

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



A GUIDE FOSTERING YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN JOUN AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE CHOUF REGION

DR ANTOINE J. BURKUSH, PHD

Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf

Contents

Fostering Youth Entrepreneurship in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf	2
Acknowledgments	6
الشكر والتقدير	7
Preface	9
Fostering youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf	11
Entrepreneurship Strategies	12
1. Entrepreneurship Curriculum	12
2. Youth Business Incubator.....	12
3. Mentorship Programs.....	12
4. Startup Competitions.....	12
5. Workshops and Training.....	12
6. Networking Events	12
7. Access to Technology.....	13
8. Internship and Apprenticeship Programs	13
9. Community Projects	13
10. Funding and Grants	13
11. Success Stories and Role Models.....	13
12. Sustainable Business Practices	13
13. Collaborations with Educational Institutions	13
14. Digital Literacy Programs	14
15. Community Engagement.....	14
Proposal for A Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf	14
1. Introduction	14
2. Objectives	14
3. Program Components	15
4. Implementation Plan	16
5. Expected Outcomes.....	16
6. Conclusion	17

Adapting the Youth Entrepreneurship Program to Joun and other towns in the Chouf's unique context	17
1. Leverage Local Resources	17
2. Cultural Relevance	18
3. Community Involvement.....	18
4. Tailored Training and Support	18
5. Funding and Resources	18
6. Community Events and Showcases	19
7. Sustainable Practices.....	19
8. Monitoring and Feedback.....	19
A Proposal for Supporting Young Entrepreneurs	19
A Proposal for Start-up Incubators and Mentorship Programs.....	22
Youth Entrepreneurship in the Arab States	25
The State of the Situation.....	25
Factors that influence youth entrepreneurship in the Arab World	27
Individual level.....	27
Immediate context.....	27
Wider context	28
More Barriers	28
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON	29
Integrated Strategy.....	29
Guiding Principles.....	31
Delivering The Action Plan.....	32
The Development of an Entrepreneurship Culture	32
Investment in Entrepreneurship Education	32
Fostering an Entrepreneurship Mindset	33
Four Areas of Focus.....	33
Educating: Provide young people with entrepreneurial learning opportunities	34
Venture Capital: Provide access to venture capital	35
Mentoring: Draw on the experience and expertise of the business community to support young entrepreneurs	36

Providing access to Incubators: Provide access to business support resources and services	37
Measuring Success	38
Entrepreneurial Training: Useful Material.....	39
ERASMUS+.....	39
About the project: Young Entrepreneurs Guild.....	39
Objectives	39
Digital Upskilling	40
Bader Young Entrepreneurs Program: Useful Material	41
BIBLIOGRAPHY	43
Proposal for A Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf	43
Youth Entrepreneurship in the Arab States	43
More Barriers	43
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON	43
Fostering youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf	44
More Barriers	45
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON	45
Entrepreneurial Training	45
ERASMUS+	45
Digital Upskilling	45
Bader Young Entrepreneurs Program.....	45
END OF THE DOCUMENT	46

Acknowledgments

This collection of proposals is the result of a shared vision and a collaborative journey, guided by the input, dedication, and insights of countless individuals who hold Joun close to their hearts. It would not have been possible without the unwavering support and contributions of community members, experts, stakeholders, and local leaders, each of whom brought their unique perspectives to the table.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the residents of Joun, whose voices, ideas, and aspirations have been the foundation of this work. Your willingness to share your thoughts and dreams for our town has been invaluable in shaping proposals that truly reflect our community's spirit and goals. Your participation in discussions, surveys, and community gatherings has been a testament to your commitment to Joun's future.

Special thanks to all whose contributions were instrumental in refining our vision.

To the local leaders and stakeholders who championed this project, your support has been a vital source of encouragement. Your leadership and understanding of Joun's unique challenges and opportunities have given depth to these proposals, grounding them in both our town's history and its potential for growth.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who worked behind the scenes—whether gathering data, conducting research, or organizing meetings—your efforts have been crucial in bringing this work to life.

Together, we have created a roadmap for Joun's future that honors our heritage and inspires a brighter tomorrow. I am truly grateful to each of you for your contributions, enthusiasm, and dedication to this endeavor.

With sincere appreciation,

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

الشكر والتقدير

هذه المجموعة من المقترحات هي نتيجة رؤية مشتركة ورحلة تعاونية ، تسترشد بمدخلات وتفاني ورؤى عدد لا يحصى من الأفراد الذين يحملون جون قريبا من قلوبهم. لم يكن ذلك ممكنا بدون الدعم والمساهمات الثابتة من أعضاء المجتمع والخبراء وأصحاب المصلحة والقادة المحليين ، الذين قدم كل منهم وجهات نظره الفريدة إلى الطاولة.

أولا وقبل كل شيء، أعرب عن خالص امتناني لسكان جون، الذين كانت أصواتهم وأفكارهم وتطلعاتهم أساس هذا العمل. لقد كان استعدادك لمشاركة أفكارك وأحلامك لمدينتنا لا يقدر بثمن في تشكيل المقترحات التي تعكس حقا روح مجتمعنا وأهدافه. كانت مشاركتك في المناقشات والاستطلاعات والتجمعات المجتمعية شهادة على التزامك بمستقبل جون.

شكر خاص للذين كانت مساهماتهم مفيدة في صقل رؤيتنا.

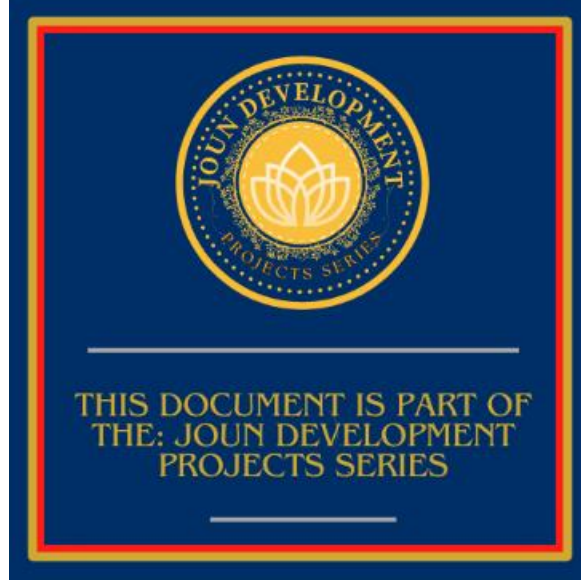
إلى القادة المحليين وأصحاب المصلحة الذين دافعوا عن هذا المشروع ، كان دعمكم مصدرا حيويا للتشجيع. لقد أعطت قيادتكم وفهمكم لتحديات وفرص جون الفريدة عمقا لهذه المقترحات ، مما جعلها راسخة في كل من تاريخ مدينتنا وإمكاناتها للنمو.

أخيرا ، أود أن أشكر كل من عمل وراء الكواليس - سواء في جمع البيانات أو إجراء البحوث أو تنظيم الاجتماعات - كانت جهودك حاسمة في إحياء هذا العمل.

معا ، أنشأنا خارطة طريق لمستقبل جون تكرم تراثنا وتلهم غدا أكثر إشراقا. أنا ممتن حقا لكل واحد منكم على مساهماتكم وحماسكم وتفانيكم في هذا المسعى.

مع خالص التقدير،

د. انطوان جان البرخش



مشاريع
مبادرات شخصية
"من أجل الصالح العام"

Joun Development Projects

"Pro Bono Publico"

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

رؤية واحدة، هوية واحدة، مجتمع واحد

Preface

In a world where rapid change is the new normal, the importance of strategic, sustainable, and community-centered development is paramount. Joun, with its rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and resilient community, stands at a crossroads—one that presents both challenges and extraordinary opportunities. As we look toward Joun's future, it is essential that our plans honor the town's heritage, respond to today's needs, and set a course for future generations to thrive.

This series of proposals is the result of a deeply collaborative effort to envision Joun's path forward. Each plan reflects input from residents, local stakeholders, and community leaders, resulting in a shared vision that is both ambitious and respectful of our town's unique identity. These proposals encompass a comprehensive range of initiatives, from infrastructure and economic development to cultural preservation and environmental stewardship, with each component tailored to address Joun's specific strengths, challenges, and aspirations.

Our proposals emphasize a commitment to public infrastructure improvements, economic empowerment, environmental sustainability, and cultural continuity. From plans to enhance recreational facilities and community services to initiatives for sustainable tourism and green energy, each proposal aims to make Joun a model of progressive yet grounded development. The ultimate goal is to create a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community—one that embodies the values, dreams, and talents of its people.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this vision. Your dedication, ideas, and insight have been invaluable, illuminating the pathway to a future that aligns with Joun's core values while embracing growth and innovation. These proposals are an invitation to all residents of Joun to imagine, participate, and help build a community that harmonizes tradition with the possibilities of tomorrow.

As you review this collection, I encourage you to see not just plans, but a vision for what Joun can become. Let us move forward together, translating these ideas into action, and creating a brighter, thriving, and unified future for Joun.

With deep respect and optimism,

Dr Antoine J. Burkush, PhD

مقدمة

في عالم حيث التغيير السريع هو الوضع الطبيعي الجديد ، فإن أهمية التنمية الاستراتيجية والمستدامة التي تركز على المجتمع أمر بالغ الأهمية. تقف جون ، بتراتها الثقافي الغني وجمالها الطبيعي ومجتمعها المرن ، على مفترق طرق - مفترق طرق يمثل تحديات وفرصا غير عادية. بينما نتطلع إلى مستقبل جون ، من الضروري أن تكرم خططنا تراث المدينة ، وتستجيب لاحتياجات اليوم ، وتضع مسارا للأجيال القادمة لتزدهر.

هذه السلسلة من المقترحات هي نتيجة جهد تعاوني عميق لتصور مسار جون إلى الأمام. تعكس كل خطة مدخلات من السكان وأصحاب المصلحة المحليين وقادة المجتمع ، مما يؤدي إلى رؤية مشتركة طموحة وتحترم الهوية الفريدة لمدينتنا. تشمل هذه المقترحات مجموعة شاملة من المبادرات ، من البنية التحتية والتنمية الاقتصادية إلى الحفاظ على الثقافة والإشراف البيئي ، مع تصميم كل مكون لمعالجة نقاط القوة والتحديات والتطلعات المحددة لجون.

تؤكد مقترحاتنا على الالتزام بتحسين البنية التحتية العامة ، والتمكين الاقتصادي ، والاستدامة البيئية ، والاستمرارية الثقافية. من خطط تعزيز المرافق الترفيهية والخدمات المجتمعية إلى مبادرات السياحة المستدامة والطاقة الخضراء ، يهدف كل اقتراح إلى جعل جون نموذجا للتنمية التقدمية والمرتكزة. الهدف النهائي هو إنشاء مجتمع نابض بالحياة وشامل ومرن - مجتمع يجسد قيم وأحلام ومواهب شعبه.

وأعرب عن خالص امتناني لكل من ساهم في هذه الرؤية. لقد كان تفانيك وأفكارك ورؤيتك لا تقدر بثمن ، مما يضيء الطريق إلى مستقبل يتماشى مع القيم الأساسية لجون مع احتضان النمو والابتكار. هذه المقترحات هي دعوة لجميع سكان جون للتخيل والمشاركة والمساعدة في بناء مجتمع ينسق التقاليد مع إمكانيات الغد.

أثناء مراجعتك لهذه المجموعة ، أشجعك على رؤية ليس فقط الخطط ، ولكن رؤية لما يمكن أن يصبح عليه جون. دعونا نمضي قدما معا، ونترجم هذه الأفكار إلى أفعال، ونخلق مستقبلا أكثر إشراقا وازدهارا وموحدا لجون.

مع الاحترام العميق والتفاؤل،

د. انطوان جان البرخش

Fostering youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf

Entrepreneurship Strategies

Fostering youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf can have a transformative impact on the community. Here are some tailored strategies to help achieve this goal:

1. Entrepreneurship Curriculum

Work with local schools and universities to integrate entrepreneurship courses into their curricula. This can include subjects like business planning, marketing, financial literacy, and innovation.

2. Youth Business Incubator

Establish a business incubator specifically for young entrepreneurs. This space can provide resources such as office space, mentorship, and access to funding.

3. Mentorship Programs

Create a network of experienced entrepreneurs and business professionals who can mentor young people. This can provide guidance, support, and valuable industry insights.

4. Startup Competitions

Organize competitions where young entrepreneurs can pitch their business ideas. Winners can receive seed funding, mentorship, and other resources to help launch their ventures.

5. Workshops and Training

Conduct regular workshops and training sessions on various aspects of entrepreneurship. Topics can include digital marketing, financial management, product development, and more.

6. Networking Events

Host events that bring together young entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders. These events can facilitate networking, partnerships, and collaboration.

7. Access to Technology

Ensure that young entrepreneurs have access to the latest technology and tools. This can include providing access to co-working spaces, makerspaces, and tech hubs.

8. Internship and Apprenticeship Programs

Partner with local businesses to create internship and apprenticeship opportunities for young people. This can provide hands-on experience and help them build valuable skills.

9. Community Projects

Encourage young entrepreneurs to work on community-based projects that address local needs. This can help them gain practical experience while making a positive impact.

10. Funding and Grants

Seek funding and grants from government agencies, private sector partners, and non-profit organizations to support youth entrepreneurship initiatives.

11. Success Stories and Role Models

Highlight success stories of young entrepreneurs from the community. This can inspire others and show them that it is possible to succeed.

12. Sustainable Business Practices

Encourage young entrepreneurs to adopt sustainable business practices. This can include using eco-friendly materials, reducing waste, and promoting social responsibility.

13. Collaborations with Educational Institutions

Work closely with schools and universities to create programs that encourage entrepreneurship. This can include joint projects, research initiatives, and innovation labs.

14. Digital Literacy Programs

Offer digital literacy programs to ensure that all young people have the skills needed to succeed in the modern business world.

15. Community Engagement

Involve the local community in supporting youth entrepreneurship. This can include organizing events, providing mentorship, and offering resources.

Implementing these strategies can create a vibrant ecosystem for youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf, fostering innovation and economic growth.

Proposal for A Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf

Here's a proposal for a Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and other towns in the Chouf, designed to empower young people, foster innovation, and contribute to the local economy:

1. Introduction

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program aims to empower young people in Joun and other towns in the Chouf by providing them with the skills, resources, and support needed to start and grow their own businesses. This initiative will foster innovation, create job opportunities, and contribute to the sustainable development of the community.

2. Objectives

- Empower Youth: Equip young people with entrepreneurial skills and knowledge.
- Foster Innovation: Encourage creative thinking and problem-solving.
- Create Jobs: Generate employment opportunities through new startups.
- Promote Economic Growth: Contribute to the local economy by supporting small businesses.
- Enhance Social Inclusion: Ensure equal access and opportunities for all youth.

3. Program Components

A. Entrepreneurship Training

- Workshops and Seminars: Conduct regular workshops on business planning, marketing, financial management, and digital literacy.
- Online Courses: Provide access to online courses and resources on entrepreneurship.

B. Mentorship and Networking

- Mentorship Program: Pair young entrepreneurs with experienced mentors from relevant industries.
- Networking Events: Organize events to connect young entrepreneurs with potential investors, partners, and peers.

C. Business Incubation

- Incubator Space: Provide dedicated workspaces equipped with essential amenities.
- Business Support: Offer expert advice on business planning, strategy, market research, and legal requirements.
- Access to Technology: Ensure access to state-of-the-art technologies, software, and hardware.

D. Funding and Grants

- Seed Funding: Establish a fund to provide seed money or grants to promising young entrepreneurs.
- Funding Assistance: Assist startups in accessing funding sources, grants, and venture capital.

E. Community Engagement

- Community Projects: Encourage youth to work on community-based projects that address local needs.

- Public Events: Host events to showcase the achievements of young entrepreneurs and engage the community.

4. Implementation Plan

Phase 1: Planning and Setup

- Stakeholder Engagement: Engage local schools, universities, businesses, and government agencies.
- Program Design: Develop detailed program curriculum and structure.
- Resource Allocation: Secure funding, facilities, and resources.

Phase 2: Launch and Promotion

- Program Launch: Officially launch the program with a community event.
- Marketing and Outreach: Promote the program through social media, local media, and community networks.

Phase 3: Program Delivery

- Training Sessions: Begin regular workshops and online courses.
- Mentorship Matching: Pair mentors with young entrepreneurs.
- Incubator Operations: Open the incubator space and start providing business support.

Phase 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Progress Tracking: Monitor the progress of participants and startups.
- Feedback Collection: Gather feedback from participants, mentors, and stakeholders.
- Program Evaluation: Assess the program's impact and make necessary adjustments.

5. Expected Outcomes

- Increased Entrepreneurial Skills: Participants will gain valuable skills and knowledge.
- New Startups: The program will lead to the creation of new businesses.
- Job Creation: New startups will generate employment opportunities.

- Economic Growth: The local economy will benefit from increased business activity.
- Enhanced Community Engagement: The program will foster a sense of community and collaboration.

6. Conclusion

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and other towns in the Chouf has the potential to transform the community by empowering young people, fostering innovation, and promoting economic growth.

By providing the necessary resources, support, and opportunities, we can unlock the potential of Joun and other towns in the Chouf's youth and create a brighter future for the entire community.

This proposal outlines a comprehensive framework for empowering youth through entrepreneurship.

Adapting the Youth Entrepreneurship Program to Joun and other towns in the Chouf's unique context

Adapting the Youth Entrepreneurship Program to Joun and other towns in the Chouf's unique context involves considering the local culture, resources, and specific needs of the community. Here are some tailored strategies:

1. Leverage Local Resources

- Local Expertise: Engage local business leaders, successful entrepreneurs, and professionals as mentors and trainers. Their insights and experiences will be highly relevant and inspiring for young entrepreneurs.
- Natural Resources: Utilize local resources like olive oil and carob production in entrepreneurial projects. This can include developing value-added products or innovative marketing strategies.

2. Cultural Relevance

- Cultural Heritage: Incorporate elements of Joun and other towns in the Chouf's cultural heritage into the program. For example, projects can focus on preserving traditional crafts or promoting local tourism.
- Language and Communication: Ensure that all materials and sessions are available in Arabic and any other languages spoken locally to ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

3. Community Involvement

- Local Schools and Universities: Partner with local educational institutions to integrate entrepreneurship education into their curricula. This can include joint projects, guest lectures, and research initiatives.
- Community Projects: Encourage youth to work on projects that address specific local needs, such as improving public spaces, promoting environmental sustainability, or supporting local artisans.

4. Tailored Training and Support

- Customized Workshops: Design workshops that address the specific challenges and opportunities in Joun and other towns in the Chouf. This can include sessions on agricultural entrepreneurship, digital marketing for local products, and sustainable business practices.
- Flexible Support: Offer flexible support options, such as online resources and part-time incubator spaces, to accommodate the diverse schedules and commitments of young people.

5. Funding and Resources

- Local Funding Sources: Seek funding from local businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations. Highlight the benefits of supporting youth entrepreneurship for the local economy and community development.
- Resource Sharing: Encourage resource sharing among participants, such as co-working spaces, equipment, and tools. This can foster collaboration and reduce costs.

6. Community Events and Showcases

- Local Events: Host events that showcase the achievements of young entrepreneurs, such as fairs, exhibitions, and pitch competitions. These events can engage the community and attract potential investors and partners.
- Public Engagement: Involve the community in supporting youth entrepreneurship through volunteer opportunities, sponsorships, and mentorship programs.

7. Sustainable Practices

- Eco-Friendly Initiatives: Promote sustainable business practices, such as using eco-friendly materials, reducing waste, and supporting local suppliers. This aligns with global sustainability goals and can attract environmentally conscious consumers.
- Renewable Energy Projects: Encourage projects that focus on renewable energy solutions, such as solar power installations or energy-efficient technologies.

