



First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo (Doha, 18- 20 February 2014)

ILO Solution Forum: Promoting Youth Employment through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States

Doha, 19 February 2014, 09:00 am - 11:45 am

Venue: Salwa Ballroom, Segment A

1. Introduction

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation organizes Global South-South Expos (GSSD) annually since 2008. The initiative derived from the report of the Secretary General on the sixty-second session of the General Assembly (A/62/295), calling on the international community to strengthen South-South cooperation in order to scale up its impact, particularly in advancing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. Based on the positive results of the Global South-South Development EXPOs, as well as other regional knowledge sharing events, such as the “Saber del Sur” Regional Meeting (Knowledge from the South) hosted by the Government of Panama in 2012, the Office of the United Nations for South-South Cooperation and the UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Arab States through the Regional Centre in Cairo, are organising the **First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo (18- 20 February 2014)**.

The Regional Expo aims at bringing together representatives of governments, workers, employers, civil society organisations, academia to discuss the current challenges and present development solutions relevant to youth and women employment, energy efficiency/renewable energy, and water security. Additionally, the Expo seeks to showcase southern development solutions while better understanding the existing regional trends in South-South Cooperation. The Regional Expo aims also at identifying, and sharing relevant good practices in different countries and contexts in order support actors to develop and implement effective Youth Employment policies. Moreover, it will contribute to identify potential solutions to address the youth employment challenges in the region, as well as partners to support the replication and adaptation of initiatives from the Global South.

The ILO has been actively involved in the GSSD since 2009 and hosted the 2010 Expo at ILO Headquarters in Geneva. The ILO has been active promoting decent work solutions in the different Expos, devoted to Social Protection (2010), Food

Security (2011) and Energy (2012).¹In the framework of the Regional Expo, the ILO will organize a Solution Forum encompassing a series of good practices and lessons learned on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) on the theme of Youth Employment. Involving representatives of governments, workers' and employers' organisations will contribute to address the issue from different perspectives and with an integrated approach. The latter will allow combining and better understanding the interrelation of fundamental principles and rights at work, labour standards, employment creation, social protection mechanisms, and social dialogue in strategies tackling youth employment. With the rise of new mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation among developing countries, the development solutions that will be showcased in this regional forum represent essential tools that bring new technology and capacity (i.e. transfers of know-how, technology, and exchanges of information), which can be utilized in the fight against youth unemployment.

2. Youth Employment: an overview of the current challenges in the Arab States

The global economic downturn has placed employment policies at the core of national development strategies. The 2013 World Development Report estimates that just to keep employment rates constant, around 600 million new jobs will have to be created over a 15-year period.² In particular, the youth unemployment situation is alarming. The ILO report *Global Employment Trends (GET) for Youth 2012*, warned of a "lost generation".³ The Middle East and North Africa together will need to create 6.5 million jobs per year in order to absorb the current unemployed and the new labour market entrants. This represents an enormous challenge for the region considering that it has created 3.2 million jobs per year in the 2000s.⁴ The creation of new jobs, higher real wages, and improvement of working conditions are hindered by the low labour productivity growth observed within the private sector. The global annual labour productivity growth rate is particularly higher than the rate in the Middle East (1.8 and 1.2 respectively).⁵

In developing countries the share of youth population continues to be high, representing approximately one fifth of the total population. This is the case of Middle East and the North of Africa where the share of youth population accounts for 20.5 and 20 percent respectively. On average, young people are approximately three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. Globally, the youth-to-adult unemployment average ratio was estimated at 2.7. In the Middle East and North Africa this ratio was four and 3.9 respectively. In Egypt for example, unemployment rates among young people were more than five times those of adults.⁶ Moreover, these regions have historically been amongst the most affected in terms of youth unemployment reaching 28.1 per cent in the Middle East.⁷ Such breakdowns in terms of job creation constitute one of the causes of the instability and insecurity that have affected the region since the Arab Spring in 2010.

