

Business and Youth in the Arab World

Title	Business and Youth in the Arab World
Coverage	Middle East
Organization/enterprise	International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF)
Topic	Entrepreneurship development
Target group and outreach	Young unemployed people in the Middle East
Purpose	The initiative aims to gain a better understanding of the role that business can play in improving youth employment.
Key features	<p>(1) Compiles and distils lessons learned from business-led initiatives on youth employment from across the Arab region</p> <p>(2) Is based on interviews with over 100 businesses and organizations in the region, including multinational corporations, regional and national companies, institutions of the education sector and civil society organizations</p>
Strategy and approach	<p>IBLF is an international non-profit organization set up in 1990 by the Prince of Wales and a group of chief executives of international companies in response to the emerging challenges of economic growth and changes in the global economy. The mission of IBLF is to work with business, governments and civil society to enhance the contribution that companies can make to sustainable development.</p> <p>The founders of the initiative believe that business can play a key role in the development of and stability in the Middle Eastern and North African region, particularly through building bridges between business and education and between different cultures. With a youthful population and a critical challenge of youth employment, youth and education is the main focus for IBLF - in particular through its Business and Youth in the Arab World project and its Youth Business International programmes in Saudi Arabia, Syria and Israel.</p> <p>A sourcebook of good practice business-led initiatives from across the Arab region, <i>Business and Youth in the Arab World</i>, was launched in 2007 to show how business can tackle youth unemployment and stimulate enterprise development. It aims to collate information, analyse experiences, and explain perspectives and share lessons learned on the positive impact the business sector is having on employment and enterprise prospects of young people within the Arab region. It includes case studies from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Territories of Palestine, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE.</p> <p>The sourcebook is based on interviews with over 100 businesses and organizations in the region, including multinational corporations, national and regional companies, small and medium-sized enterprises, educational institutions and civil society organizations.</p> <p>It profiles eighteen examples of business and partnership initiatives addressing youth development within the Arab world. Each is aimed at making a sustainable and significant positive impact on the employment and enterprise prospects of young people.</p> <p>The examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A microfinance programme in the Occupied Territories of Palestine,

	<p>supported by the Bank of Palestine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology access and training in Morocco through a partnership with Microsoft, United Nations and the Government • Training nurses in Egypt as a result of work by the Sawiris Foundation
Partners	<p>The project is run by a consortium that includes the United Nations Development Programme, Young Arab Leaders, Emirates Environmental Group and Young Entrepreneurs Association.</p> <p>The resource guide received funding from ALJ Group, Shell, Aramex, Dubai Aluminium, Emirates Bank and Orascom.</p>
Additional information	<p>IBLF. 2006. <i>Business and Youth in the Arab World, Partnerships for youth employment and enterprise development: A sourcebook</i>. With the support of the Young Arab Leaders, Emirates Environmental Group, Young Entrepreneurs Association, the United Nations Development Programme. 88 pages (PDF).</p>
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Source: International Business Leaders Forum