

Evidence to improve youth and women's rural employment in the Middle East and North Africa

تَقِيم
TAQEEM

Project results
2015-2018



Foreword

Youth unemployment rates in most North African and Arab State countries are a cause for deep concern. In 2017, 22.2 percent of young people (aged 15-24) in the Arab States were unemployed while in North Africa, the rate is 29.3 percent. Only 13.5 percent of female youth in Arab States even participate in the labour force, the lowest mark of any region globally. In rural areas, where low productivity and poor quality jobs are more common, women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce.

The partnership between ILO and IFAD in tackling unemployment among women and youth in rural areas has a long history. It started in 2008 under the project “Unleashing the Potential of Rural Youth through Decent and Productive Work” whose objective was to strengthen research, data and policy advice on the global unemployment challenge. This then gave rise to a unique partnership between IFAD’s Near East and North Africa Division and ILO’s Youth Employment Programme in 2015 called the “Taqeem Initiative”. The jointly financed three-year partnership was dedicated to strengthening gender monitoring and evaluation in rural employment in the Middle East and North Africa. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the Taqeem Initiative responds directly to the growing demand from governments looking to draw on United Nations experience and expertise, as they build and adapt their policy and institutional frameworks for achieving the SDGs. The project supported IFAD’s objectives for its grants, in particular its focus on innovation, awareness raising around gender, capacity development for programme management and learning. The project also supported IFAD’s major strategic cross cutting concern; that of gender mainstreaming, which is promoted through integration of gender aspects in M&E systems and evaluations.

The key outcomes of the project include the building of a multi-stakeholder “Taqeem Community of Practice”, made up of 17 organizations. Together, the CoP members reach over 40,000 women and youth across the region. The project was also instrumental in reducing evidence gaps in the region through the production of eleven impact studies that used rigorous research techniques to understand “what works” in rural employment interventions.

This brochure presents the main achievements of the “Taqeem Initiative” and serves as a reference for readers to access the tools, technical resources and evidence produced under the project. The project is a significant milestone at heart of a strategic partnership between the two organizations, and their partners, in promoting decent jobs for rural youth: an objective enshrined in the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, championed by the ILO, and IFAD’s Rural Youth Action Plan (RYAP), 2019-2021.



Sangheon Lee

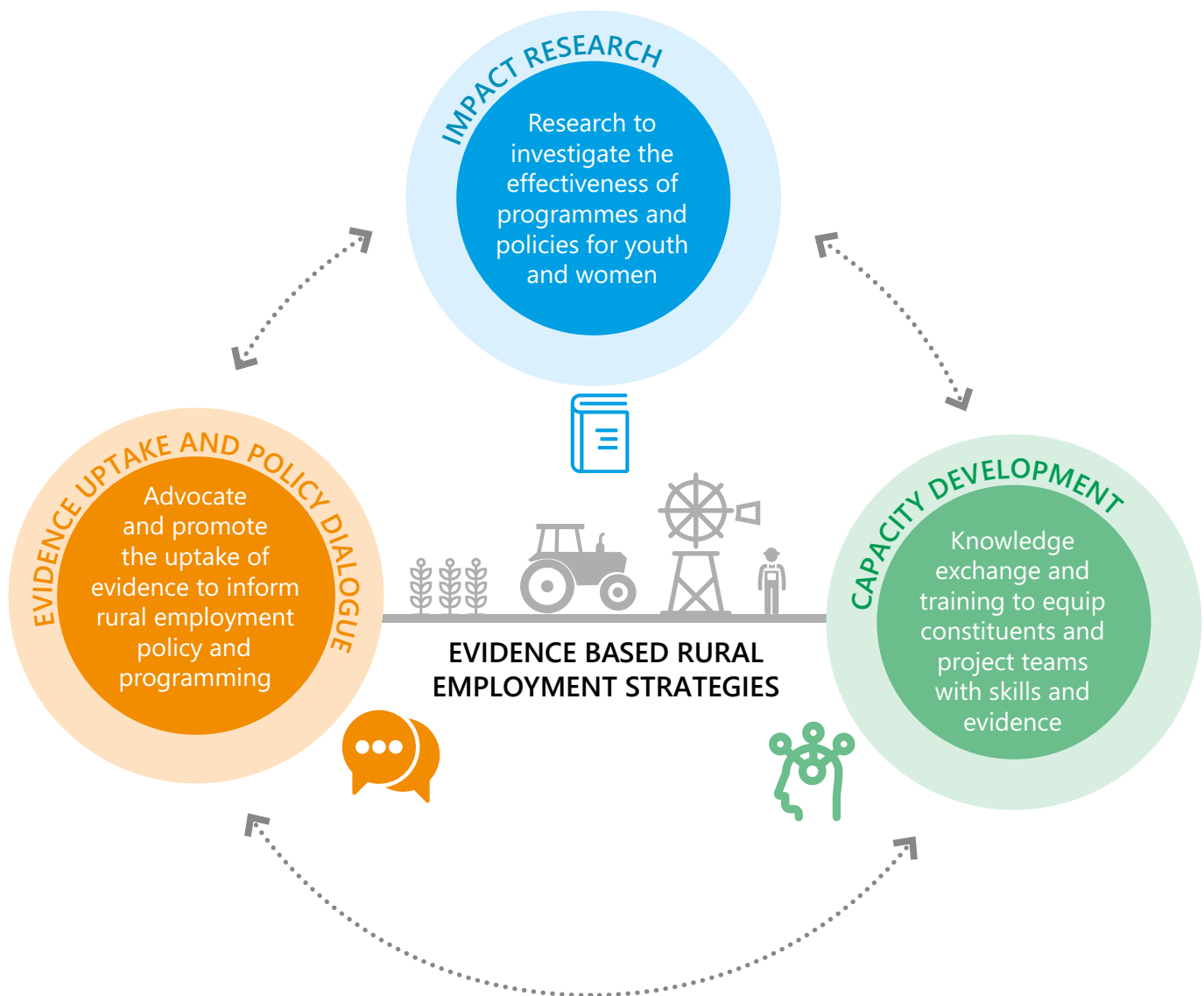
Director
Employment Policy Department
ILO



Khalida Bouzar

Director
Near East, North Africa, Europe
and Central Asia Division
IFAD

Taqeem Initiative strategy



The Taqeeem Initiative is a capacity development and learning project that aims to understand “what works” in the promotion of youth and gender mainstreaming, with the ultimate goal of reaching gender equality in rural employment outcomes across the MENA region. The strategy behind the project relies on 3 interlinked and iterative components: capacity development, impact research and evidence uptake and

policy dialogue. Special attention is paid to measuring women’s empowerment through the Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI).

Jordan, Egypt and Morocco were selected as pilot countries for the policy dialogue component of the project.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

Build a critical mass of results measurement and evaluation expertise



17 organizations

are members of the Tameem Community of Practice (CoP)



40,200 young women and men

served by CoP members



6 organizations

received Participatory Gender Audit facilitator certification



8 courses

on impact evaluation in youth and women's employment



269 certified

labour market practitioners and policy makers trained on impact evaluation



377 members

of the Tameem knowledge sharing portal

Guide on Measuring Decent Jobs for Youth: Monitoring, evaluation and learning in labour market programmes

The seven part volume is the first comprehensive manual to evaluating, monitoring and learning in labour market programmes targeting young people.

The Guide aims to equip practitioners and policymakers with a full set of concepts and tools needed to make informed decisions about how to best formulate, measure and evaluate youth employment programmes. It contributes to the evidence base for "what works" in youth employment and thereby advances the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The guide is designed to accompany Tameem's impact evaluation courses, which use an experiential approach to learning by integrating participant experience with expert mentoring. In-depth case studies are provided at the end of each chapter to ensure theory is applied to practice.

Access the Guide at www.ilo.org/youth



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MEMBERS



Cairo Demographic Center (Egypt)



Alexandria Business Association (Egypt)



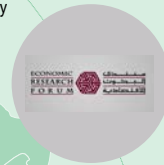
RISE (Egypt)



Queen Rania Foundation (Jordan)



Medium, Small And Micro Enterprise Development Agency (Egypt)



Economic Research Forum (Egypt)



Business Development Center (Jordan)



International Trade Centre (Morocco)



Education for Employment (Tunisia)



Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment (Tunisia)



Berytech (Lebanon)



United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Lebanon)



United Nations University (the Netherlands, intervention in Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia)



Ministry of Labour (Jordan)



Decent Jobs for Egypt's Young People (Egypt)



Better Work (Jordan)



Population Council & Institute of Labour Economics (Egypt)

"Taqeem works with organizations ... it builds on what exists, fine tunes it and ensures ownership. Taqeem acts as a focal point or referral entity for the members of the Community of Practice and is well aware of the youth programming trends in the MENA region, its successes and challenges. I honestly do not see another entity being able to replace it."

