

# PASSPORT TO **SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>

AN INITIATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION



## EQUIPPING JORDANIAN YOUTH WITH ESSENTIAL LIFE SKILLS

Almost one third of Jordanian youth are unemployed and in some areas of the country more than half drop out before completing school, giving up hope of a better life. With 60% of the nation's population under the age of 30, youth unemployment poses a critical social and economic challenge—now and in the future.

At the same time, employers in growth industries such as tourism, retail, and manufacturing seek qualified workers, but report that young, prospective hires often lack the technical and soft skills needed to meet growing demands.

To bridge the gap between youth skills and employer needs, the International Youth Foundation (IYF) has introduced its 80-module *Passport to Success*<sup>®</sup> program to youth at-risk living in Jordan's most vulnerable neighborhoods.

The *Passport to Success* curriculum delivers a core of ten widely-endorsed life skills, including effective communication, responsibility, goal-setting, and teamwork, and has been successfully adapted in eight countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

### Focus on High Quality Content and Superior Training

*Passport to Success* is distinguished by its superior quality content and service delivery. The curriculum adheres to 'best practice' standards that experts agree are critical to effective life skills programming and responsive to the needs of youth, employers, and key stakeholders.

Special emphasis is placed on workplace readiness, including interviewing, respect for authority, and time management, along with tools for how to be a good employee. Participants receive assistance in developing a career plan to guide them as they chart a course to a productive future.

To ensure that youth are prepared to assume civic as well as professional roles, the program includes modules on service learning. Through carrying out a community service project, participants have the chance to practice the skills they learned, while contributing to society.

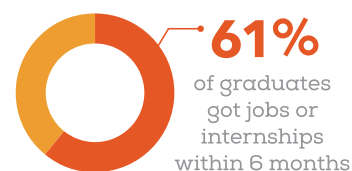
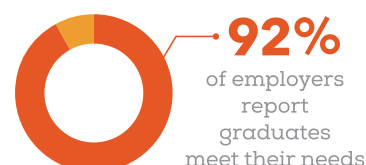
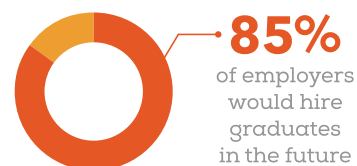
## BY THE NUMBERS

**8,500+**

Jordanian youth  
trained so far

**39,000+**

young people trained  
so far in MENA region



Recognizing that even the best content will fail to achieve its desired impact without appropriate learning methodologies, IYF places a premium on high-quality training. Prospective trainers deliver innovative, interactive activities that capture young people's imaginations and allow them to practice, question, and understand expectations. Before obtaining their certification, trainers receive 32 hours of hands-on life skills instruction, including how to implement experiential methodologies, such as group work, role plays, and creative exercises. To ensure mastery of the material and techniques, trainees receive ongoing support from a qualified mentor. To date, IYF has trained over 200 trainers and 30 master trainers throughout Jordan.

### A Flexible, Adaptable Approach

*Passport to Success* is building young people's skills in a variety of settings, including public and private secondary schools, technical institutes, teacher training colleges, and youth-serving organizations. IYF partners with providers to customize models to local labor market needs as well as to the aspirations of young people.

Youth who have taken *Passport to Success* in Jordan report statistically significant gains in communication, cooperation, and employment skills. In focus group discussions, young females noted an increase in self-confidence, an easier time engaging in constructive dialogues with family members, and more active community involvement. Young men, too, report they now have the skills to cope with the challenges of the workplace, including anger management, respecting others, and writing CVs and interviewing.

### Going to Scale at the National Level

After adapting and refining *Passport to Success* at the local level in Jordan, the program is being scaled up nationally to reach thousands more youth through working with public and private sector partners to integrate the model into the country's educational and training systems. IYF is pleased to be partnering with the national Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) to integrate *Passport to Success* in its hospitality centers throughout the country. Through a training of trainers model, the VTC has built a cadre of certified PTS trainers inhouse to offer quality life skills programming to its vocational institutes.

IYF has also partnered with Al Quds College, a leading private community college, to integrate *Passport to Success* into its core curriculum. Through a licensing agreement, 20 staff are trained to deliver the curriculum, which is being used to equip all students with the foundational skills they need to be successful.

IYF is also collaborating with the Jordan Federation for Tourism Association and the Jordan Hospitality and Tourism Education Company to implement an initiative designed to provide unemployed youth, ages 18 to 30, with the life skills, technical training, and career guidance services they need to secure jobs. To date, more than 60 hospitality employers have hired program graduates.

Through these and other partnerships, IYF seeks to ensure that many more youth will develop the skills they need to succeed in the workplace and as active community members.

## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FOUNDATION

The **International Youth Foundation** (IYF) is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering today's young men and women to be productive, engaged citizens. Foundational to that mission is *Passport to Success*® (PTS), a world-class life skills curriculum originally developed with generous support from the GE Foundation. Now adapted and implemented in every corner of the globe, PTS is a catalyst for change, helping young people achieve success in school, work, and life.

“It's obvious the program has a **significant impact** on our youth. As an **employer**, I see the difference in behavior. The program is **motivating** me to replace my foreign work-force with [PTS] graduates.”

—Khaled Dawodi,  
Owner, *Kababji Restaurant*  
and *Cafe Najjar*, Amman