Young people remain particularly stricken by the crisis. Currently, some 73.8 million young people are unemployed globally and the slowdown in economic activity is likely to push another half million into unemployment by 2014. The

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/pardev/partnerships-and-relations/south-south/lang--en/index.htm>

² http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTNWDR2013/Resources/8258024-1320950747192/8260293-1322665883147/Main_Messages_English.pdf

³ http://www.ilo.org/brussels/press/press-releases/WCMS_181257/lang--en/index.htm

⁴ International economic bulletin. Youth in the Middle East and the job market. October 2011

⁵ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205744.pdf

⁶ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205743.pdf

⁷ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_191163.pdf

youth unemployment rate – which had already increased to 12.6 per cent in 2012 – is expected to increase to 12.9 per cent by 2017. The crisis has dramatically diminished the labour market prospects for young people, as many experience long-term unemployment right from the start of their labour market entry, a situation that was never observed during earlier cyclical downturns. Currently, some 35 per cent of all young unemployed have been out of a job for six months or longer in advanced economies, up from 28.5 per cent in 2007. As a consequence, an increasing number of young people have become discouraged and have left the labour market.⁸ Arab youth have been faced with persistently high unemployment rates. In addition, in 2011 youth labour force rates in the region were relatively low compared to the world average (30.3 and 48.7 respectively), which is largely explained by the share of youth in education, and by the large number of discouraged young people who are detached from the labour market.⁹ Finally, as opposed to the trend observed in other regions, in the Arab States youth unemployment affects more “educated” youth than those with lower schooling.¹⁰

The participation rates of young women and men in the sub-regions that relate to Arab States are particularly low. Labour force participation of young women in the Middle East was 13.1 per cent in 2011, compared to 46.7 per cent for young men.¹¹ This is partly explained by social norms that prevent young women’s social and economic participation. For instance, in Saudi Arabia in 2011, young women labour force participation was of 7 per cent compared to a 25.8 per cent rate for their male counterparts. Similarly, in the occupied Palestinian territory young women labour force participation was 8.4 per cent compared to a 41.6 per cent rate for their male counterparts. These figures evidence the challenge that gender division of labour represents for the region, with country specific distinctions.¹²

3. Global Framework for addressing the youth employment crisis

In June 2012 during the 101st Session of the ILC, the ILO adopted a Resolution calling for immediate, targeted, and renewed action to tackle the youth employment crisis: [The Youth employment crisis: A call for action](#)¹³ complementing the Resolution and conclusions concerning youth employment that were adopted by the ILC in 2005. A number of proposals for ILO action on youth employment have been inserted in this ILC resolution, including establishing “mechanisms to review and disseminate good practices on youth employment interventions, including through mutual learning and South–South cooperation”. Moreover, the conclusions prioritize five policy areas aimed at creating pro-employment growth and decent jobs: i) employment and economic policies to increase aggregate demand and improve access to finance; ii) education and training to ease the school-to-work transition; iii) labour market policies to target employment of disadvantaged youth; iv) entrepreneurship and self-employment to assist potential young entrepreneurs; and v) labour rights that are based on international labour standards to ensure that young people receive equal treatment and are afforded rights at work.

⁸ ILO, *Global Employment Trends 2013*, available at: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_202215.pdf

⁹ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205744.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205743.pdf

¹¹ *The Global Employment Trends (GET) for Youth (2012)* provides relevant information: see supra at 2

¹² http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_205744.pdf

¹³ The 2012 Resolution calls upon ILO constituents and partners to 1) Foster pro-employment growth and decent job creation through macroeconomic policies, employability, labour market policies, youth entrepreneurship and rights to tackle the social consequences of the crisis, while ensuring financial and fiscal sustainability; 2) Promote macroeconomic policies and fiscal incentives that support employment and stronger aggregate demand, improve access to finance and increase productive investment; and 3) Adopt fiscally sustainable and targeted measures, such as countercyclical policies and demand-side interventions, public employment programmes, employment guarantee schemes, labour-intensive infrastructure programmes, wage and training subsidies and other specific youth employment interventions. (For more information: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_185950.pdf)

During the 316th Session of the ILO Governing Body in November 2012, a seven-year Follow-up Plan was endorsed giving effect to the provisions of the aforementioned Resolution. The Plan aims at increasing ILO's capacity to provide global leadership and act as a centre of excellence on youth employment, enhance its capacity in the five policy areas of the 2012 ILC Resolution, and expand action on knowledge development and dissemination, technical assistance, and partnerships and advocacy for decent work for youth. Moreover, its three strategic pillars are (i) knowledge development and dissemination; (ii) technical assistance and capacity building, and (iii) partnerships and advocacy. Finally, It was emphasized the need to explore **“opportunities to extend South–South and triangular collaboration to include youth employment”** as called for by the resolution.¹⁴

