

How do young people participate in urban governance in Indonesia and Lebanon?



More information on the YUP project can be found here:



yupcities.org

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Initial findings from YUP: *Co-Producing Digital Platforms for Youth Inclusive Urban Governance*

These emergent findings are from year 1 of the YUP project, which has explored patterns in and motivators for young people's participation in urban governance in 4 cities across Indonesia and Lebanon. Building from this, in year 2 we will work with diverse young people and key stakeholders in the 4 cities to co-produce and trial contextually relevant digital platforms that meet young people's needs to help them get involved in urban governance processes.

The YUP project has drawn on qualitative and quantitative research methods, undertaking semi-structured interviews with key city stakeholders, focus group discussions with young people aged 10-17 and 18-24, hiring and training 16 citizen scientists as part of this work. The project has administered a survey reaching over 4,000 young people and built a case studies database of youth initiatives in the 4 cities.



The 4 project cities represent a diverse set of urban governance dynamics and youth participation, making up a rich sample for comparative study.

Surakarta (also known as Solo) located in Central Java, Indonesia, has a population of 528,044 people, 22.5% of whom are aged 10-24 (Surakarta City Statistics, 2024).



Denpasar is the capital of Bali province, Indonesia's largest and most popular tourist destination. The population is approx. 748,400, 22.5% of whom are aged 10-24 (Denpasar City Statistics, 2024).



El Mina is a coastal city in the North Governorate of Lebanon, located 85 km from Beirut. The population is approximately 82,000 (UN-Habitat, 2017), with 50% being youth and children.



Bar Elias is located in the Zahle district, Beqaa governorate of Lebanon, 50 km from Beirut. The population is between 97,000–122,000. Bar Elias is considered among the 251 most vulnerable localities in Lebanon.



In total, 4,248 young people aged 10-24 participated in our survey questionnaire in Indonesia and Lebanon.

Indonesia (Solo & Denpasar)

Lebanon (El Mina & Bar Elias)

How do young people take actions on what matters to them?

(top five activities)



In Indonesia, young people can **be part of groups** by joining organisations as early as primary schools.

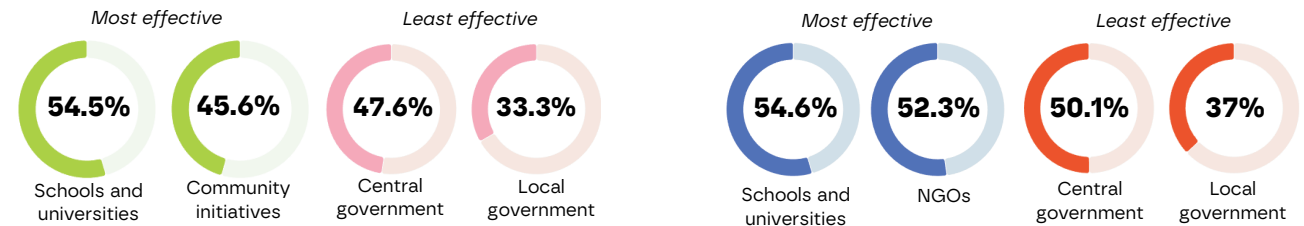
40.9%
of all activities are led by myself or other young people.

35.1%
of all activities are led by myself or other young people.

In Lebanon, young people enjoy **volunteering** as it enables them to engage with the community and learn new skills.

Which actors could work most effectively with young people?*

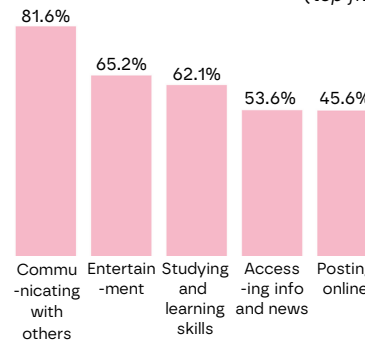
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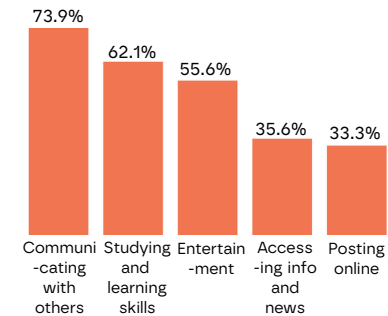
Then, how do young people use digital media?

(top five digital activities)

Aside from these, young people use **social media to stay informed, express their concerns, while also building personal and organisational brands.**



- **7 out of 10** respondents like digital media because **it has easily accessible information.**
- **Almost half** of the respondents are **scared of personal information being stolen.**



- **7 out of 10** respondents like digital media because **it is simple and easy to understand.**
- **Over one-third** of respondents report limited digital media usage due to **internet coverage.**

Additionally, young people use digital media to **stay up to date on new opportunities for engagement** and **support the causes they care about.**

*We asked participants which actors they thought could work most/least effectively with young people.

Actors: local government, central government, schools & universities, NGOs, international organisations, community groups, religious organisations, and businesses.