



International
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Taqeem Fund for Evaluation in Youth Employment

A Partnership to Promote Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation for Youth Employment in the MENA Region

Recent social and political events in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regions have contributed to a decline in economic activity and increased unemployment. Youth have been especially affected and the youth unemployment rate in the region is the highest in the world. In 2013, it rose to 27.5 per cent in North Africa and 27.6 per cent in the Middle East.

Development partners including governments and international institutions are desperate to respond to their constituents' demands to create more and better jobs for their young people. Unfortunately, there are few examples that demonstrate which policies or programmes provide positive results – the Youth Employment Inventory (YEI) estimates that only 15 per cent of youth employment programmes from developing countries had assessed the net change in beneficiaries' outcomes that could be attributed to their intervention. There is an urgent need to create evidence based solutions for the youth employment challenge.

THE RESPONSE

Taqeem (meaning “evaluation” in Arabic) aims to increase the effectiveness of employment and enterprise interventions in the MENA region through improved results measurement and evaluation practices. Implemented by the ILO as a regional spin-off of the [Fund for Evaluation](#) in Employment, the project is now in its second phase. The first phase worked with 15 youth employment organizations reaching approximately 15,000 young people per year as part of a competitively selected Community of Practice (CoP). The objective of the CoP was to improve capacity to measure and monitor the impact of their programmes through:

1. “Evaluation Clinics” which taught CoP members the key steps for impact evaluation and equipped them with

technology enhanced, low-cost, high-impact monitoring and evaluation tools and small grants.

2. Development of a web-based knowledge sharing platform and dissemination campaigns to support reporting of successes and challenges.

3. Organizations with positive results developed and conducted Randomized Control Trial studies to prove impact of their programmes.

In its second phase, the overarching vision is to create and apply evidence based policies for the promotion of economic opportunities for women and youth through an iterative cycle of capacity development, impact evaluations and policy influence.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

Silatech; The Jacobs Foundation; The Swedish International Development Agency; The Global Partnership for Youth Employment.

Beneficiary Countries:

22 countries in the MENA region

Timeframe:

First phase 2010-13
Second phase 2013-15

Budget:

USD 1.3 million

ILO Youth Employment Programme

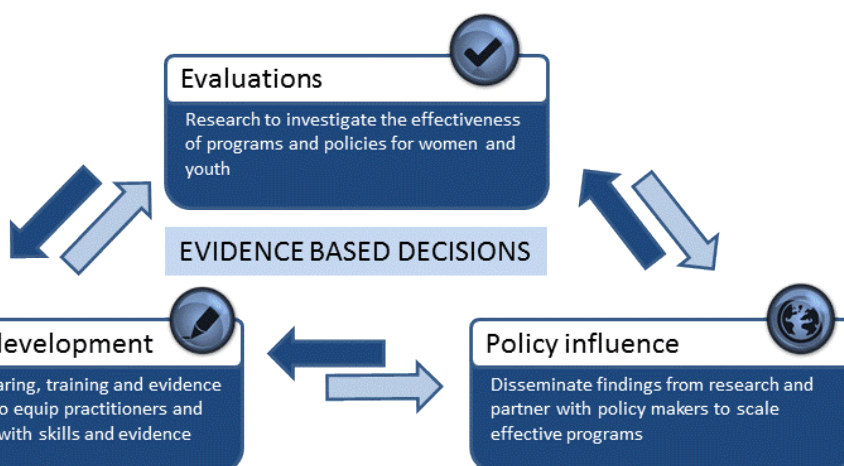
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"Research and evidence – especially empirical research – are the headlights for policy makers. They tell them where to go, where to optimize and where to leverage knowledge to make their interventions and programmes more effective."

Abdulkarim Alnujaidi,
Human Resources Development Fund, Saudi Arabia



RESULTS

The Fund for Evaluation in Employment has produced the following results:

- The development of impact evaluation and monitoring and evaluation systems for 15 youth-led organizations;
- A narrowing in the knowledge gap on youth employment. For example, the Fund contributed to the first ever completed impact evaluation on youth apprenticeship schemes and the first experimental study on the economic empowerment of adolescent girls;
- The amassing of a portfolio of nine rigorous impact evaluations in the MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa regions. A key tool to influence policy has been the sharing of a series of short [policy briefs](#) which provide decision makers with a summary of the main findings and policy implications of the studies;
- The creation of a strong and recognized brand in the "Evaluation Clinics" (13 have been delivered since 2008), and the certification of over 1000 youth practitioners through the rigorous training methodology, creating a critical mass of evaluation expertise in the targeted regions;
- The increased use of information and communication technology. The majority of organizations are now using web based surveying tools; others are using smart phones and tablets to survey beneficiaries. All are moving away from paper based surveys, especially for analysis where either Excel or cloud-based M&E databases are used;
- The establishment of an initiative that reassures and encourages investors with evidence which has led to the national scale up of several evaluated programmes including the Technical and Vocational Skills Training pilot programme for orphans, vulnerable and affected youth in Malawi;
- The dissemination of knowledge on innovative and appropriate techniques for improving results measurement in youth employment initiatives. The [online Tajeem Portal](#) provides evaluation resources to CoP members and funders such as policy briefs, data collection protocols, surveys, terms of reference for lead researcher and data collection firms, and completed evaluation reports;
- The execution of a social media campaign publicizing the evaluation methods and results of the CoP (including the CoP knowledge sharing group and videos on [YouTube](#)).

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

Policy makers in the MENA region receive evidence based recommendations on youth employment.

A critical mass of impact evaluation expertise is created amongst youth employment practitioners and coupled with an increased evidence base for "what works" in youth employment.

Through results measurement, donors have reassurance that their investment is creating value for young people and that implementing organizations are accountable, transparent and efficient in the way they allocate resources.

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