The international community has placed youth development as a priority on the agenda. The UN System, through the System-wide Action Plan on Youth (Youth-SWAP), promotes a joint programmatic approach to tackle youth development issues. The Youth-SWAP provides strategic guidance to the UN system as a whole in its work on youth within the framework of the World Programme of Action for Youth. The System-wide Action Plan focuses on the following overall goals: employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, civic engagement and protection of rights, education, including comprehensive sexuality education, and health. ILO is leading all the outcomes related to employment, as well as specific outcomes on youth entrepreneurship, particularly for young women.

In line with the aforementioned framework, the ILO-through its Regional Office for the Arab States based in Beirut-already offers its support and expertise in 11 countries.¹⁵ Technical support is provided by the Regional Office and Decent Work Teams (DWT). Moreover, the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) is best positioned to be the coordinator of the ILO's youth employment strategy. It operates through a global network of specialists working in the technical departments across the ILO at its headquarters in Geneva and in more than 60 offices around the world. It provides assistance in developing coherent, coordinated, and integrated interventions on youth employment. The YEP works closely with and through the field structure to assist ILO constituents in addressing youth employment needs in the framework of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP).¹⁶ The DWCP for the Arab States make particular emphasis on the enhancement of employment and livelihood opportunities for young women and men, while increasing their employability thorough market oriented skills training and employment services targeting young people.

The ILO has already implemented¹⁷ six technical cooperation projects dealing with youth-employment (YE) in the Arab States, representing 13 per cent of YE projects globally. Likewise, they account for 10 per cent of the budget devoted to ILO YE technical cooperation projects around the world. Regarding projects currently being implemented by the ILO,¹⁸ Arab States represent 7 per cent of the total number of YE technical cooperation projects globally, thereby accounting for 1 per cent of the budget devoted to YE TC projects around the world.

¹⁴ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_191163.pdf

¹⁵ Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain. ILO activities in the occupied Palestinian territory are also part of the Regional Office portfolio.

¹⁶ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_102572.pdf

¹⁷ “Activities completed” or “Financially closed” before the 9th of July 2012.

¹⁸ Projects still active as of the 9th of July 2012.

4. South-South and triangular cooperation to tackle youth unemployment

Cooperation between developing countries has gained more visibility and greater importance in the last decade. In December 2009, the High-level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation held in Nairobi, urged UN system organizations to “take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South and triangular cooperation”. The Nairobi outcome document¹⁹ describes South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) as a manifestation of solidarity among the countries of the South involving initiatives in the social, economic, and environmental fields. SSTC can take different forms, including knowledge and experience-sharing, training, and technology transfer. It is seen as a partnership among equals based on solidarity; accordingly it is not a substitute, but rather a complement to the traditional North-South cooperation. SSTC can contribute to advancing the Millennium Development Goals, other international development objectives, and in shaping the post-2015 agenda.

The ILO has a longstanding engagement to the promotion of cooperation between developing countries, and has facilitated such cooperation through knowledge sharing workshops, study tours, among others. The ILO strengthened its commitment to the promotion of SSTC during the March 2012 session of the ILO Governing Body (GB) where an ILO South-South and triangular cooperation strategy was adopted in the document: “South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward”.²⁰ Its accompanying indicators were adopted during the GB session of November 2012. At the request of the GB, the results framework proposed for the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) strategy were: 1) the ILO has greater institutional awareness and capacity to identify and implement SSTC, with a view to establishing and implementing an initiative on SSTC; 2) the Decent Work Agenda is advanced through SSTC with the engagement of an increasing number of governments, social partners, UN agencies and non-state actors.

