

## 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 is a partnership between the International Youth Foundation, The MasterCard Foundation and Nahdet El Mahrousa that aims to provide 10,000 disadvantaged youth with the skills, knowledge and opportunities needed to find and maintain employment or start new enterprises. The program also facilitates 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, targets unemployed, out-of-school or at-risk youth ages 15 to 29. Egypt@Work will build alliances between sectors and assist local organizations with capacity building, technical assistance services, and on-the-ground implementation of activities. These programs will be responsive to market demands and informed by youth workforce assessments as well as by ongoing input from the private and public sectors.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 10,000 youth, ages 15 to 29 (who are unemployed, out-of-school or at risk of leaving school) will have increased employment prospects.
- At least 50% (5,000) of the beneficiaries will be female.
- At least 80% (8,000) of the beneficiaries will complete training program.
- Of those who complete training and are entering the job market, at least 65% will find salaried employment or create their own businesses, and an additional 15% will return to school.
- An estimated 12,000 family members will indirectly benefit from the initiative. The program will document and disseminate lessons learned in order to adapt the model for scaling up in additional countries.

## 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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