



Yemen: leaping into working life

Improving young people's employability skills and making the transition from school to work easier.

Special Initiative MENA Region
Employment promotion



The challenge

In 2011, Yemen was the scene of mass protests against the Government and violent clashes in the wake of the Arab Spring. Years of political instability erupted in civil war at the end of 2014, drastically worsening an already poor economic performance and high unemployment in the country.

Structural reform has made little, if any, progress over recent years. The population of Yemen is very young and increasing all the time, and young people and young adults lack economic prospects and opportunities for individual development. Students also often graduate from school without the skills and expertise they need to gain a foothold on the labour market.

Many of the 200,000 or so young people and young adults who pass secondary school leaving qualifications each year apply to go on to university. However, the subjects they study often fail to meet the needs of potential employers. Meanwhile, access to initial and continuing vocational training and to the labour market is very restricted, particularly for young women.

Our approach

The project takes a number of different approaches to improving young people's employability. Secondary school education will in future be geared to the needs of the labour and employment markets. Among other initiatives, social workers and teachers in selected schools are receiving initial and continuing training to equip them to provide young people with better advice on entering the world of work. In collaboration with a range of local businesses, the project is also organising voca-

tional training and practical placements. It is also supporting the Ministry of Education in developing careers education as a subject area to be offered on the curriculum for secondary level students in future. The aim is to define professional standards and develop skills to meet the current needs of the labour market, especially in the areas of computing, home economics, energy and electrical engineering, business studies, car mechanics, and employability skills and entrepreneurship. Teachers are receiving initial and continuing training to deliver this subject area, and GIZ is also cooperating with the appropriate department within the Ministry of Education, representatives of the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, and local private sector businesses.

Project title	Improving the employability of young people of secondary school age in Yemen
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project region	Three provinces: Aden, Sana'a and Taiz/Ibb
National partners	School administrations in Aden, Ibb and Sana'a
Overall term	January 2015 to September 2020
Volume	EUR 6.0 million

Special courses – for example, on e-marketing and human resources management – are available to companies that support the initiative by offering placements or guaranteeing employment. In future, secondary schools will also offer courses geared to developing basic skills for daily life and employment, including communication and leadership skills and CV writing.



(L): Secondary-level students at the Al-Kuwait School receive careers education teaching. © GIZ/Ismael Sawlan

(R): A careers guidance event at the Om Salma Secondary School in Sana'a. © GIZ/Ismael Sawlan

CONTACT

Volker Hamann
volker.hamann@giz.de

Meanwhile training courses will also help those who have dropped out of school and are unemployed to gain entry into the world of work.

The project is part of a special initiative designed to stabilise and promote development in North Africa and the Middle East run by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Through the projects that make up this special initiative, BMZ is helping to open up economic and social prospects for people in the region. Within this context, an additional sum of more than EUR 300 million has been earmarked for development cooperation projects in the period from 2014 to 2021. The thematic focus is on youth and employment promotion, economic stabilisation, democracy and stabilising neighbouring countries in crisis situations.

Results in figures...

Among other things, the project aims to offer skills development outside the formal education system: around 3,000 school-leavers and unemployed young people will have taken part in training measures by the time the project comes to an end. So far, 300 students from the province of Aden have taken part in courses imparting basic life and work skills. Over 200 young job-seekers, including 52 girls, have completed continuing training courses in areas including hotels and catering, mobile phone repair, sewing and tailoring, and maintenance of solar power plants. 121 have gone on to find employment or started their own business.

Some 250 teachers are receiving initial and continuing training so that they can teach careers education, and careers guidance events have already been held at six schools in Sana'a, attracting 420 students, of whom half were girls. In cooperation with the

Yemeni Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, special guidance for girls in agricultural areas has also been developed. It aims to help them find a source of income for themselves and their families, for example, by producing food-stuffs, sweets and incense.

...and faces

Many people in Yemen use motorcycles to earn their living and support their family. The project provides support for training for 25 young people in motorcycle maintenance. The target group was orphans and individuals with special needs. They included 18-year-old Salim Al-Dubaibi. He had to drop out of school because he had no income. Now he is back in school every morning and is employed in a motorcycle repair shop in the evenings. Omar, the engineer who owns the shop, says of his apprentice, 'I'm very proud of Salim. He gets on really well with the customers and never stops trying to develop. He can now even help me repair agricultural machinery.'



Repair shop owner Omar (left) is proud of his apprentice Salim Al-Dubaibi. Photo: GIZ/Osamah Al-Sabahi

Published by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division 210 – Policy issues of development cooperation with MENA; North Africa; Mediterranean policy 210

Addresses of the BMZ offices
BMZ Berlin | Im Europahaus
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0
F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501

BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de

In Kooperation mit



Ministry of Education

Edited by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Northern Africa Division

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
T +49 61 96 79-11 75
F +49 61 96 79-11 15

www.giz.de

Authors Abdulrahman Yahya Al-Muaalemi/Maximilian Kurz

Design GIZ

As at 11/2017