



T-PEER
Youth Peer Education Network
PALESTINE

شرك
SHAREK



كرقان

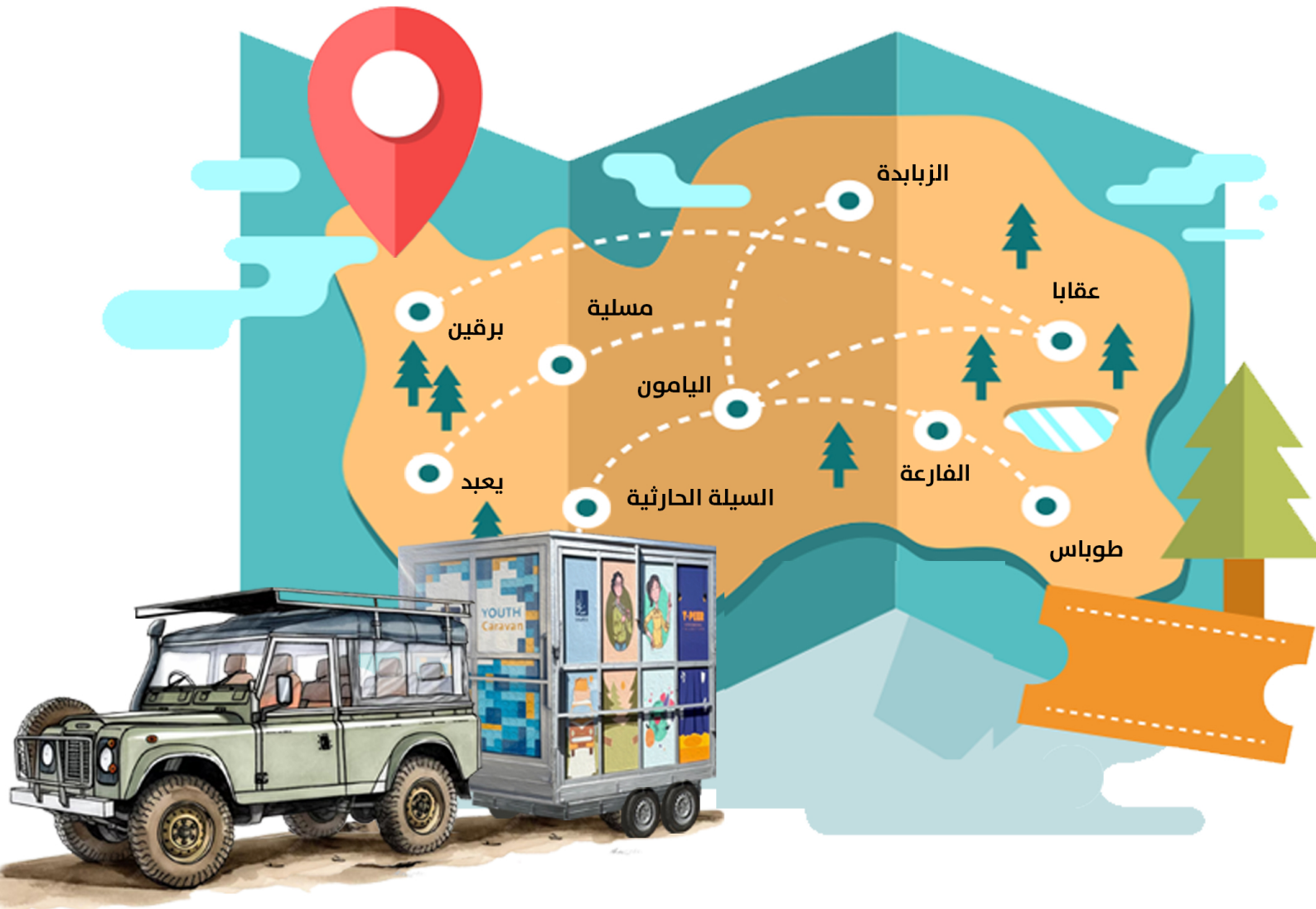
Youth Caravan in Jenin



Introduction

The Youth Caravan is a mobile awareness tour designed to promote holistic health—including physical, mental, and social well-being—among adolescents and youth aged 10–19, as well as their caregivers. The initiative is a traveling outreach campaign that brings interactive activities, informative sessions, and community engagement events directly to local villages and communities. By reaching underserved areas, the caravan creates safe, supportive spaces where youth and their families can gain knowledge and skills to make healthy, informed decisions.

The caravan has reached 8 locations in Jenin so far and will visit three more this week, covering a total of 11 locations in the governorate.



1. Aqqaba

In Aqqaba, sessions were held at the municipality hall, welcoming 25 adolescent girls and 32 mothers over several days. Despite initial concerns about attendance given the tense security situation in Jenin, the turnout was higher than expected, reflecting strong community interest.

Dr. Sa'eda and Dr. Siwar from An-Najah University led the mothers' sessions. The workshops provided both encouragement and vital health knowledge, concluding with the distribution of support parcels, which added motivation. Participants requested continuation of these workshops due to their apparent benefits.

“There was strong cooperation in these sessions, and I truly hope to build a long-term partnership with Sharek to continue offering workshops like these. Communities need this kind of work, and we must reach as many people as possible.”

