

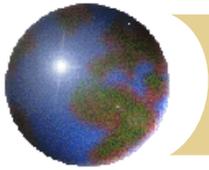
NURTURING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG ARAB YOUTH

Creating Local Ecosystems to Enhance Economic Opportunities

16-18 February, Doha, Qatar

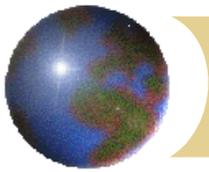
Youth Entrepreneurship Interventions from Around the Region

Mentoring : An approach of enhancing youth entrepreneurship



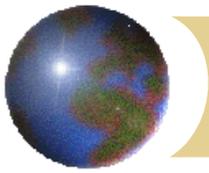
Common factors for youth unemployment across the arab region

- ❖ **Over reliance on public sector jobs but the availability of these jobs is in decline due to budget constraints.**
- ❖ **Young people face a « school to work » skills gap due to a lack of interaction between the private sector and educational institutions.**
- ❖ **A lack of equal opportunities for women , both in education and within labor markets is also common across the region (The Arab region has the lowest participation of women in the labor force of any region in the world)**



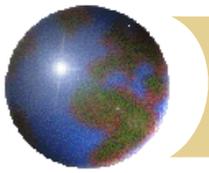
Lack of skills for youth employment

- ✦ **Business skills** in financial, technical, marketing, service-related and project management disciplines.
- ✦ **Soft skills** such as teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, time management and communication, as well as personal qualities including self-motivation, maturity and a positive attitude toward learning.
- ✦ **Business awareness** Many school, college and university leavers remain unaware of the range of careers possible within the private sector. A lack of interaction with an experience of the world of work often leads to a disinterest in pursuing private sector job opportunities.
- ✦ **Job-specific vocational skills** that enable direct entry into the workforce where opportunities exist. In particular, more emphasis on technical and scientific skills is required.
- ✦ **Information and communications technology (ICT) skills**, which are critical for success in today's workforce. The use of computers and the Internet is key to the generation, sharing and application of knowledge.



What does entrepreneurship offer?

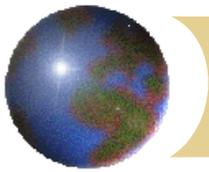
- ❖ **Entrepreneurship offers one opportunity to show what you're really made of, and there are a variety of programs, funding projects and learning opportunities designed to help inspired young people.(re: Injaz Al Arab in Morocco, Maharat program in Jordan; Silatech initiatives across the region)**
- ❖ **Self-employment is not often seen as a career option by young people in the region because they are not aware of the opportunities, lack role models, are afraid of the risks involved or simply would not know where to start. The absence or underdevelopment of entrepreneurial mindsets can hinder young people from taking risks and achieving self employment and economic independence.**



The challenges facing young entrepreneurs

⊕ The success of young entrepreneurs, in the absence of institutional support, appears to depend on a number of factors. Among others, these include:

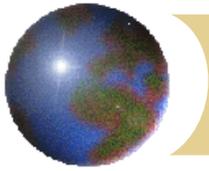
- ❑ **A business vision**
- ❑ **Business discipline**
- ❑ **A positive attitude towards business**
- ❑ **An ability to identify and exploit new business opportunities**
- ❑ **Patience**
- ❑ **Perseverance, and**
- ❑ **Resilience.**



Mentoring as an early stage for Youth Entrepreneurship

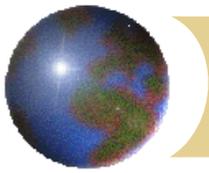
Through a public private and civil society program conducted by an NGO “**Moroccan Women in Mentoring and Networking**” in partnership with an international organization, a youth mentoring initiative for empowering youth and creating the next generation of leaders has been implemented and has many objectives and outcomes:

- ✦ To promote the professional orientation of youth
- ✦ To contribute and increase their employability
- ✦ To integrate them into the labor market and increase gender labor force
- ✦ To train and provide a technical assistance to the beneficiaries mentees, high professional training by our mentors /experts, or international experts if needed.
- ✦ To allow them to network with other professionals
- ✦ To allow them to gain confidence, to motivate, to inspire, to play key role in sharing successful experiences by their mentors.



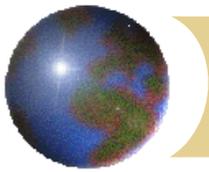
Youth entrepreneurship Pattern across the Region

To reverse the pattern of exclusion and unemployment, in a changing economy, and with the effects of Arab Spring, Mena region youth access to the labor market demands should be in line with or appropriate to the education and training reforming dynamic.



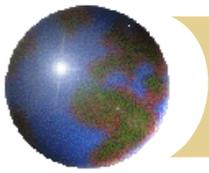
Some thoughts & recommendations

- ❖ In MENA region, governments and donor representatives with regard to the appropriate design of youth entrepreneurship programs should develop the exchange of experiences (best practices) in fields of expertise, instructional material and use of training facilities (partnerships with universities).
- ❖ Turning local initiatives into national and regional dialogue on school education curricula.



Some thoughts & recommendations

- ✦ Expand the role of information in developing youth attitudes and competencies in schools in order to acquire the appropriate credentials of the labour market. (Internships and in-school training, junior enterprise should be developed where students should be accountable for and get grades on).
- ✦ Entrepreneurship spirit should be encouraged and supported by mentors and leaders from the private sector and the civil society organizations as well.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION