

First Arab States Regional South-South Development EXPO in Doha, 18-20 February 2014



ILO-led Solution Exchange Forum:

“Promoting Youth Employment through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States”

19 February 2014

Executive Summary

Segment I: Sharing Good Practices on Youth Employment

Mr. Rosas presented the Knowledge Management Facility on Migration and Youth Employment (KMF), which was launched in August 2007 to support the implementation of 15 joint programmes on youth employment and migration. It aims at organizing 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. Outcomes: Capacity building of policy makers, adaptation of national programmes based on lessons learned; Application of stakeholder coordination methodologies from one country to another (Albania - Tunisia); Agreement on youth employment and migration (Ecuador - Peru).

Ms. Aranciba mentioned Albania, where the Territorial Employment Pact (TEP)/Regional Action Plans for Youth Employment (PARE) initiative emerges as a contributing factor regarding participation at the local level and decision making on employment policy. The TEP in the Kukes Region established six service lines to ease the transition to the formal economy: i) entrepreneurship and business advisory services with a particular focus on women; ii) skills training grants; iii) access to credit opportunities; iv) subsidized employment; v) organization building and vi) regulatory environment. The horizontal cooperation between Albania and Tunisia was done under the framework of the Knowledge Management Facility (KMF) on youth employment and migration. Tunisia, following Albania's experience of Territorial Youth Employment Pacts, developed “Regional Action Plans for Youth Employment” (PARE) in three targeted governorates, El Kef, Gafsa and Ariana.

Mr. Ali referred to the ILO's Decent Work Country Programme for Jordan (2012-2015), which was signed by the Ministry of Labour and the social partners.

A very important aspect was the system of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), whose certificates facilitate the training-to-work transition and also the capacity of MSMEs to contribute, in the supply side, to the quality of skills through upgraded apprenticeship schemes. The promotion of Youth Rights at Work is a critical factor in the creation and implementation of decent work for young people. In this good practice, the examples of Indonesia and Jordan were presented. National institutions that contributed to the initiative were: General Federation for Jordanian Trade Unions; Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions; youth non-profit organizations; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Jordan; and all four trade union confederations in Indonesia. The development of a manual on the rights of young people at work,

for both trainers and trainees, is seen as a tool to enable decent work. In Indonesia, the manuals were developed by the trade unions and for the trade unions. This experience can foster the development of other manuals at the national or regional level, which will be useful as a mechanism to raise awareness regarding the rights and principles in the world of work.

Segment II: Promoting Decent Work for Youth, Skills Development and Cooperatives

Ms. Zein described the activities of the Union of Cooperative Associations for Saving and Credit (UCASC), which supports women's integration in rural development and their empowerment at the social, economic and political levels in Palestine. A main objective was to enhance employment opportunities for low-income women and female graduates. Several of these women were able to obtain a professional experience, mainly in cooperatives. The work of this union (UCASC) has 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. Solaimani focused on Cooperatives and South-South and triangular cooperation, namely My.COOP, which 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. My.COOP has been standardized into a training package and programme on the management of agricultural cooperatives. It supports the creation and management of cooperatives, skills training and provides an online platform to exchange ideas. Initiated by the ILO Cooperative Facility for Africa and the ILO's Cooperative Branch, the partnership involves: Agriterro, FAO, the International Training Centre of the ILO, the Royal Tropical Institute and the Wageningen University and Research Centre, among others. It has been implemented in several countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Ms. Hoffman demonstrated the usefulness of a cross-country experience from Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan regarding upgrading apprenticeships. These systems are a traditional way to get training on-the-job and the ILO is supporting the strengthening of the existing systems. A comprehensive dialogue at the national and local levels helped to identify challenges and weaknesses in current approaches and led to the proposal of measures to improve existing systems and practices in cooperation with social partners and civil society in order to implement decent work standards.

Segment III: Green Jobs for Youth

Mr. Dabbas explained the main details of the initiative, which has promoted women's economic empowerment and poverty alleviation through the creation of women's cooperatives in the village running a Solar Photovoltaic assembly and training center. The Barefoot College (India) is a non-governmental organization that has been providing basic services and solutions to problems in rural communities for more than 40 years, with the objective of making them self-sufficient and sustainable. In a South-South Cooperation initiative between India and Jordan, two women from a rural village in Jordan spent 6 months in India (Barefoot College) and received training on the Solar PV electrification project. In the aftermath, 80 houses were fitted with solar PV electric energy lighting in Jordan.

Mr. Abaza referred to initiatives that promote green jobs for youth and regional cooperation in the field of environmental and health improvement, rural and community-development, contribution to agricultural development, productivity and food security. These initiatives of the Centre for Sustainable Development Solutions (CEDARE) can potentially act as a catalyst to facilitate the South-South transfer of knowledge among Arab countries.

Mr. Hossam presented successful case studies and comparative analysis of initiatives that promote employment for young people in the Arab States, mainly through green jobs generation and support to young entrepreneurs in the creation of SMEs. The examples included sustainable initiatives in the areas of tourism, solid waste management, energy, agriculture, recycling, social shops, construction, traditional food production and distribution in Arab countries such as in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco.