

MENA Life Skills Mapping Study

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February 21, 2012



Agenda

- Review study goals
- Describe research methodology
- Outline key findings
- Share recommendations



Life Skills Mapping Study's Goals

- Identify objectives of existing life skills programs
- Determine how programs are managed, designed
- Identify areas where capacity building is required
- Assist organizations in strengthening life skills programs



Research Methodology

- 5 countries mapped
 - Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine
- Divided into 2 phases
 - *Initial Mapping (56 organizations)*
 - *In-depth Mapping (14 organizations)*
- Data collection tools developed
 - IYF Minimum Standards Tool
 - Surveys, structured interviews, focus groups



Key Findings

- Prevalence
- Program goal
- Program structure
- Curricula
- Training of trainers
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Value to youth



Key Finding – *Program Prevalence*

- 89% of orgs in Egypt, Jordan had 5+ years; only 54% of orgs in Morocco had 5+ years
- 90% of orgs in Jordan, Palestine implementing programs nationally; only 20% of orgs in Morocco implementing nationally
- Prevalence is not necessarily a measure of quality



Key Finding - *Program Goal*

- Common regional goal: counter growing youth unemployment by providing young people with private sector-demanded soft skills.
- Youth-focused government initiatives
- Also, facilitate conflict resolution, civic engagement, leadership, personal well being



Key Finding - *Program Structure*

- Varies widely across countries, region
 - Duration
 - Minimum 3 total hours over 1 day (Egypt, Morocco) maximum 350 hours over 9 months (Egypt)
 - Average: est. 20 hours over 2-3 months
 - Frequency
 - 1-8 hours/day, 1-5 times per/week
- Class size: avg 20-30 students per class
- Instructor/student ratio: avg 1 : 25



Key Finding – *Curricula*

- Internationally sourced, adapted locally, tested to ensure relevancy
- Covers core life skills related to personal competencies + employability, civic engagement-related content
- Not frequently updated or adapted to specific youth cohorts



Key Finding – *Trainers*

- Selection criteria widely in use
- In-house or free-lance, some volunteers from private sector
- Average completed secondary school, 2 years experience



Key Finding – *Trainers*

- 3 levels of support provided to trainers:
 - Minimum: less than 15 hour TOT
 - Moderate: 20-50 hour TOT with established training manual
 - Intensive: 20-50 hour TOT with ongoing follow-up support
- Majority provide moderate support
- Less than optimal training can lead to high turn over rate and additional costs to the program



Key Finding – *M&E*

- Pre/post-tests to evaluate impact on beneficiaries (all countries)
- Focus groups capture qualitative outcomes from beneficiaries, parents (all countries)
- Labor market satisfaction surveys
- Quasi-experimental impact evaluations
- Completion rates range: 60%-92%



Key Finding – Value to Youth

- Most valued, impactful program elements:
 - Quality of teachers/trainers
 - Open, flexible, friendly, supportive
 - Instructional Methodologies
 - Blend of theoretical/practical instruction, diversity of activities
 - Instructional Content
 - Combination of technical, life skills
 - Socialization
 - Chance to meet, work together with new people



Initial Recommendations

- More intensive training for facilitators, mentorship component
- Build consensus on most effective program duration and dosage
- Conduct impact evaluations
- Revise and test curricula more frequently
- Increase opportunities for practical application of LS during training