– Brookings Doha Centre, Qatar





IMPACT RESEARCH:

What works in the promotion of decent jobs for young people



70 proposals

received from 23 countries



\$1,264,000

in seed funding awarded under the Fund for Evaluation in Employment



11 impact research

studies conducted



77,643

women and men

including rural populations, participated in the studies



WEAI

The Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index piloted for the first time in the MENA region, in Tunisia



Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index in Tunisia

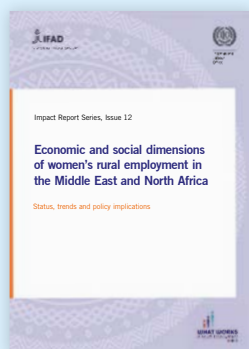
Tunisia is considered a pioneer in the field of women's economic rights in the MENA region. However a WEAI survey led by Taqueem has found that women's economic empowerment in Tunisia remains low, despite a nationwide strengthening of legal protections.

The survey was conducted on a nationally representative sample of 1,150 households, 65% of whom live in cities and 35% live in rural areas. According to the analysis, the result is due to low levels of economic empowerment. However women in agricultural households are more empowered than those in

non-agricultural households, due to more agricultural women maintaining their own sources of income through better access to credit, asset ownership, agricultural production and sale of own produce. A lack of quality employment opportunities and entrenched social norms increases disempowerment. Rural women especially are prevented from engaging in many activities in the labour market because of incompatible working conditions.

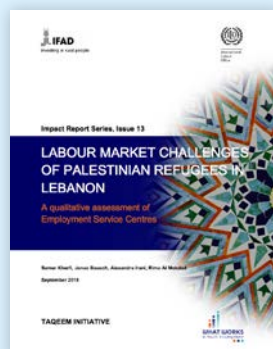
The results of the survey were presented on 11 May 2018 by the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR) and Tunisian Minister for Women, Family, Children and the Elderly, Néziha Laabidi (in photo).

IMPACT REPORT SERIES



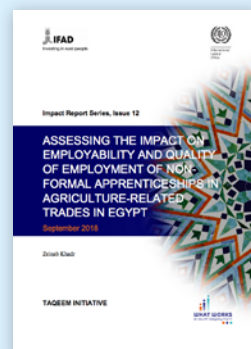
ISSUE 14

Economic and social dimensions of women's rural employment in MENA: Status, trends and policy implications (forthcoming)



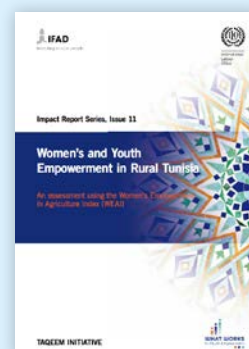
ISSUE 13

Labour market challenges of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: A qualitative assessment of Employment Service Centres in Lebanon



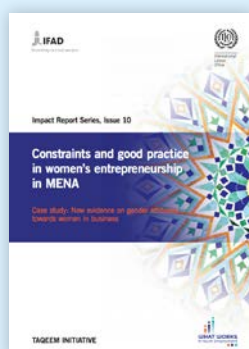
ISSUE 12

Assessing the impact on employability and quality of employment of non-formal apprenticeships in agricultural-related trades in Egypt



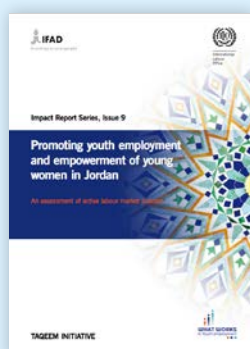
ISSUE 11

Women's and youth empowerment in rural Tunisia - An assessment using the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)



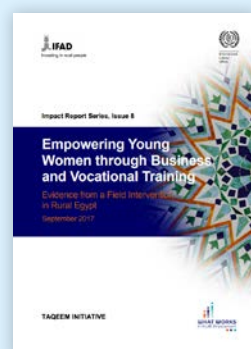
ISSUE 10

Constraints and good practice in women's entrepreneurship in MENA - New evidence on gender attitudes towards women in business



ISSUE 9

Promoting youth employment and empowerment of young women in Jordan: An assessment of active labour market policies



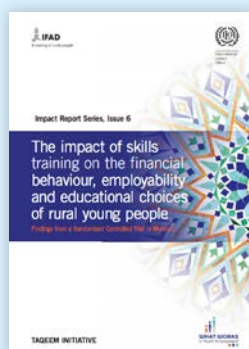
ISSUE 8

Empowering Young Women through Business and Vocational Training: Evidence from a Field Intervention in Rural Egypt



