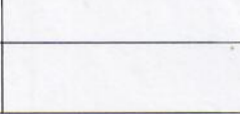
- [Facebook Video – Workshop 5](#)
- [Instagram Reel – Workshop 5](#)
- [YouTube Video – Workshop 5](#)

B. Participants List (attached)

PeakED Regional Youth Camp

Workshop 1: Mountain Identity & Community Asset Mapping – 13 Sept. 2025

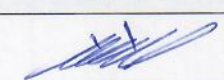
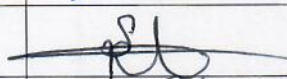
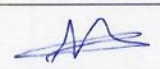
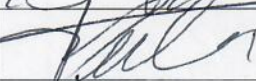
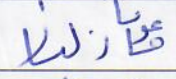
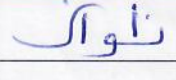
Participants List

Name	Age	Gender	Contact details	Affiliation/ Organization	Signature
1. Tala Abuwadeh	29	F	0797027109	Desert Bloom	
2. Dana Jabari	24	F	0791417076	Desert Bloom	
3. Amanda Röpke	26	F		Desert Bloom	
4. Luma Dahiyat	29	F	0777452045	Desert Bloom	
5. Naser Osta		M	0795778312	Desert Bloom	
6. Abdallah Khanakleh	29	M	0770501296	Desert Bloom	
7. Mamoun Ichreist	51	M	0795664141	Desert Bloom	
8. Soule Pashim	28	M	0797296827	URI	
9. Mamoon AlBaz	21	M	0789384841	AlZarqa uni	
10. M. Abu Romman	49	M	0796510730	Agripreneur	
11. Khaled Ahmad	29	M	0799250077	Government officer	
12. Eng. Abdallah Hexas	29	M		Ministry of Agriculture	
13. Naser Osta	52	M	079536617	Government officer	
14. Mohammad Jedayah	26	M	078913464	ALRaed School	
15. Anwar Ali	21	F	0798662817	Desert Bloom info@dhj.org	
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PeakED Regional Youth Camp

Workshop (2): Youth Participation & Co-Governance – 18 September 2025

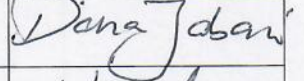
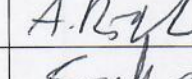
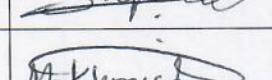
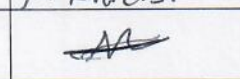
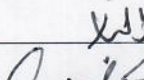
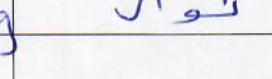
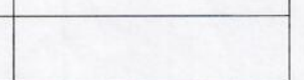
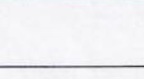
Participants List

Name	Age	Gender	Contact details	Affiliation/ Organization	Signature
1. Soud Dasim	28	Male	+962 797296827	URI	
2. Sara Alhamouri	21	F	0797567365	URI	
3. Heam Laith Khaddan	19	F	0770372827	URI uni	
4. Tala Tariq	20	F	0790242109	uni	Tala
5. Mervat Al Jamal	21	Male	0791114764	uni	
6. Amanda Ropke	26	F	0791217001	Desert Bloom	A. Ropke
7. Dana Jabari	24	F	0791417076	Desert Bloom	Dana Jabari
8. Sufrin Khreisat	29	M	0796350620	URI-MENA	
9. Tala Abuwardh	29	F	0797027109	Desert Bloom	
10. Saws Al-Keesh		M	0796156240	Desert Bloom	
11. Eng. Abdallah Heyari	29	M		Ministry of Agriculture	
12. Khalid Ahmad	29	M	0799250077	Government officer	
13. Mervat Albar	21	M	078938484	Al Zarga Univ.	
14. Anwar Ali	21	F	0798662817	Desert Bloom info@dbjio.org	
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PeakED Regional Youth Camp

Workshop (3): Climate Change & Resilience in Mountain Areas, 28 September 2025

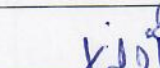
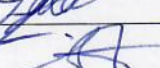
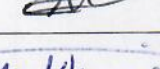
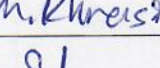
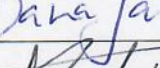
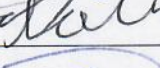
Participants List

