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Spring 2013, Vol.2, No. 1

In This Issue

- [200 Youth Receive Training and Support for New Business Start-Ups](#)
- [IYF Adapts Its Signature Life Skills Curriculum for Palestinian Youth](#)
- [YED Supports Development of Career Guidance Services](#)

200 Youth Receive Training and Support for New Business Start-Ups



On 5 March, the Palestine Information and Communications Technology Incubator (PICTI) celebrated the completion of its "Path to Career" project. Through Path to Career, PICTI provided life skills and other market-needed training for 200 university students and recent

The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program (YED), implemented by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission to the West Bank and Gaza, is a four-year, US\$15 million youth-focused program in West Bank and Gaza.

YED's goal is to improve employability and entrepreneurship opportunities for young Palestinians, ages 14 to 29, by partnering with public, private, and civil society sector institutions. Through strong partnerships with local Palestinian youth-serving institutions (YSIs), the program supports high-quality, results-oriented, and sustainable

graduates across the West Bank. Trainees who were interested in exploring entrepreneurship as a career option developed business plans. The three strongest proposals, which included an online land use game, a virtual tour service targeting Jerusalem, and a mobile application to provide information and support for travelers, were awarded business incubation and development support from PICTI. [Click here](#) to learn more about PICTI's Path to Career project.

IYF Adapts Its Signature Life Skills Curriculum for Palestinian Youth



IYF is making its *Passport to Success®* flagship life skills curriculum available to YED's partners for use in their youth development programs in Palestine. The 75-module curriculum covers crucial life skills areas such as: personal development, problem solving, healthy lifestyles, entrepreneurship,

workplace success, and service learning, to prepare youth to join the workforce. To facilitate the delivery of the curriculum, YED has trained three representatives of partner youth-serving institutions (YSIs), as well as two freelance trainers.

In addition, to increase the utility and relevance of *Passport to Success®* for Palestinian youth, IYF is adapting the curriculum to the Palestinian context. In collaboration with a Palestinian Curriculum Advisory Board, comprised of representatives of YSI partner organizations, universities, and private sector partners, IYF is revising the curriculum to provide the most relevant learning experience for youth trainees in Palestine and to prepare them for the job market.

Once the revision process is complete, IYF plans to make the *Passport to Success®* curriculum available to YSI partners currently implementing projects through YED. In addition, YED plans to train and certify a second group of *Passport to Success®* trainers to include 20 individuals from YSI partner organizations, in addition to freelance

livelihood initiatives to address the needs of Palestinian youth.

Want to know more?

For more information about IYF's programs go to www.iyfn.net.org.

trainers, in order to contribute to the sustainability of YED's work in Palestine.

YED Supports Development of Career Guidance Services

Young Palestinians seeking to join the labor force face a well-documented lack of quality career guidance services. In response to strong demand from partner YSIs, YED is supporting the development and provision of quality career guidance and career counseling services for youth in the West Bank, including the following:

Tamheed



Through YED, IYF established a strategic partnership with the Qatari-based social enterprise, Silatech, to deliver high-quality career advice for youth through *Tamheed*[™], an online assessment tool that analyzes young job seekers' personalities and work preferences and matches them to potential career paths.

Through this partnership, IYF and Silatech have certified 12 *Tamheed* advisors, with a second group of 15 professionals to be certified from partner YSIs, including universities. To promote the sustainability of this investment, one IYF staff member will be certified as a *Tamheed* trainer, thereby enabling the training and certification process to continue at the local level and provide expanded access to career guidance support for youth in Palestine.

In addition to training and certification, IYF's partnership with Silatech will provide sub-licenses to YED's partners with certified trained staff—including seven universities, one secondary school, and ten NGOs—to use *Tamheed* free of charge for two years. This access is valued at an estimated US\$360,000 in leveraged support for YED beneficiaries, and will enable YED's partners to reach about 2,000 youth per year with career advising support.

School to Career Program



YED is also collaborating with the Palestine Ministry of Education, the Community Development and Continuing Education Institute (CDCE-I) at Palestine Ahliya University College, and the League of Vocational Education & Training Institutions (TVET League), to strengthen career

guidance services in public secondary schools in the West Bank through the School to Career program.

Building on a curriculum developed by a previous USAID-funded project, YED is collaborating with these partners to pilot and roll out the School to Career guidance curriculum, train counselors, and offer supplementary activities to support youth in the 11th and 12th grades. These supplementary activities include job shadowing, parents' workshops, field visits and career days, and one-on-one counseling using the *Tamheed* program.

In addition, YED is working with Agility, an independent Palestinian consulting firm, to build the capacity of the Ministry of Education to support School to Career programs and activities. Agility will develop content for a Career Education Toolkit for 11th and 12th grade students, as well as design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for implementing the career guidance toolkit. Overall, the full spectrum of School to Career activities and curricula are designed to increase students' self-awareness and equip them with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they need to make informed choices about future education and career plans.



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This program was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Cooperative Agreement No. EPP-A-00-08-00006-00. The information provided here in is not official U.S. Government information and does not represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government.