

YES Program



limitations and opportunities.

- Engage relevant stakeholders implementing youth programs through partnerships and networks to ensure knowledge sharing and coordination to affect a larger scale impact.

Target Group

Unemployed Palestinian fresh graduates of universities, two year colleges, and technical/vocational schools equally divided between genders.

Location

The program is implemented in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, Gaza and the refugee camps in Lebanon.

The Program

In 2009, the first phase of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program was launched as a pilot in the West Bank & Gaza with a budget of USD 15 million. The program concentrated on skills training, job placements and supporting start-ups primarily in the technology sector for youth aged 15-29 years. YES responds perfectly to the Palestinian national strategy aiming at developing the human resources capacity and increasing youth employability as the unemployment rate in the 18-29 age group is the highest in the MENA region at 37%. As the trend prevails, the rate is much higher for girls and young women where females participation in the workforce is limited to 16.7% and the unemployment rate amongst females is about 50%.

WA has developed the YES program to ease and facilitate the entrance of Palestinian youth into the job market.

Program Objectives

- Bridge the skills mismatch between young job seekers and the labor market through training, job placements and apprenticeships.
- Create a conducive environment for entrepreneurship and small business development.
- Create community of employers committed to training and mentoring of young people to advance their future careers
- Implement social activities in disadvantaged communities to engage a wider cohort of youth in advancing and expanding their skills base to meet the challenges ahead.
- Advance key sectors of relevance to the local context (e.g. ICT, services...)
- Provide continuous monitoring and evaluation of processes to identify and advance effective methodologies that best fit the Palestinian context with its



Program Financials

Strategic Period	Planned Budget	Available	Needed
2014-2016	\$7.3M	\$2.5M	\$4.8M

For more details, please contact:
Ghassan Taha
Amayrag@jwelfare.org



Program Activities

The program consists of three main interrelated activities:

- 1. Life Skills.** The program provides youth with a variety of key generic qualifications required by the labor market. The Education for Employment (EFE) is the partner that provides such training as it has vast local and international experience in this field. The key qualifications provided include:
 - Personal competencies (e.g. managing emotions, developing confidence, problem solving,..etc)
 - Problem solving (e.g. managing conflicts and reducing bullying)
 - Effective work habits (e.g. teamwork, interviewing, workplace protocol, timemanagement,..etc)
 - Community and environmental awareness (e.g. environmental and community living spaces preservation)
 - Acceptance of others (e.g. respect for differences, tolerance, values).
 - Service learning (e.g. civic responsibility, community service, volunteering).
- 2. Online Job Match-Making with Local Employers.** The YES online Match-Making portal links youth graduates with local employers based on mutual needs. More than 20,000 new graduates already have access to internships and job opportunities through the portal. Moreover, 1,900 employers are also registered from the private sector providing 75% of full recruitment of their interns.
- 3. On-the-Job Training:** offers temporary, paid placement in a local institution that gives practical experience in the workplace. The placement offers a high potential to link trainees to permanent jobs in the hosting institutions or provide linkages with partner institutions. The applicants selected are given a stipend of \$600 monthly during their 6-month placement.
- 4. Accelerating Business Startups:** The program provides financial resources, incubation services and entrepreneurship training to young people motivated to start up their own-income generating projects or expand their existing businesses. The FastForward program begins with pre-acceleration activities to generate a pipeline for the FastForward acceleration program. These pre-acceleration activities generate interest in the accelerator and trains potential entrepreneurs. A variety of activities such as business trainings, entrepreneurial lectures, competitions and much more are held to encourage entrepreneurship and generate interest in the FastForward application.

Major Accomplishments since Establishment

During the past 5 years, YES succeeded in:

- Securing jobs for more than 4500 recent graduates' in the local market,
- Supporting the establishment of 400 business start-up in different settings employing more than 700 youth and women.
- Supporting over 1,000 youth in Jerusalem with integrated social services.
- The program cumulative efforts of its first phase led to an aggregate annual income of USD 25 Million in permanent jobs and entrepreneurships.

