Taqeeem 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

Taqeeem (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
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.