Moreover, the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) in 2011 adopted the ILO Programme and Budget for 2012–13, placing particular emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) as a means of achieving the Organization’s objectives. In addition, the aforementioned Resolution on youth employment as well as its Follow-up Plan explicitly identify the need for the ILO to establish “mechanisms to review and disseminate good practices on youth employment interventions, including through mutual learning and South–South cooperation”, and to explore “opportunities to extend South–South and triangular collaboration to include youth employment”.²¹

In this context, strengthening national and regional response capacities and coordination mechanisms, as well as the commitment of social partners through South-South and triangular cooperation modalities is crucial to the sustainability of actions for tackling youth unemployment. The expansion of SSTC mechanisms could provide innovative and scalable solutions to address the current job crisis particularly affecting the youth. In this regard, workers’ and employers’ organisations have a key role to play in the promotion of youth employment in the region. The engagement of social partners in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of youth employment policies is essential to ensure their applicability.

¹⁹ <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/GA%20Resolutions/GA%20Resolution%202009.pdf>

²⁰ Available at

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_172577.pdf

²¹ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_191163.pdf

5. Themes

a) Knowledge Management Facility on Youth Employment and Migration and South-South Exchange

The thematic window on youth, employment and migration (YEM) of the UNDP-Spain Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) was launched in August 2007 to support the implementation of 14 joint programmes (JP) on youth employment and migration in generating and sharing knowledge through a community of practices. One of the main objectives of the Knowledge Management Facility (KMF) is to organize thematic and global workshops to share experience, lessons learnt and good practices on youth employment and migration across national partners including representatives of government and civil society, at national and local levels, and the participating UN agencies. It also aims at supporting the collection and dissemination of data, information and tools generated by the JP; undertake research and studies on topics of common interest to the JP. The YEM thematic window consists of JPs being implemented in countries in Africa, Asia, South-East Europe and Latin America. They involve partnerships between international organizations and national actors at both national and local levels.

Since 2010, the ILO through its Youth Employment Programme has been assisting in knowledge development and sharing in the framework of the aforementioned KMF. It has allowed countries from the Global South to learn from each other on the effective implementation of policies on youth employment and migration, and draw on the lessons learnt from the different JPs. In line with the KMF, several South-South exchanges have already take place.

First, to foster a community of practice among the 15 JPs, the Knowledge Management Facility organized two training workshops, one in Budapest (Hungary) from 30 March to 1 April, 2011 and another in Lima (Peru) from 13 to 15 April, 2011. During these workshops participants discussed the most challenging areas of work of the JPs and the lessons learned, and shared effective policy instruments and tools. In addition, a global workshop of the youth employment and migration window of the MDG-F was organized in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) from 29 to 31 October 2012. It conveyed representatives of national teams from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru the Philippines, Serbia, Tunisia and Turkey. The global workshop allowed the participants to share their overall experience throughout all the JP process, including implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The participants also discussed on good practices and lessons learned, and exchanged views on how to ensure the sustainability of achievements and maintain the YEM global community of practice. Finally, the workshops raised the interest from some participants to further cooperate with their peer countries and learn from their experience. For instance, a cooperation agreement between Ecuador and Peru was done in the field of youth migration. Another concrete example of South-South cooperation in the framework of the KMF is the exchange between Albania and Tunisia on youth employment policies and practices.

The networks created during the workshops provide an opportunity to apply innovative approaches to issues that are common to several programmes, countries and regions. The transfer of experience, practice and lessons learnt during the implementation of YEM programmes can also be instrumental to improve policy coherence at national level and identify successful approaches. It can also support policy dialogue and awareness raising at national and international levels on youth employment and migration issues.

b) South-South Cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy

The convergence between the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as a thematic area and SSTC as a cooperation modality is a strategic opportunity for the ILO. The Organization has developed expertise on social and solidarity economy enterprises and organizations (SSEOs). It is also strongly committed to SSTC can take different forms, including knowledge and experience-sharing, training, and technology transfer, all are applied to different fields and areas of expertise including the Social and Solidarity Economy (SE). SSTC and SE are based on the principle of solidarity. These are alternative paths for development, especially in the of context crisis by bringing together economic, social, and environmental concerns.

The global crisis has evidenced the role of the countries from the south in development, particularly in sharing solutions to similar challenges and contexts. In such a scenario, pooling efforts with the international community and social actors is important to scale up the impact of development initiatives. During the ILO Regional Conference on “The Social Economy – Africa’s Response to the Global Crisis” in Johannesburg, October 2009, the Plan of Action for the Promotion of Social Economy Enterprises and Organizations in Africa explicitly mentions as one of the areas of work “Building partnerships between social economy stakeholders in the North and South, as well as South-South partnerships”. Moreover, South-South cooperation and the Social Economy embrace a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors. This partnership between equals is central to the mainstreaming of the Decent Work Agenda (DWA).

