Taqeem Initiative
What Works in Youth Employment
ILO Fund for Evaluation in Employment 2015
Track 1: Seed-funding for impact evaluations

Egypt
The Cairo Demographic Center (CDC)
The researchers will evaluate a non-formal apprenticeship programme that was part of the project Combating Worst Forms of Child Labour by Reinforcing Policy Response and Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods and Educational Opportunities in Egypt (CWCLP) implemented by ILO, WFP and UNICEF as a joint programme from 2010 to 2014. A key goal of this pilot study will be to develop tracking methodologies for beneficiaries to prepare the second phase of this retroactive evaluation.

Egypt
Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) and Population Council Egypt
The evaluators will assess NEQDAR, a socio-political and economic empowerment training programme implemented by the Population Council-Egypt in partnership with three local NGOs. NEQDAR provided business, soft- and life-skills trainings as well as mentoring schemes to 4,500 marginalized women aged 16-29 in rural Upper-Egypt. The study will document impacts on women’s labour market involvement, their socio-political empowerment as well as community’s openness to women’s work activities.

Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia
The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)
The study will evaluate Mideast Creatives, a programme funded among others by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) that centres on the provision of coworking spaces for young entrepreneurs in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Tunisia. The intervention provides young entrepreneurs not only with office space and equipment but also with training and advice from the coworking space managements teams to help them set-up their start-up. The research will shed light on the interventions impact on employment status, business growth and also network development of young entrepreneurs.
**Egypt**

**Industrial Training Council (ITC)**

The study will evaluate the effectiveness of job fairs in placing young Egyptian job seekers into decent work. The purpose of the research is to learn more about the impact of job fairs on both the advertising firms, for example their ability to fill vacancies quickly and employee turnover, and jobseekers – for instance workdays, salaries and awareness about decent work opportunities.

**Jordan**

**International Labour Organization / International Finance Corporation – Better Work Jordan**

Better Work Jordan aims to expand decent work opportunities in the apparel sectors by providing assessments of compliance with international labour standards and national labour laws as well as advisory services and training to apparel factories. The research team will focus on apparel factories outside major industrial zones to evaluate the impact of local women’s employment on empowerment, including attitudes toward work and gender norms.

**Lebanon**

**American University of Sharjah (AUS) and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**

This study will assess the Employment Services Centres (ESC) in Lebanon that help Palestine refugees to find and secure decent livelihoods and foster social inclusion. Through its four ESCs, UNRWA provides employment seekers with a wide range of support from job counselling to matching, referrals and placement services. ESCs also advocate for the right to work with employers. The evaluation will answer how successful ESC are in reaching and supporting a population with otherwise limited labour market access.

**Tunisia**

**University of Passau, University of Tunis, United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT), International School of Business of Sfax, Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment**

The study will pilot-test a national-wide job search assistance and placement program, “Accompagnement”, that is designed by the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment in Tunisia to tackle youth un- and underemployment. The programme offers job-seekers counselling, orientation and competency training, as well as coaching on search efforts, for example how to engage in match-making events with future employers. This study will evaluate the impact of this programme on labour market activity and other possible outcomes capturing well-being and inclusion in social networks.