Name	Age	Gender	Contact details	Affiliation/ Organization	Signature
1. Sara Alhamman	21	F	0797567365	URI MENA	
2. Heam Laith	19	F	0720372827	Zakya university	
3. Tala Abunneir	29	F	0797027109	Desert Bloom	
4. Dana Jabari	24	F	0791417076	Desert Bloom	
5. Amanda Röpké	26	F	0791217001	Desert Bloom	
6. Sulaim Khreisat	29	M	0796350620	URI-MENA	
7. Mamoun Khreisat	50	M	0795664141	Desert Bloom	
8. Muthar Aljamel	21	M	0791114764	University	
9. Moh'd Akhal	43	M		BSC	
10. Mamoon albaz	21	M	0769384841	Alzarqa UNJ	
11. Luma Dahiyat	29	F	0777452045	Desert Bloom	
12. Rana Dahiyat	26	F	0796212441	Desert Bloom	
13. Samer Al-Kasbi		M	0796156240	Desert Bloom	
14. YAZAN ALROUEN	29	M	0761667490	Desert Bloom	
15. Anwar Ali	21	F	0792662877	Desert Bloom info@albjo.org	
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PeakED Regional Youth Camp

Workshop (4): Innovation & Sustainable Solutions, 02 Oct. 2025

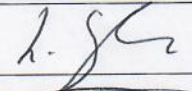
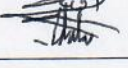
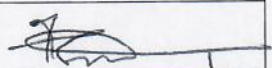
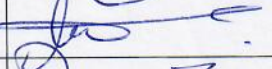
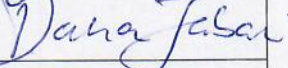
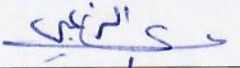
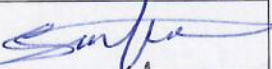
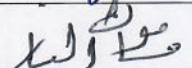
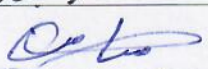
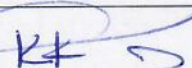
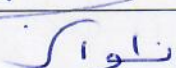
Participants List

Name	Age	Gender	Contact details	Affiliation/ Organization	Signature
1. Mohammad Alkadih	18	M	0796432040	Desert Bloom	
2. Samir Al-Kasbi	57	M	0796156240	Desert Bloom	
3. Mamoun Albaz	29	M	0789384844	AlZarqa Univ	
4. Sufian Khreisat	29	M	0796350620	URI-MENA	
5. Saeed Qasim	28	M	0797296827	URI-MENA	
6. Wiebke Drückhammer	28	F	004917660456294	German Univ	
7. Tala Hlababeh	20	F	0790242109	Desert bloom	
8. Heam Khaddam	19	F	0770372827	univ	
9. Monther Aljamal	21	M	0791114764	University	
10. Mamoun Khreisat	50	M	0795664141	Desert Bloom	
11. Sara Alhammouri	21	F	0797567365	Uni Mena	
12. Dana Jabari	24	F	0791419076	Desert Bloom	
13. Tala Abuwerdeh	29	F	0797027109	Desert Bloom	
14. Mohammed Jedaydh	26	M	078193404	AlRaed school	
15. Anwar Ali	21	F	0798662877	Desert Bloom info@dbso.org	
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PeakED Regional Youth Camp

Workshop (5): From Learning to Action & Transnational Dialogue, 04 Oct. 2025

Participants List

Name	Age	Gender	Contact details	Affiliation/ Organization	Signature
1. Louis Salomone	27	f	Amman	URI MENA	
2. Ibtahem Nbel	19	M	0782176480	Univ.	
3. Amin Uadaweh	19	M	0777621856	Univ.	
4. Nonthar. Aljara	21	M	07A1114764	University of Jordan	
5. Mohammad Sedayeh	28	M	0781913404	ALRaed school	
6. وليد شيخو	43	M	0770000250	—	
7. ASma' Hazaimeh	24	F	0788125372	—	
8. Sara Al-Hammouri	21	F	0797567365	URI MENA	
9. Luma Dahiyyat	29	F	0777452045	Desert Bloom	
10. Dana Jabari	24	F	0791417076	Desert Bloom	
11. Amanda Röpke	26	F	0791217000	Desert Bloom	
12. Saleh ALZubi	45	M	0786315213	Farmer	
13. Safian Khrebat	29	M	0796350620	URI-MENA	
14. Mamoon Albaz	21	M	0789384849	ALZarga Univ	
15. M. Abu Romman	49	M	0796510750	Agripreneur	
16. Khaled Ahmad	29	M	0791230077	Government officer	
17. Anwar Ali	21	F	0798662817	Desert Bloom info@dbjo.org	
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