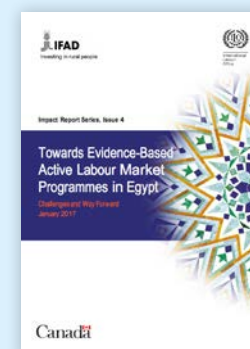
ISSUE 7

Co-working, innovation and employment



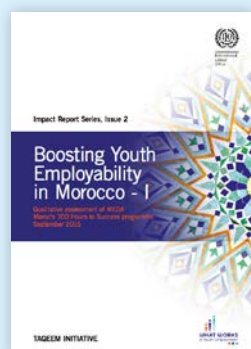
ISSUE 6

The impact of skills training on the financial behaviour, employability and educational choices of rural young people: Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Morocco



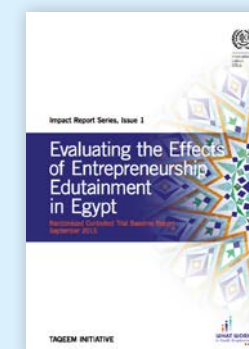
ISSUE 4

Towards Evidence-Based Active Labour Market Programmes in Egypt: Challenges and Way Forward



ISSUE 2

Boosting Youth Employability in Morocco - I Qualitative assessment of MEDA Maroc's 100 Hours to Success programme September 2015



ISSUE 1

Evaluating the Effects of Entrepreneurship Edutainment in Egypt Randomized Controlled Trial Baseline Report September 2015

EVIDENCE UPTAKE AND POLICY DIALOGUE:

Evidence for effective design and implementation of policies



11 policy briefs

and infographics
published



6 high level

national roundtables held,
with 213 participating
policy makers



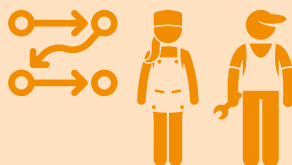
3 regional evidence
symposia

held in partnership with
Georgetown, INSEAD and
Foreign Affairs Canada



213 policy makers

participated in the national
roundtables



1 regional

5 year roadmap for youth
employment in North Africa
announced (Egypt, Tunisia,
Morocco, Sudan, Algeria)



“Research and evidence are the headlights for policy-makers. They tell them where to go, where to optimize and where to leverage knowledge to make their interventions and programmes more effective”.

– Human Resources Fund, Saudi Arabia

Policy influence in North Africa

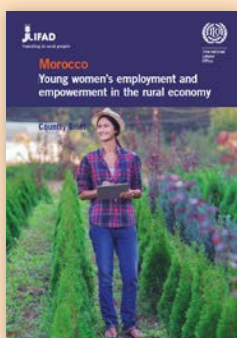
In September 2017, the ILO, in partnership with the Taqeem Initiative, gathered government, worker and employer authorities responsible for youth and women's employment to a high level policy forum at ILO headquarters in Geneva, the "Youth and Employment in North Africa" (YENA) conference. The conference was attended by 40 high level delegates from North Africa, including 5 Ministers and deputy-ministers from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia, and 10 heads of workers' and employers' organisations and 27 development partners. The conference approved a 'Roadmap for youth employment in North Africa' (2017-2022) and registered the commitments of the ILO's tripartite stakeholders and of key development partners to do more, and better on this central front for the development and stability of the region.



The conference drew broad and wide interest from the media, as well as on the social media. Daily Twitter feeds under the #YENA2017 hashtag were seen by over 2 million people.

Dr. Sahar Nasr (in photo), Minister of Investment and International Cooperation, Egypt, concluded the conference by announcing a Protocol for cooperation with ILO on a youth employment programme to secure decent employment for 1 million youth.

POLICY BRIEFS AND INFOGRAPHICS



Morocco:
Young Women's
Employment and
Empowerment in
the Rural Economy



Jordan: Young
Women's
Employment and
Empowerment
in the Rural
Economy



Jordan:
Establishing Day
Care Centres
in the Private
Sector



MENA region:
Promoting
women's
empowerment
in the Middle East
and North Africa



Egypt: Youth
Employment
Inventory (YEI)



Contact

Youth Employment Programme unit International Labour Organization

4 route des morillons
CH-1211 Geneve 22

Switzerland

Web: www.ilo.org/youth

Email: youth@ilo.org

IFAD

Near East, North Africa and Europe Division International Fund for Agricultural Development

Via Paolo di Dono, 44 - 00142 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 54591 - Fax: +39 06 5043463

E-mail: ifad@ifad.org

www.ifad.org

www.ruralpovertyportal.org

Resources

ILO Tqeeem : www.ilo.org/tqeeem

IFAD : <https://www.ifad.org/web/operations/regions/nen>

Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth:

<https://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/>