— Ameer Al-Qassem, educator

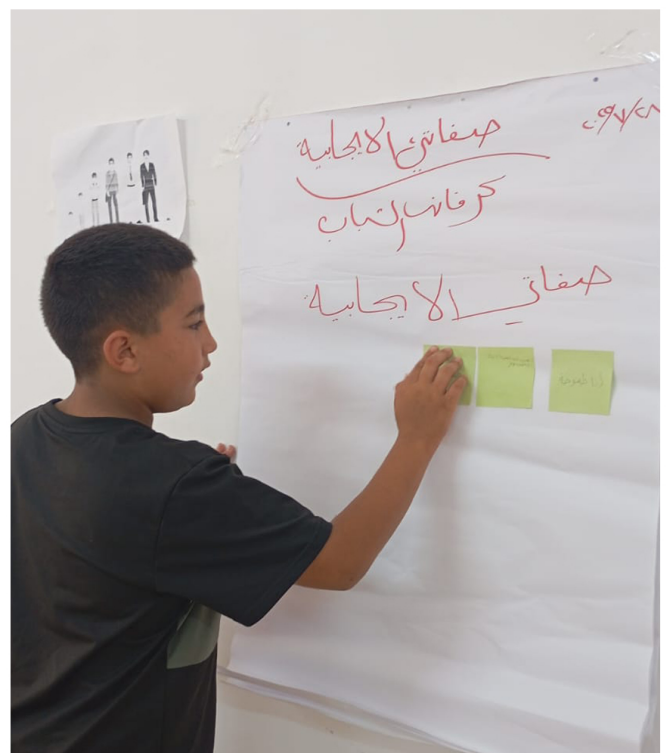




2. Misilya and Tubas

The Youth Caravan reached 115 beneficiaries in Toubas, and 60 adolescents were reached in Misilya, including adolescent boys and girls. In contrast, 25 mothers were reached in Misilya, with each group attending about three sessions. All sessions were conducted by Alaa Abu Al Roub, who is a Y-Peer Volunteer in Jenin.

The historic Abu Al-Roub Diwan and the Misilya Village Council warmly hosted the caravan, emphasizing the importance of youth health for the community's future. By supporting these initiatives, they provide safe spaces for youth growth, reinforcing the cultural heritage and fostering awareness in the new generation.



3. American University in Jenin

Workshops were delivered for 30 mothers residing in the university dormitories, many of whom are displaced. The sessions provided emotional relief and community connection, helping participants cope with their challenging circumstances. Care packages were distributed at the end to support the mothers. Alaa Abu Al-Roub also conducted the sessions.



4. Burqin

In Burqin's Al-Khoukha area, the caravan conducted two sessions for 22 adolescent boys in a traditional heritage house featuring a small Amphitheatre, creating a cozy and practical learning environment. Although adolescent girls could not attend due to circumstances, the boys were highly enthusiastic and eager to continue participating.

“Even though the girls couldn't attend, the boys were fully engaged and motivated. The setting itself created a special energy.”

— Aseel Shawahneh, Educator



5. Al-Yamoun

At the Al-Yamoun Community Center, three sessions were conducted for 30 adolescent girls. The center is known for its economic empowerment and community activities. The girls initially felt shy but gradually opened up to discuss their dreams, physical changes during adolescence, and self-awareness.

“At first, there was some shyness, but by the end, they were expressing themselves confidently. It was beautiful to witness their growth.”

— Aseel Shawahneh, facilitator



6. Silat Al-Harithiya

In Silat Al-Harithiya, sessions were held separately for 25 adolescent boys at the municipality hall and 35 adolescent girls at a home setting to utilize the spacious environment before schools reopened. Topics included adolescent changes, hygiene, early marriage, emotional boundaries, STIs, and nutrition. Commitment was high, and participants called for more such meetings.

“These sessions are essential and positive. They should happen everywhere, not just in certain locations. I discovered my ability to facilitate and engage youth in these topics.”

— Aseel Shawahneh, educator



The community is socially conservative, and women often hesitate to attend public sessions, but after the caravan's arrival, participation grew, including from displaced women. One participant, Lubna, shared how her views changed about locals and displaced families, highlighting how the sessions fostered connection and understanding.

“At first, I felt like I was in a strange place and thought people disliked displaced families, but I found them kind and enjoyed meeting new people.”

— Lubna, mother

“Families displaced by war need both material and emotional support, especially due to increased domestic violence and hardship. These sessions helped address those needs.”

— Sa'eda Qubaha, educator



7. Ya'bad

In Ya'bad, sessions took place with the Ya'bad Charitable Association amid ongoing security challenges. Due to frequent incursions coinciding with meeting days, some sessions were postponed or held at less optimal times, but demand remains high.

“These sessions must continue despite challenges. The psychological state is poor, and safe spaces are crucial to protect youth and children from negative environments. I hope these activities continue even during school.”

— Ahmed Kilani





8. East Neighborhood, Women's Center

In a small room among rubble, sessions were held for 37 mothers, exceeding the expected 25. Many participants are from families affected by loss and displacement, including mothers of martyrs. The caravan became a second home and safe space offering psychological support, a place to rebuild family connections, and learn new skills despite economic and emotional hardship.

“This place helped women regain warmth and family ties lost due to displacement, supporting their emotional and psychological well-being.”

— Sa'eda Qubaha

9. Korean Cultural Center

The caravan's visit was inaugurated with the attendance of the Mayor of Jenin, the Deputy Governor, gender affairs officials, and civil society representatives. Three sessions were conducted for 30 adolescent girls and three for 30 adolescent boys, with two sessions for mothers planned.

Conclusion and Future Visits

The Youth Caravan has made significant strides in raising awareness and providing psychosocial support to youth and their families across Jenin. With over 400 beneficiaries engaged in multiple sessions, the caravan successfully created safe spaces for learning, dialogue, and emotional expression.

The caravan will continue its journey by visiting Faquoa, Rummaneh, and Jaba'a, aiming to extend its impact and reach more young people and caregivers. Building on the momentum gained, these visits will deepen community ties and reinforce the importance of holistic youth health.





محافظة جنين