South-South and triangular arrangements can expand the impact of Social Economy in national contexts; it can build wider regional and inter-regional networks and platforms for knowledge and experience-sharing. There are already many SSE networks between countries from the South, for example the Remess in Morocco, which is a SSE network and partner of the ILO for the 2013 session of the Social and Solidarity Economy held in Agadir with the focus on youth employment.

The ILO has been engaged in some initiatives that have evidenced the complementarity between SSTC and SE. For instance, Managing your Agricultural Cooperative -My.COOP-is a training package published in 2011. It covers managerial challenges faced by many agricultural cooperatives. It is based on the idea that strong cooperatives are necessary for a more equitable distribution of income, democracy, and economic and social development. In addition, in November 2010 the ILO organized a tripartite Sub-regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Cooperatives in Arab States held in Beirut (Lebanon) gathering representatives of governments, workers’, and employers’ organisations, cooperatives from six Arab countries (i.e. Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian countries, Syria and Yemen), and donors. The goal of this workshop was to reflect on the Arab cooperative movement in the context of global experience, and examining more closely the potential role of cooperatives to advance the Decent Work Agenda in the Arab States. The workshop aimed also at: (i) providing an overview of the cooperatives movement in the Arab States region, examining regulatory policies and legislative frameworks, needs and opportunities, key challenges, best practice and lessons learned; and (ii) to take stock of key achievements, highlight best practices and analyse lessons learned and key recommendations towards a participatory action plan for cooperative development in the Arab States region.²² Moreover, there has been a number of efforts around women cooperatives in Arab States (namely Yemen, Palestine and to some extent also in Lebanon). For example, based on a Palestinian women economic empowerment initiative relative to business group formation, a similar initiative was developed in Lebanon.

²² http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---coop/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_166301.pdf

6. About the ILO Solution Forum

a) Objectives

The ILO Solution Forum aims to present development solutions relevant to youth and women employment. Particularly, the Forum will aim to provide results-based presentations and scalable southern development solutions and will ensure that employment decent work and social inclusion for youth and women are integral parts of any sustainable development strategy. It will also focus on skills and education policies to facilitate job transition and improve employability, including equitable outcomes for vulnerable groups such as women, girls and youth. It aims at building partnerships to support tackling the youth employment crisis. Exceptional effort in mobilizing support builds on the Technical Cooperation Portfolio for the Arab States launched as a follow up of the Call for Action on Youth Employment Crisis. In this spirit, the forum will focus on specific needs to reinforce the domestic capacities and capabilities to address youth unemployment at the local level, bearing in mind that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach in addressing issues regarding youth employment.

Finally, the Solution forum will complement other items of the Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo that focus on the participation of youth to the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Specifically, the role of cooperatives (COOP) in empowering young women and men will be covered. It is meant at generating a better understanding of the concept of a SSE and its possible application to job creation for young people. Moreover, it is consistent with the creation of a community of practice in this area. For instance, the 2013 Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy, by evaluating *Youth and Job Creation for Young People*, will explore SSE strategies, practices and available tools, with a particular emphasis on South-South exchanges.²³

b) Structure

The regional forum will be conducted in an interactive manner, combining presentation of the applied development solutions from technical experts in the field of youth and women employment. Three hours will be dedicated for this forum. It will be divided in three segments. Each panellist will have 10-15 minutes to present his/her solution. After each segment, there will be up to 10 minutes for questions and answers. Before the presentations, the moderator will introduce each panellist and the topic of discussion. At the end the moderator will summarize the discussions and will provide closing remarks including possible recommendations on how to strengthen regional policy cohesion to promote youth employment through awareness raising, vocational training, pilot projects for the transfer of knowledge on employability strategies, among others. The summary report with recommendations will be developed after the forum and will be available for all the participants of the forum and on the web.