8. Monitoring and Feedback

- Regular Feedback: Gather regular feedback from participants, mentors, and community members to continuously improve the program. This can help ensure that the program remains relevant and effective.
- Impact Assessment: Conduct impact assessments to measure the program's success and identify areas for improvement. This can include tracking the number of new businesses created, jobs generated, and community projects completed.

By tailoring the Youth Entrepreneurship Program to Joun and other towns in the Chouf's unique context, you can create a supportive and empowering environment for young entrepreneurs.

A Proposal for Supporting Young Entrepreneurs

Youth Empowerment through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Supporting Young Entrepreneurs” – An Example Sample Project Proposal

This project proposal aims to address the critical need for youth empowerment through entrepreneurship. By supporting young entrepreneurs, we can foster economic growth,

create employment opportunities, and empower individuals to become self-reliant. The proposed project will provide comprehensive support to aspiring young entrepreneurs, including mentorship, training, access to capital, and networking opportunities. Through this holistic approach, we aim to build a vibrant ecosystem that nurtures and sustains the entrepreneurial spirit among the youth.

Unemployment and limited economic opportunities pose significant challenges for young people worldwide. Entrepreneurship offers a viable solution by encouraging innovation, job creation, and economic development. This proposal seeks to establish a platform to support young entrepreneurs, enabling them to turn their ideas into successful businesses and contribute to their communities.

Objectives:

The project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- **Foster Entrepreneurial Mindset:** Encourage young people to develop an entrepreneurial mindset, empowering them to identify opportunities, take risks, and create their ventures.
- **Skills Development:** Provide comprehensive training and capacity-building programs to enhance entrepreneurial skills, including business planning, financial management, marketing, and leadership.
- **Access to Capital:** Facilitate access to capital through grants, loans, and investment opportunities, enabling young entrepreneurs to fund their business ideas and initiatives.
- **Mentorship and Guidance:** Establish a mentorship program connecting young entrepreneurs with experienced industry professionals who can provide guidance, advice, and support throughout their entrepreneurial journey.
- **Networking and Collaboration:** Facilitate networking events, workshops, and conferences to encourage collaboration among young entrepreneurs, fostering the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and potential partnerships.

Implementation Plan:

The project will be executed through the following stages:

- **Needs Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the challenges faced by young entrepreneurs, their skill gaps, and the specific support required.
- **Curriculum Development:** Develop a tailored curriculum covering various aspects of entrepreneurship, including business development, financial management, marketing strategies, and leadership skills.
- **Training and Capacity Building:** Organize training workshops, seminars, and boot camps to equip young entrepreneurs with the necessary skills and knowledge. These sessions will be facilitated by experts and industry professionals.
- **Mentorship Program:** Establish a mentorship program that pairs young entrepreneurs with experienced mentors who can provide guidance, advice, and industry-specific knowledge.
- **Access to Capital:** Collaborate with financial institutions, angel investors, and venture capitalists to provide financial support, including grants, loans, and investment opportunities for promising business ideas.
- **Networking Events:** Organize regular networking events, pitch competitions, and industry-specific conferences to facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, and potential partnerships.

Project Evaluation:

To ensure the effectiveness and impact of the project, we will implement an evaluation framework that includes both qualitative and quantitative measures. Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be established to monitor the progress of participants, including the number of businesses launched, employment generated, revenue growth, and success stories. Regular feedback from participants, mentors, and other stakeholders will be collected to continuously improve the program.

Budget:

The project budget will include expenses related to curriculum development, training workshops, mentorship program management, networking events, and operational

costs. Funding will be sought from government grants, corporate sponsorships, philanthropic organizations, and public-private partnerships.

Conclusion:

Youth Empowerment through Entrepreneurship is a transformative project that aims to empower young people by equipping them with the skills, resources, and support necessary to thrive as entrepreneurs. By fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, we can create sustainable economic growth, address youth unemployment, and build a prosperous future. With your support, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of young entrepreneurs and the communities they serve.

A Proposal for Start-up Incubators and Mentorship Programs

Empowering Youth through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Start-up Incubators and Mentorship Programs” – An Example Sample Project Proposal

The aim of this project proposal is to create a comprehensive framework for empowering youth through entrepreneurship by establishing start-up incubators and mentorship programs. By nurturing and supporting young entrepreneurs, we can unlock their potential, foster innovation, and contribute to economic growth. This proposal outlines the key components and benefits of such initiatives and presents a roadmap for their implementation.

Objectives:

The project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate the growth of youth-led start-ups by providing them with a supportive ecosystem.
- Foster innovation and creativity among young entrepreneurs through mentorship and networking opportunities.
- Enhance the entrepreneurial skills and knowledge of the youth through capacity-building programs.
- Encourage job creation and economic development by nurturing successful start-ups.

- Promote social inclusion and diversity by ensuring equal access and opportunities for all youth, irrespective of their background.

Start-up Incubators:

Start-up incubators are crucial in providing young entrepreneurs with the necessary resources, guidance, and infrastructure to develop and scale their businesses. The proposed incubators will offer the following services:

- **Physical Space:** Providing dedicated workspaces equipped with essential amenities to foster collaboration and innovation.
- **Business Support:** Offering expert advice on business planning, strategy, market research, and legal requirements.
- **Funding Assistance:** Assisting start-ups in accessing funding sources, grants, and venture capital.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Organizing events, workshops, and industry connects to facilitate networking with potential investors, mentors, and peers.
- **Access to Technology:** Ensuring access to state-of-the-art technologies, software, and hardware required for product development.

Mentorship Programs:

Mentorship plays a pivotal role in the personal and professional growth of aspiring entrepreneurs. The proposed mentorship programs will involve:

- **Mentor-Mentee Pairing:** Matching young entrepreneurs with experienced mentors from relevant industries based on their business interests and goals.
- **Guidance and Support:** Providing ongoing guidance, feedback, and support to mentees through regular meetings, workshops, and virtual interactions.
- **Skill Development:** Conducting specialized training sessions on various aspects of entrepreneurship, such as leadership, marketing, finance, and communication.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Facilitating connections between mentees and industry experts, potential investors, and successful entrepreneurs to expand their professional network.

- **Inspiration and Motivation:** Sharing success stories, experiences, and lessons learned from seasoned entrepreneurs to inspire and motivate mentees.

Implementation Plan:

The implementation of this project will involve the following steps:

- **Needs Assessment:** Conducting a comprehensive survey and analysis to identify the specific needs and challenges faced by youth entrepreneurs in the target region.
- **Establishing Partnerships:** Collaborating with local government bodies, educational institutions, industry associations, and corporate entities to secure funding, resources, and expertise.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Setting up start-up incubators with the necessary facilities and technology infrastructure.
- **Mentor Recruitment:** Engaging experienced entrepreneurs and professionals as mentors through an application and screening process.
- **Program Promotion:** Launching awareness campaigns through social media, community events, and educational institutions to encourage youth participation.
- **Program Evaluation:** Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the impact and effectiveness of the incubators and mentorship programs.

