

Arab Youth Photo Competition “Vibrant Visions: Youth Shaping Urban Quality of Life”

The world has been changing rapidly. New technological advances, higher prospects of growth, development and prosperity, the digital revolution, and the possibility to live longer and healthier are transforming our lives. At the same time, inequalities have risen, and marginalization and exclusion persist. A generational health disaster is still threatening us, the effects of climate change are multiplying, and economic and political crises are proliferating. All these changes affect Quality of Life for people and the planet and redefine the way we conceptualize and react to it.

In response, UNESCWA, UN-Habitat, and the Quality of Life Program in Saudi Arabia have partnered to design the global Quality of Life Initiative, which aims to develop a comprehensive, human-centric concept of quality of life as well as innovative knowledge and tools to measure and ultimately improve quality of life for urban populations¹.

As part of this Quality of Life Initiative, UNESCWA, UN-Habitat and the Quality of Life program in Saudi Arabia are organizing an **Arab Youth Photo Competition on Quality of Life in Cities**.

This competition stands as an exceptional opportunity to highlight the beauty, challenges, and innovations that shape urban living from a youth viewpoint in the Arab region. Equipped with a camera, Arab Youth are encouraged to let their imagination run wild and unveil to the world, through photos, what a decent quality of life in cities means to them.

Guidelines for Participation

Professional and amateur photographers with diverse backgrounds and levels of experience are invited to upload up to **3 photographs**.

1. Participation Process:

The submission of the photos is only accepted through the platform of the competition accessible at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QoLphoto>

2. Submission Deadline:

Photos must be submitted by **2 September 2024**. Late submissions will not be considered. UNESCWA reserves the right, in addition to the other rights it reserves, to amend the dates of this competition.

3. Submission Specifications:

- **Photographs Specifications:**

- File size must be between 2,000 and 6,000 pixels;
- Format must be JPG, JPEG or PNG format; and
- File size should not exceed 5000 KB (5MB).

- **Information to submit with photos:** each photo must be accompanied by a commentary containing:

- Short Description: a description of the situation depicted in the photograph and/or of the person appearing therein (if any);

¹ <https://unhabitat.org/quality-of-life-initiative>

- The name of the city, region, and country where the photograph was taken; and
- The date when the photograph was taken.

- **Local Context Emphasis:**

Participants should highlight local contexts in their submissions, demonstrating how urban quality of life is perceived and valued in their respective cities.

- **Editing files**

The content of files (Photos) should not be altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting, or removing people and/or objects from frames. The following are two exceptions to this, which must be mentioned in the application:

- Cropping that removes extraneous details; and
- Dust that appears in the image due to faulty lenses or scanners.

Although minimal digital manipulation is allowed, please keep in mind that this competition is not a **Photoshop contest**. Images that appear to have been overly modified may be excluded, at the discretion of the evaluation committee.

- **Waiver of Submissions**

- By participating in this competition, participants will give UNESCWA a waiver, license and right to use the materials from the competition. In addition, UNESCWA will have the right to use the materials and related information in all media and advertisements for promoting the competition. Participants will retain the intellectual property rights of the materials.

4. **Nationality of participants:** Participants are required to be of Arab nationality.

5. **Age limit for participation:** 18-35 years old.

6. **Selection Process**

- **Jury Members**

- The selection panel will be composed of partners of the Quality of Life Initiative, namely, UNHabitat, UNESCWA and Quality of Life Program in Saudi Arabia.
- The partners reserve the right to verify the validity and origin of any request and/or participant (including participants' identity and address), and to exclude participants who submit applications that do not conform to the official rules or do not follow the application process.

- **Prizes and Recognition:**

- **Certificates of Appreciation:** certificates will be awarded to winners duly signed by UNESCWA, UNHabitat and the Quality of Life Program in Saudi Arabia.
- **Participation in Forums:** Two winners will be invited to attend one global event on Quality of Life in cities planned to take place in Cairo in 2024. This includes but is not limited to the World Urban Forum, the Global Quality of Life Conference, thereby fostering networking and exposure.
- **Exhibition Opportunities:** Shortlisted photographs will be featured in virtual and physical exhibitions.