²³ <http://socialeconomy.itcilo.org/en>

7. Agenda for ILO Solution Forum: Promoting Youth Employment through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States

Segment 1: Sharing good practices on youth employment



Moderator: *Mr Jürgen Schwettmann, Director, ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support*



Mr Gianni Rosas
Coordinator
ILO Youth Employment Programme
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Knowledge Management Facility on Migration and Youth Employment

Mr Rosas has extensive experience in the field of youth employment. He heads the ILO Youth Employment Programme. Mr Rosas has also implemented several South-South strategies in the area of youth employment. This presentation will introduce the Knowledge Management Facility on Migration and Youth Employment (KMF), which was launched in August 2007 to support the implementation of 14 joint programmes on youth employment and migration in generating and sharing knowledge through a community of practice. One of the main objectives of the KMF is to organize thematic and global workshops to share experience, lessons learnt and good practices on youth employment and migration across national partners including representatives of government and civil society, at national and local levels.



Ms Paz Arancibia,
ILO Chief Technical Officer, Tunisia
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Horizontal cooperation between Albania and Tunisia on Territorial Youth Employment Pact

Ms Arancibia is the ILO Chief Technical Officer in Tunisia. She has sound experience in international programme management and coordination advisory. Ms Arancibia will present a horizontal cooperation initiative between Albania and Tunisia. In Albania, the Territorial Employment Pacts pooled local resources to ease the transition of young workers from the informal to the formal economy. Youth employment National Action Plans were developed to deliver on decent work objectives for youth in consultation with representatives of workers, employers and civil society organizations. The pilot initiative was adapted and implemented in Tunisia with success as the initiative supported to

strengthen the capacity of regional structures through training on how to identify, plan and develop regional actions plans for youth employment through collaborative technical committees.



Mr Yasser Ali
ILO Project Coordinator, Jordan
ali@ilo.org

Promoting Youth Rights at Work: lessons learned from Indonesia and Jordan

Mr Ali is Project Manager and ILO Focal point on Skills & Youth Employment in Jordan. He is an expert on technical vocational education and training and has a sound experience in youth employment promotion. This presentation will describe the lessons learned from initiatives to promote youth rights at work in Jordan and Indonesia. The initiative aimed at enhancing the understanding of young people of their rights in the workplace and how to defend them through collective bargaining and protection of trade unions. It has created greater awareness of young people rights, as well as improved outreach of trade unions to the informal economy. It has also helped to develop a manual on youth rights at work and the training of trainers for establishing a pool of trainers on youth rights at work in the country.

Segment 2: Green Jobs for youth



Moderator: Ms Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Strategic Partnerships Unit, ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support



Mr Raouf Dabbas,
Senior Advisor
Ministry of Environment, Jordan
rdabbas4@gmail.com

Barefoot college SSC initiative between Jordan and India

Mr Raouf Dabbas is the vice-president of the Friends of Environment Society and an environmental lobbyist and activist. He is the Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Environment in Jordan. Mr Dabbas will present the Barefoot college South-South cooperation initiative between Jordan and India. This initiative aimed at promoting women economic empowerment and poverty alleviation through the creation of women cooperative in the village running a Solar PV assembly and a training center. It also seeks to provide a sustainable source of energy by training rural women on building solar energy systems enhancing education for school students through providing a sustainable source of elimination. The initiative was initially developed in India and adapted to Jordan. Two women from a rural village in Jordan spent 6 months in India receiving training on the Solar PV electrification project. This knowledge was then implemented in Jordan.



Mr Hussein Abaza
Director
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Green Jobs for youth and Regional Cooperation in the Arab States

Mr Abaza is the Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development Solutions and former Chief of the Economics and Trade Branch at UNEP. Mr Abaza will present initiatives to promote green jobs for youth and regional cooperation on this field. The presentation will focus on rural and community development through solid waste management, production of organic fertilizers to contribute to soil productivity and increased crop production. The community-based solid waste management project in El Katta village in Egypt contributed to reducing municipal solid waste generated by households by encouraging separation of waste and production of organic fertilizers. The project resulted in creating jobs particularly among the youth, generating income for those involved, and improving health and the environment. This initiative has been recognize a good practice and CEDARE can potentially act as a catalyst to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to other Arab countries.



Mr Hossam Allam,
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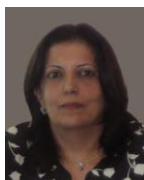
*Green Jobs for youth and Regional Cooperation: Case Studies
and Comparative Analysis in the Arab States*

Dr. Hossam Allam is the Regional Programme Manager of Strategic Concerns Programme at the Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), international organization based in Egypt. His current work focuses on sustainable consumption and production, green economy, and Green Information and Communications Technology themes. This presentation will be devoted to present success case studies and comparative analysis of initiatives to promote green jobs for your in the Arab States.