Budget and Resources:

The project's budget will depend on the scale and duration of the initiative. Funding can be secured through public-private partnerships, grants, corporate sponsorships, and government support. The required resources include physical space, technology infrastructure, operational costs, mentor stipends, program materials, marketing expenses, and evaluation mechanisms.

Expected Outcomes:

The successful implementation of this project is anticipated to yield the following outcomes:

- Increased number of successful youth-led start-ups, contributing to job creation and economic growth.
- Enhanced entrepreneurial skills, knowledge, and confidence among participating youth.
- Strengthened professional networks and mentorship relationships.
- Promotion of diversity and social inclusion in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Long-term sustainability of the incubators and mentorship programs through stakeholder engagement and support.

Conclusion:

Empowering youth through entrepreneurship is crucial for fostering innovation, economic growth, and societal development. By establishing start-up incubators and mentorship programs, we can provide young entrepreneurs with the necessary resources, guidance, and support to succeed. This project proposal outlines a comprehensive framework for implementation and emphasizes the importance of collaboration, mentorship, and sustainable partnerships. Together, we can create a thriving ecosystem that empowers youth and unlocks their entrepreneurial potential.

Youth Entrepreneurship in the Arab States

The State of the Situation

Young men and women in the Arab States¹ face significant barriers to employment. The unemployment rate among youth aged 15-24 currently stands at an estimated 23%, compared with a global average of 13.7%.² Although the rate has undoubtedly been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,³ unemployment is not a new issue for the region. The Arab States have seen one of the highest rates of unemployment across the world for at least the past three decades - and it has increased over the past 10 years, especially for women.⁴ Indeed, the unemployment rate among young women is more than double that of young men, sitting at an estimated 42% compared with 20%.⁵ The COVID-19 crisis could widen this gap; UN Women estimates that 700,000 women in the Arab region will lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic.⁶ As was the case globally,

employment loss in 2020 disproportionately affected women and youth in the Arab States.⁷

The pandemic has also dramatically shifted the way that people work. Unfortunately, the gendered nature of access to technology in the Arab region means that women are disproportionately impacted by the shift to remote working. For example, only 51% of women in Iraq have access to the internet, compared with 98% of men.⁸ Across the Arab States, nearly half of women do not have access to the internet or a mobile phone.⁹ Young men and women do have greater access to digital technologies than their older counterparts though. In Tunisia, while only 21% of those aged 37 or older report using the Internet at least occasionally and/or owning a smartphone, this jumps to 72% among those aged 18-36.¹⁰ Access to technology can be an opportunity, especially in a COVID-19 world where face-to-face exchanges are less frequent or safe.

Promoting entrepreneurship can help to address the unemployment challenge.^{11,12} One study of 23 OECD countries from 1974-2002 found that every 1 percentage point increase in self-employment (a common measure of entrepreneurship) predicts a 1.12 percentage point reduction in unemployment eight years later.¹³ More youth in the Arab region are interested in working for themselves or their families than they were in 2019, suggesting that there may be an increased interest in entrepreneurship, probably due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁴ Despite these aspirations, younger people are less likely to be engaged in entrepreneurship than those in older cohorts.¹⁵ Why is this the case? What prevents young people from entering into and succeeding in entrepreneurship?

This evidence review aims to highlight the key behavioral barriers to youth entrepreneurship as identified in the literature and what works to promote entrepreneurship. We also identify barriers that are unique to, or exacerbated among, young women. We have examined academic studies (including systematic reviews and meta-analyses which aim to aggregate findings from many studies) as well as grey literature (e.g. institutional research reports, working papers, etc.). Where available we focus on findings from the Arab States but also draw on insights from elsewhere when local studies are limited.

Factors that influence youth entrepreneurship in the Arab World

Individual level

- Lack of business experience and skills is a barrier to success: Without experience and competencies in business, entrepreneurship is more challenging. Youth and women are less likely to have been afforded the opportunities to gain business experience.
- Intention-action gap is a barrier: Not all who intend to start their own business act on this intention, in part because of the planning fallacy - the tendency to underestimate the time, effort, or risk involved in an action.
- Entrepreneurial self-efficacy - an individual's belief in his/her capability to perform entrepreneurial tasks and roles - is a driver of entrepreneurial behavior. Youth tend to report lower entrepreneurial self-efficacy, however the evidence for a gender difference is mixed.
- Personal initiative is a key component of an entrepreneurial mindset. It includes taking ownership and initiative, and being proactive,
- future-thinking, and persistent in the face of barriers.
- Scarcity mindsets and cognitive overload may hurt decision-making: Mental stress (e.g. when under financial strain or time pressure) can impede one's ability to plan ahead and problem solve. This likely disproportionately affects youth and women because of limited personal resources and greater pressure to take on family and home responsibilities.

Immediate context

- Lack of business-relevant social networks is a barrier because connections can bring new opportunities for growth and success. Youth and women are less likely to have these connections.
- Support from family and friends is a key facilitator of entrepreneurship. Women in the Arab States tend to receive less support to undertake their own ventures compared with men.

Wider context

Lack of access to finance is a barrier to entrepreneurship. Without financial capital, it is extremely difficult to start or grow a business. This is a significant barrier for youth and women because they tend to have limited personal resources and capital, and can face discrimination in obtaining loans.

Negative stereotypes, discrimination, and social and cultural normative pressures are a barrier. This is primarily a barrier for women because they can face discrimination from institutions and consumers, are often stereotyped in ways that are incompatible with entrepreneurial activities, and take on a greater burden of family responsibilities.

More Barriers

However, there are some aspects of an entrepreneur's skills, experience and likelihood of engaging in entrepreneurship that might be more acute for a young person. For instance, young people may lack awareness to understand the potential of entrepreneurship or access to finances to start a business. They may be straight out of school with little 'life' experience and lack confidence to create a business. Their parents may discourage them and they may lack other role models.

Many of the key impediments to youth entrepreneurship are described in the United Nations Policy Guide on Youth Entrepreneurship highlighted below:

The key barriers faced by youth entrepreneurs were also identified by a seminar organized by the OECD7F7 and summarized below:

- Lack of awareness of potential for entrepreneurship among role models results in a lack of encouragement or even negative social attitudes.
- Education and training programmes generally do not do enough to nurture entrepreneurial attitudes and skills.
- Lack of prior work and entrepreneurship experience is a major determinant to business start-up and entrepreneurship performance.
- Fewer financial resources and difficulty obtaining external finance, including debt finance, hampers business start-ups.

- Limited business networks and business-related social capital have consequences for business start-up and obtaining legitimacy.
- Market barriers, including a bias in financial markets which do not support youth-owned businesses and 'discrimination' in product markets.

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON

Integrated Strategy

The Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy is a holistic integrated strategy which seeks to create an enabling environment for the development of successful and sustainable youth-led businesses. It aims to provide a framework which supports the rationalization and synchronization of existing policies, programmes and legislation in a way that will promote entrepreneurship among youth while identifying the gaps and addressing them.

The vision of the Chouf to be “the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business” has as one of the fundamental tenets the commitment to seek out and support the entrepreneurial talents and creativity` of our own people while ensuring that our youth are empowered to contribute meaningfully in building and strengthening the communities in which they belong.

In order for this vision to be realized, there is the need to harmonize the various entrepreneurial efforts being pursued by entities in Lebanon.

The strategic objectives that can be identified for employment and entrepreneurship are to:

- To increase the employability of youth.
- To increase the number of employment opportunities for youth.
- To foster an environment conducive to creation of opportunities for self-employment.

While Lebanese are, “very entrepreneurial in nature, the orientation is primarily about “survival entrepreneurship” or hustling or juggling, which is not necessarily synonymous with the core concepts of entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurism is not taught or inculcated in individuals from the secondary school level. All the basics tools are taught, English, Mathematics, Office Procedures, and Principles of Business, all of which are important, but become almost inadequate right after the graduation ceremony when young people need employment. Upon leaving school at the secondary level, and even at the tertiary level, the aim is predominantly to seek employment in an already established company or eventually an already existing small business, just to make ends meet.

These factors point to the need to foster sustainable entrepreneurship culture through education and creating a supportive framework.

Addressing this issue requires a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to create sound and effective solutions to the perennial high youth unemployment rate.

While entrepreneurship is only a partial solution to the high unemployment problems faced by Lebanese youth, it remains a viable alternative.

The successful advancement of an entrepreneurial agenda requires guaranteed supply of competent entrepreneurs and people with specialized and technical skills in the labor force. The current trend points to severe levels of deficiency, which means there is a serious gap to be mended for youth entrepreneurship to progress.

The development of the strategy should be geared to achieve the following:

- Provision of a framework for the coordination, support and measurement of the various entrepreneurial efforts being pursued by entities involved in youth entrepreneurship.
- Strengthening the role of youth in national economic development by unearthing and focusing their skills and abilities into areas that make for sustainable enterprise development.

- Encouragement of a greater cross-section of young people to actively participate in entrepreneurial related sustainable enterprise development.
- Giving prominence to youth entrepreneurship. Since youth is a transitional period and its constituents have special needs, any approach for their engagement and empowerment must be tailored to these peculiarities that define them building on what exists. In recent years much has been done to promote youth entrepreneurship in Lebanon, both in the private and public sectors.

Guiding Principles

The environment for the Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy is defined and determined by the following principles:

1. A Life-Cycle Approach
2. A Holistic Approach
3. A Multi-Sectoral Approach

The life-cycle approach acknowledges that there is a continuum between the physical, emotional and psychological development of the human being. This strategy recognizes that the average youth entrepreneur may be outside of the 15-23 years of age and will need support beyond the age of 24.

The Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy seeks to promote a holistic approach to positive youth development in the Chouf or Lebanon at large especially as it relates to responding to the general needs of youth in a comprehensive and harmonious way rather than with knee-jerk interventions and initiatives.

Successful youth development can only be achieved when government, private sector, non-governmental organizations, donors and civil society all work together for the advancement of the youth agenda. This is why the strategy must adopt a multi-sectoral approach.

Delivering The Action Plan

Our priority will be to focus our attention on our youth and how we can empower them by facilitating the creation of opportunities for employment and an environment that promotes entrepreneurship.

The Development of an Entrepreneurship Culture

The development of an entrepreneurship culture is vital for the advancement and sustainable development of enterprising behavior among youth. Acknowledging entrepreneurs' achievements, especially young entrepreneurs and using them as role models are meaningful and practical approaches in helping to create a culture of entrepreneurship.

A positive perception, building self-reliance and initiatives will also aid in entrenching the requisite values and attitudes of entrepreneurship among youths. Having the right combination of internal motivation, skills and the opportunities, are significantly greater influence in youth choosing entrepreneurship over paid employment.

The extent to which this is present in the population will greatly determine the strides or progress a nation will make in advancing an entrepreneurial agenda.

Investment in Entrepreneurship Education

Another vital component is the investment in entrepreneurship education, primarily from an early age. Additionally, secondary and vocational institutions must be equipped to respond to the various needs of this new wave of entrepreneurial thinkers. Ultimately, pedagogy and facilities must be upgraded to deliver the quality education and training necessary to prepare youth properly for the entrepreneurial exploration.

Fostering an Entrepreneurship Mindset

Fostering an entrepreneurship mindset, competences, leadership and management skills, savings and the accompanying attitudes are important to advance entrepreneurship in a strategic way locally. The cooperation of the various ministries, universities and research institutions should undertake the lead role in enriching the entrepreneurship educational experience.

The inclusion of priority groups will provide vital leverage for catapulting entrepreneurship locally. The unemployment rate of young women is significantly higher than that of their counterpart.

The Chouf and Lebanon at large must also strive to become more business friendly. Therefore, the revision and enhancement of policy and regulatory framework are compulsory if this goal is to be achieved. This should enable the creation of an enabling environment based on the various laws, and allow for the provision of competitive business services in a tangible manner.

This should contribute to boosting the sustainability of the enterprises and encourage youth to explore entrepreneurship perspectives.

To complement the various actions, mentoring of young and potential entrepreneurs will provide a greater guarantee for the survival and success of youth enterprises. Hence providing continuous and accessible guidance to young entrepreneurs must be at the core of the strategies.

Four Areas of Focus

The plan aims to deliver on the four areas:

1. Educating
2. Providing access to Venture Capital
3. Mentoring
4. Providing access to Incubators

Educating: Provide young people with entrepreneurial learning opportunities

Goal

To make entrepreneurship education and training integrated in the learning experience of students from the primary to the tertiary level.

Strategic Objectives

1. Inclusion of entrepreneurship in schools' curricula from primary school to university
2. Develop teaching resources and models to ensure students centred learning
3. Adequate preparation of instructors/teachers in administer lessons on entrepreneurship and innovation
4. Develop student support entrepreneurship programmes
5. Emphasize participatory action research(PAR) and community enterprising
6. Legalize the operation of virtual and student-run enterprises

At the foundation of creating a society which entrepreneurship is pervasive, entrepreneurship education must be the catalyst. As such, there have been numerous calls to integrate entrepreneurship education into the curricula of the education system from the primary to university level education. There is scope for entrepreneurship education as traditional youths have been trained to seek employment.

One indicator of this mentality in Lebanon is that government remains the single largest employer. In this era where the impact of globalization is causing serious restraints for government forcing it to "right-size" and become more efficient, entrepreneurship education provide an opportunity to prepare young people to view employment from a new paradigm- self employment.

However, effective promotion of entrepreneurship education will require much more than mere inclusion in school curricula. There is a vital need to develop pedagogical

methodologies to ensure a standardized quality of entrepreneurship education. Likewise, teacher preparation, meaningful simulations, adequate resources and facilities, continuous research and emphasis on innovation must be integral components of the learning experience.

More profoundly, young people can benefit substantially from entrepreneurship education. Exploring entrepreneurship education, young people, even those with disabilities can learn organizational skills, including time management, leadership development and interpersonal skills including intrapreneurship (use of entrepreneurial skills within a larger organization to develop an innovative product or service), which are invaluable, both in the desire to start a business and to seek employment.

Venture Capital: Provide access to venture capital

Goal

To assist in the creation of a sustainable business environment that is sensitive to the needs of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and youth-run enterprises.

Strategic Objectives

1. Facilitating greater access to youth-friendly credit
2. Mobilization of financial resources
3. Negotiating bi-lateral and multi-lateral collaboration

The ultimate aim of a healthy business environment is to stimulate growth and retard the growth of poverty. In the context of business, essential services such as business registration, access to loans, counselling and mentoring should be accessible-in one location “a one stop shop”. This is being practiced in other countries, where all the different public departments having responsibilities for formalizing a business, converge in one location. This creates efficiency, increase accessibility and cut cost. The appropriate regulations eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic process to boost efficiency and productivity.

The Doing Business Report (2009) study ranked Lebanon 63 out of 178 countries. This jump is twenty (20) places downward from 43 in 2006. The rating reflects a need to create an environment which better encourages entrepreneurship, especially in light of the desire to create a developed nation and the place of choice to do business by 2030. It is absolutely clear that Lebanon needs to become more business friendly, especially for young business owners.

Strengthening the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Lebanon/Ministry of Youth, Sports & Culture and the Lebanon Youth Business Trust is therefore necessary for these objectives to be achieved. Greater emphasis will also need to be placed on mobilizing financial and technical support for youth businesses.

Mentoring: Draw on the experience and expertise of the business community to support young entrepreneurs

Goal

To foster a generation of Lebanonns who are aware of economic opportunities and are sufficiently knowledgeable to take advantage of them.

Strategic Objectives

1. To forge linkages among entrepreneurial service providers, tertiary and vocational institutions
2. To use more youth friendly media to promote and encourage entrepreneurship intrapreneruship and/or
3. To facilitate the creation of a one stop shop offering among other things, mentoring and market information
4. To increase networking and clustering among entrepreneurs
5. Provide support for small businesses owned and operated by youth

6. Help youth to develop the technical and other skills necessary to exploit business opportunities

7. Develop a youth “business plan bank”

Effectively promoting and mainstreaming entrepreneurship among youth requires going beyond the school curricula to engage and empower youths. This is imperative if a strong entrepreneurship culture is to be promulgated. Non-governmental organizations, community based organizations and institutions like the family, churches, uniform groups, should openly support the agenda of wealth creation, innovation and entrepreneurship “code ethic” in a more sustainable way to provide that basis upon which a new paradigm can be created which supports the entrenchment of “real” entrepreneurship in our society. This would ultimately complement the state agenda, which is to create a conducive environment where entrepreneurs can thrive. Therefore, all sectors of our society must participate in promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education, especially to our youth.

The best form of education and heightened awareness is accomplishment.

Youth need to see it to believe it (Culture). Specific communities and sectors are to be selected, targeting a specific number of youth in each community who will actually go through all the stages: training, inventory, business registration, the proposal, capital, and ultimately the business. After starting the business, post-assistance must be rendered to boost the chance of survivability of the enterprises in the form of guidance and mentoring. The aim is to develop a conscious belief in other youth in these communities that they can also learn how to and eventually start their own small businesses but with adequate support. This will demand greater coordination among agencies supporting created, which supports the entrepreneurship both in the private and public sector.

Providing access to Incubators: Provide access to business support resources and services

Goal

To stimulate youth employment through anticipating the needs labour market locally and international and equip youth with the appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes and ethic to make entrance at various levels.

Strategic Objective

1. To prepare young people to take the next step towards starting their own business and teach them the skills to manage the operations of a business
2. To explore employment opportunities in non-traditional sectors such as environmental research, sports research and development.
3. To provide support services (without which most small business would not survive) on high potential start-ups especially in key priority sectors services.
4. To empower youths by teaching soft skills and good work ethic.

It is therefore paramount that more innovative approaches are exercised in responding to the potentially explosive issue of high unemployment rate among youth. To tackle this common problem, an integrated approach where youths, the government, private sector and non-governmental organizations are able to cooperate in developing responses to the phenomenon of youth unemployment. The strategies must compromise of short-term, medium and long-term objectives. The role of the incubator is to provide a medley of offerings which will help businesses grow to viability, at rates that can be afforded. In an attempt to increase sustainability the incubator can marry a traditional incubator with a business enterprise center.

Measuring Success

The Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy must be acknowledged not only as a part of the Revised National Youth Policy but more importantly as a critical plan for Lebanon's social and economic development. The actions outlined in this Strategy will directly impact on our country's ability to achieve the goals set out in the National Development Plan (Vision 2030) especially as it relates to the facilitation of an enabling business environment. It is therefore critical that the outcomes and

indicators are monitored carefully to determine whether the expected results are aligned with those of the NDP.

Like the National Youth Policy (2004) and the National Strategic Plan for Youth Development, the Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy will employ the use of a participatory approach to the monitoring of the Strategy. Additionally, a committee would need to be established to review and support the MYSC in monitoring the achievement of targets.

Entrepreneurial Training: Useful Material

ERASMUS+

Cooperation Partnership in Youth Training guide on youth entrepreneurship Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

About the project: Young Entrepreneurs Guild

The gap between the education and employment widens, and the magnitude of change in the unemployment rates varies by youth educational attainment. While bound up with the legacy of the economic crisis, the spill-over costs of the social failure in providing quality education, decent employment and social protection, could cause serious burden on the European society.

Nowadays, skills deficit and mismatch is perhaps one of the most popular explanations towards debates on problems of youth professional development and their integration as active society members. This is why, the project "Young Entrepreneurs Guild" aims at building competitive knowledge-based societies, through the development of young people's entrepreneurial potential and creativity competencies. The project intends to offer a valuable solution against youth unemployment by creating specific paths for enhancing such abilities and building up youths' entrepreneurial mindsets and capacities.

Objectives

The project will encourage cross-sectorial partnership and cooperation at international level, by linking the institutional environment of NGOs with educational institutions and other types of educational providers, in view of operating quality improvements in the fields of education, training and youth.

The following project objectives have been specified in view of bringing positive solutions to the described situation:

1 TO PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS

Through extra-curricular activities and courses in view of increasing innovation capacity and opportunistic mindset of potential youth entrepreneurs.

2 TO EMBED INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Towards entrepreneurship in the field of education through mainstreaming the development of entrepreneurial awareness and behavior.

3 TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH

To take part in entrepreneurial education in view of developing such mindsets and stimulate them to better engage in entrepreneurial actions.

4 TO ENHANCE

Innovative and market-oriented entrepreneurial spirit among young people.

5 TO DEMONSTRATE THE BENEFITS

Of multidisciplinary and multi-professional educational approaches by the development of "Training guide on entrepreneurial leadership, management and youth entrepreneurship".

6 TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT

Of a multilevel cross-sectorial system that concretely fosters entrepreneurial learning through other than formal educational means and especially through direct involvement in entrepreneurial activities.

Digital Upskilling

Lebanon and the MENA region can greatly benefit from digital upskilling as it fosters economic diversification, supports entrepreneurship, and enhances employability in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. By equipping the youth with digital skills, the region can leverage technological advancements to drive innovation, create new job opportunities, and reduce the digital divide, ultimately contributing to sustainable economic growth and development.

To encourage digital upskilling in Lebanon and the MENA region, several key steps can be taken:

1. Education and skill development: enhance the education system and create partnerships with leading universities to focus on digital disciplines such as computer science, data science, and machine learning; and to encourage research and development in digital solutions.
2. Industry-academia collaboration: foster strong partnerships between academia and industry to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.
- . Support startups and entrepreneurship: establish a supportive ecosystem for startups and entrepreneurs by providing opportunities for incubators and accelerators focused on innovation.
4. Policy and regulatory frameworks: develop national strategies to promote digital transformation and drive AI innovation and adoption.
- . Public awareness and ethical considerations: raise awareness and educate the public about the importance of digital transformation, AI technologies, and high-quality data. This could help inform stakeholders about the potential benefits of digitalization and encourage them to develop ethical guidelines and frameworks for AI development and deployment.

By implementing these measures and encouraging the youth to take risks and pursue their goals, the MENA region can foster a thriving digitization ecosystem, attract talent and investment, and create opportunities for innovation and economic growth.

Bader Young Entrepreneurs Program: Useful Material

How can Bader help you?

Bader – An overview

1. Mission & Values
2. Strategy
3. Achievements
4. New Projects

Our Mission

NGO established in 2005 under the joint initiative of forty young business leaders Finance Education.

Bader aims at promoting entrepreneurship in Networking Lebanon in cooperation with the government and int'l organizations.

Our Strategy

Finance: Improve access to capital for startups and SMEs

- Education: Education Develop tools for and promote entrepreneurship education to young Lebanese.
- Networking; Tap into the network of successful Lebanese.
- Networking entrepreneurs and senior executives to support the development of startups and SMEs.

Achievements in Finance

The Building Block Fund (BB Fund) is a \$17M equity fund targeting SMEs (investment range: \$0.5 to \$1.5 million) The Lebanese Business Angels (investment range: \$50k to \$500k)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Proposal for A Youth Entrepreneurship Program in Joun and Other Towns in The Chouf

Source:

- (1) "Empowering Youth through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Start-up
<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/empowering-youth-through-entrepreneurship-a-proposal-for-start-up-incubators-and-mentorship-programs-an-example-sample-project-proposal/>.
- (2) Supporting Young EntrEprEnEurS - International Youth Foundation.
https://iyfglobal.org/sites/default/files/GPYE-EntreprGuide_6.pdf.
- (3) "Youth Empowerment through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Supporting
<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/youth-empowerment-through-entrepreneurship-a-proposal-for-supporting-young-entrepreneurs-an-example-sample-project-proposal/>.
- (4) A Step-by-Step Guide on How to Write a Youth Empowerment Project Proposal.
<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/a-step-by-step-guide-on-how-to-write-a-youth-empowerment-project-proposal/>.

Youth Entrepreneurship in the Arab States

Source of below: Paving the Path to Successful Youth Entrepreneurship in the Arab States with Behavioral Science; A review of the evidence by The Behavioral Insights Team for the United Nations Development Programme

More Barriers

Source of below: UNDESA - Exploring Youth Entrepreneurship

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON

Source: National Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy, Lebanon

The National Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy made use of the following documents:
 Bailey, Allison. Kerr, Steven. Knight, Pauline. (2006). The Transition of Lebanon Youth to the World of Work. Report Prepared by the Human Development Unit, PIOJ Doing Business Report (2009). The World Bank.

Forbes, Dwaine (2009). Factors that Influence Youth Entrepreneurship in a Community in St. Mary. Thesis for Bachelorette Degree in Business Administration International University of the Caribbean

Glasgow,S., Ismail,A.,Williams-Myers, C. and Skeete, V. (2006). Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring Report, University of Technology, Lebanon

Glasgow,S., Ismail,A.,Williams-Myers, C. and Skeete, V. (2005). Global Entrepreneurship Monitoring Report, University of Technology, Lebanon

National Strategic Plan for Youth Development (2005 – 2010)

National Youth Policy: Lebanonn Youth Shaping the World (2004)

The Vision 2030 Lebanon National Development Plan, “Planning for a Secure and Prosperous Future” (2009)

Youth Empowerment in the New Millennium: A Summary of Commonwealth

Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (1998). Commonwealth Secretariat

Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy. An Action Plan for Wales 2010-2015. ©Crown copyright 2010

Fostering youth entrepreneurship in Joun and other towns in the Chouf

Source:

(1) “Empowering Youth through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Start-up
<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/empowering-youth-through-entrepreneurship-a-proposal-for-start-up-incubators-and-mentorship-programs-an-example-sample-project-proposal/>.

(2) Supporting Young EntrEprEnEurS - International Youth Foundation.

https://iyfglobal.org/sites/default/files/GPYE-EntreprGuide_6.pdf.

(3) “Youth Empowerment through Entrepreneurship: A Proposal for Supporting

<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/youth-empowerment-through-entrepreneurship-a-proposal-for-supporting-young-entrepreneurs-an-example-sample-project-proposal/>.

(4) A Step-by-Step Guide on How to Write a Youth Empowerment Project Proposal.

<https://www.fundsforngos.org/proposals/a-step-by-step-guide-on-how-to-write-a-youth-empowerment-project-proposal/>.

More Barriers

Source of below: UNDESA - Exploring Youth Entrepreneurship

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP STRATEGY FOR THE CHOUF AND MOUNT LEBANON

Source: National Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy, Lebanon

Entrepreneurial Training

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS GUILD

ERASMUS+

Digital Upskilling

IGNITE TechTalk Lebanon: Empowering Youth in Lebanon through Digital Upskilling and Jobs: This paper is from the first regional Thought Leadership Series powered by the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation.

Bader Young Entrepreneurs Program

END OF THE DOCUMENT