Presentation of the draft country programme document (CPD) for Tunisia to UNICEF Executive Board – 12 February 2021

Contribution of the Tunisian scout, Khadija Djarraya

Greetings,

I am Khadija Djarraya. I have been a member of the Tunisian Scout Organization since I was 6 years old and participated in many national and international events to tackle topics like autism, refugee advocacy, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Tunisian Scout Organization counts 90,000 members spread over 1,600 units throughout Tunisia, it incites us to work with communities in all regions, especially the most inaccessible. It promotes the awareness and development of young people to become responsible and active citizens of their community.

Young people are the most curious and creative element of our society. However, the current pandemic is negatively affecting us: Social activities have been reduced and students are now switching to online classes which are influencing their learning. Many remain excluded from learning as they do not have access to the internet.

We were more than 12,000 active volunteers to support Tunisia's response to the fight against COVID-19. We have worked for around two million hours, one-third of the total amount of hours worked in the Arab region.

On the occasion of World Handwashing Day, we launched a major communication campaign on handwashing as one of the most important barriers across the country and especially in schools.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, we have set up the "Awareness" initiative to incite community engagement in the prevention and fight against COVID-19. We have raised awareness about COVID-19 targeting public places and distributing flyers widely. We also provided support to other ministries: Taking temperature in schools and public spaces, organizing crowds in front of post offices, banks, hospitals, and others for compliance with preventive measures. We also supported the elderly and disabled (like purchasing and delivering their food and pharmaceutical needs) and the containment centers.

We noticed a great response from most of the citizens, and we felt that we were distinguished by our scouting uniform. I believe we left a good impact on a lot of the people.

However, we believe it is still insufficient. We want children and young people to become active and critical citizens and develop a real culture of "children's rights". Tunisia is going through important social and political reforms and we must be actively involved so that our points of view and our expectations are heard and considered.

We are full of hope and committed to build a better future for us and for the next generations.