

# Taqeem Initiative

## What Works in Youth Employment

ILO Fund for Evaluation in Employment 2015

Track 2: Technical and financial assistance for monitoring and evaluation

### Egypt

#### Alexandria Business Association (ABA)

Alexandria Business Association (ABA) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that is classified as a micro-finance institution and based in Alexandria, Egypt. ABA provides financial and non-financial services and aims to develop and promote existing small and micro enterprises, to raise funds and income of SMEs, to help the transformation of SMEs from informal to formal sector, and ultimately contribute to creating employment opportunities. In an effort to support enterprises with high growth potential and to support job creation in the country, ABA proposes to implement a pilot intervention - provisionally called Tomouh (*Ambition*) - that would allow a select group of existing ABA Credit Programme clients to borrow a substantially larger loan between 4 to 10 times the amount of the previous loan, compared with the current ceiling of 150%.

### Egypt

#### RISE Egypt and Educate Me

RISE Egypt ('RISE') is a global non-profit organization that works directly with Egyptian social enterprises that are deploying innovative solutions to the country's development challenges by providing capacity-building and research assistance to enable scale-up that leads to job creation and development impact in Egypt. RISE will work with Educate Me ('EM') to evaluate the impact and cost-effectiveness of their model in delivering early primary education through their community school. Educate Me, supported through the RISE fellowship programme, is an education social enterprise that is employing the Reggio Emilia model of student-driven learning to maximize education outcomes and student self-actualization. Educate Me is a registered Egyptian non-profit foundation that was founded in 2010 to redefine education in Egypt. They aspire to create an educational approach that brings about citizens who are enabled to pursue their life's objectives, pushing boundaries in every field of knowledge, driven by their passion and curiosity.

## Jordan

### **Business Development Center (BDC)**

Established in 2004, the Business Development Center (BDC) is a non-profit organization committed to fostering economic development and public reform in Jordan and the Middle East. BDC aims to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, create employment opportunities and build individual capacities for youth, women and professionals. BDC's capacity building programme offers students and recent graduates career counselling and soft skill development courses as well as entrepreneurship training sessions in order to boost participants' employability and encourage self-employment.

## Jordan

### **National Employment Strategy Unit (NESU), Ministry of Labour, Jordan**

The National Employment Strategy (2011-2020) was launched under the patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II and seeks to renew emphasis and generate new momentum to develop and implement policies and programmes aimed at employment generation. The vision of the National Employment Strategy is to improve the standards of living for Jordanians through increased employment, wages and benefits, and productivity improvements. The National Employment Strategy Unit (NESU) at the Ministry of Labour was assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the National Employment Strategy interventions and evaluate their results. The NES includes interventions executed by governmental institutions and covers policies that target employment issues related to the supply framework, demand framework, and institutional framework.

## Lebanon

### **Berytech**

Berytech was created by in 2001 to be the first technological pole in Lebanon and the region that provides a conducive environment for the creation and development of innovative startups. In 2007, Berytech Foundation was created to support the role and objectives of Berytech on local development projects and international collaborations. Berytech supports entrepreneurs through incubation, business support, networking, mentoring, funding and company hosting in a dynamic and vibrant environment. Entrepreneurial activities managed by Berytech include incubation awards, entrepreneurship contests, summer schools and regional academies for entrepreneurs, "from idea to startup" courses to engineers, micro-enterprise acceleration programmes, university roadshows, local and international exhibitions and workshops, entrepreneurs forums, startup weekends, mentoring programmes, networking events, and lunch-debates with key stakeholders.

## Morocco

### **International Trade Centre (ITC)**

International Trade Centre's "Trade Accelerator" is a business internationalization model targeted at young entrepreneurs with recent enterprises intending to enter the international markets or global value chains, or shift from being an occasional exporter to become a regular exporter. The Trade Accelerator is part of the ITC Youth and Trade programme and contributes to the programme goal of improving income opportunities of young entrepreneurs through connecting to international markets or value chains. In late 2014, ITC took a step forward in its corporate involvement with youth by launching the ITC Youth and Trade Initiative that consists of the following technical assistance package: Youth and Trade Strategy, the Trade Accelerator, and Online Training via ITC's SME trade academy. In partnership with a local host institution, the Trade Accelerator model installs in the country an innovative and sustainable ecosystem of institutions, advisers, mentors and other actors to support youth-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with tailored services as springboards to access international markets. The Trade Accelerator was piloted in Morocco in partnership with the Association Marocaine des Exportateurs (ASMEX) that specializes in representing and assisting Moroccan exporters.

## Tunisia

### **Education for Employment Tunisia (EFE-Tunisie)**

Education for Employment Tunisia (EFE-Tunisie) is a non-profit association that addresses youth unemployment in Tunisia by providing young women and men with skills and tools to find a job or start a business, build their future and give back to their communities. EFE-Tunisie started operating in May 2012 and is part of the EFE network of local non-profit organizations in the Middle East and North Africa region. EFE-Tunisie has developed programmes to bring together Tunisian and international partners in public-private partnerships that provide youth with economic opportunities. In addition to other programmes, EFE-Tunisie offers unemployed, out-of-school youth in Tunisia entrepreneurship training using the Build Your Business curriculum (BYB) in order to provide young people with the skills and tools they need to launch their own businesses. Upon completion of the BYB training, the best projects are selected to benefit from individual coaching.