Segment 3: Promoting Decent work for youth, skills development and Cooperatives



Moderator: Mr Jürgen Schwettmann, Director, ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support



Ms Randa Abed Rabbo Zein

Director, Union of Cooperative Associations for
Saving and Credit (UCASC)
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The role of cooperatives in promoting youth employment

Ms Zein is the Director of the Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit (UCASC) in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Her experience has been focused on microcredit and women empowerment. The UCASC supports women integration in rural development and their empowerment at the social, economic and political levels. It contributes in building stronger communities through the promotion of opportunities for youth and newly graduates, while enhancing their economic participation. UCASC targets vulnerable women, especially young women in rural areas, through their saving and credit cooperative associations. The work of UCASC inspired other women financial cooperatives in Yemen where UCASC provided support to develop manuals and in Lebanon where the practice was shared during a workshop and served as inspiration for cooperative development in the country.



Mr Youssef Alaoui Solaimani

Consultant and trainer on Social and Solidarity Economy
youssefalaouis@hotmail.com

South-South Cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy: My.Coop Training Package

Mr Alaoui Solaimani has over 32 years of experience, in particular in cooperatives and Social and Solidarity Economy. The presentation of Mr Solaimani will focus on SSTC in Cooperatives, especially the work of My.COOP. It is the result of a collaborative effort involving a wide range of partners such as cooperative development agencies, cooperative colleges and universities, cooperative and producer organizations, knowledge institutes and agencies of the United Nations. It has helped to promote agricultural cooperatives, and for farmers to organize into cooperatives. MyCOOP has also developed training skills of trainers of young professionals and agronomists working with producer organizations. The My.COOP training package has been translated to different languages to make it accessible to a

wide array of countries. In addition an online platform is an active discussion forum available for those who have participated in the training. This platform is used for horizontal exchanges on different issues related to agricultural cooperatives in various countries.



Ms Christine Hofmann
Skills Development Specialist,
ILO Decent Work Team for North Africa
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Upgrading apprenticeships: a cross-country experience from Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan

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Appendix I

Criteria for good practices

As cross-cutting criteria the question of the ILO's role is fundamental: "What is the role of the ILO in facilitating this practice? Does the practice make use of the ILO's comparative advantage and its unique access to governments, employers' and workers' organizations?" Another important cross-cutting criterion is the question of mainstreaming gender equality, and whenever possible, environmental sustainability. The good practices to be selected should meet at least three of the following criteria:

Good practices that include "horizontal" cooperation: cooperation between two or more 'South' countries that share similar geo-political and socio-economic circumstances and values. Cooperation could be in the form of sharing knowledge, training manpower or replicating proven strategies in similar settings. Some guiding questions: Is this a practice that was allowed to be implemented based on principles of equality and international solidarity? One of the principles of South-South cooperation is the absence of conditionality, based on non-discrimination and information sharing. Was this possible?

- In many cases middle-income countries also contribute to least developed countries (LDCs) through development cooperation, similar to traditional "North-South" cooperation. In order to be defined as "South-South cooperation", the criteria mentioned in the Nairobi Declaration (2009) should be met, including principles of demand-driven international solidarity.

Good practices that include triangular cooperation: cooperation of one 'North' country and two or more 'South' countries. Assistance from the North can be in the form of a financial contribution or technical expertise.

Innovative: What is special about the practice that makes it of potential interest to others? Note that a practice need not be new to fit this criterion. Practices at this level may not be substantiated by data or formal evaluation, but they have been tried and a strong logical case can be made for their effectiveness, in accordance with the above criteria.

Adaptability: Is this an SSC practice that can be adapted in similar situations or settings? Have they proven to be successful, with demonstrable results? Although the practice is localized, it has characteristics that are transferable to other settings or situations.

Sustainability: Is the SSC practice and/or its benefits likely to continue in some way and to continue being effective, in the medium to long term? This could involve continuation of a project of activity after its initial funding is expected to expire or the creation of new attitudes, ways of working, mainstreaming development cooperation in the field of decent work, or the building of capacity, etc.