

THE CHALLENGE

At least 90 percent of Egypt's unemployed are between the ages of 15 and 29, despite the fact that this generation of youth is the most educated in the country's history. Moreover, the unemployment rate among young women is three times that of young men and more than five times the country's overall jobless rate. Disadvantaged youth in Egypt, particularly young women, do not have access to the relevant training and support necessary to secure jobs in the private sector or to start up their own businesses. As a result, far too many are forced into low-skill jobs in the informal economy.

THE INITIATIVE

Egypt@Work was a partnership between the International Youth Foundation, The MasterCard Foundation and Nahdet El Mahrousa that provided 12,681 disadvantaged youth with the skills, knowledge and opportunities needed to find and maintain employment or start new enterprises. The program also facilitated job placement and access to financing to support those on the entrepreneurship track.

The four-year \$5 million initiative, officially launched in Egypt in August 2011, targeted unemployed, out-of-school or at-risk youth ages 15 to 34. Egypt@Work built alliances between sectors and assist local organizations with capacity building, technical assistance services, and on-the-ground implementation of activities. These programs were responsive to market demands and informed by youth workforce assessments as well as by ongoing input from the private and public sectors.

RESULTS

- 12,681 youth, ages 15 to 34 (who are unemployed, out-of-school or at risk of leaving school) improved their employment prospects through targeted training.
- Over 60% of the beneficiaries were female.
- 94% of the beneficiaries completed the training program.
- Of those who completed training, 78% found salaried employment or created their own businesses, and an additional 25% will return to school.
- An estimated 12,000 family members indirectly benefited from the initiative.

PARTNERS

Global Partner: The MasterCard Foundation

National Partner: Nahdet El Mahrousa (NM)

Local Implementing Partners: A range of local organizations involved in program implementation.

CONTACTS

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