

## **Youth:Work - Middle East Water and Livelihood Initiative (WLI's Youth Work)**

**Submitted to USAID by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) April 21, 2011**

### **I. Executive Summary**

Over the past nine years, in 35 countries across Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, IYF has tested and validated methods for training out-of-school, out-of-work, and underemployed youth for decent jobs and for starting and growing their own businesses. In the MENA region in particular, IYF has broad experience addressing the needs of disadvantaged and underserved youth and their communities through integrated approaches which address a wide range of young peoples' needs including career counseling, skills development, access to youth friendly services, and civic engagement. The most effective and sustainable youth development programs are those which are developed with local knowledge and implemented by local organizations who know best the beneficiary population being served. Therefore, across IYF's global program portfolio, there is a strong focus on utilizing our broad technical expertise to help build the capacity of local organizations to engage in effective assessment of community and youth needs, the design and delivery of positive youth development programs, and the evaluation and refinement of such programs.

Under the Middle East Water and Livelihoods Initiative (WLI), USAID is working to increase standards of living in rural communities Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen by addressing inefficient water usage and building the capacity of local entities to engage in sustainable land and water management practices (Annex 1). Another important goal of the program is to enhance the knowledge, skills, and training of community members in order to help them develop new livelihoods and increased income. Under the Middle East Water and Livelihood Initiative's Youth Work (WLI's Youth Work), IYF proposes to help design and support high quality youth employment, entrepreneurship, and engagement projects to teach young people skills relevant to managing local water, maintaining sustainable agriculture, securing food sources, and building and operating related supply chains. In short, this proposal proposes to create a cross-cutting youth employability program, to be called WLI's Youth Work, across all seven WLI countries.

WLI's Youth Work will begin with a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) at each benchmark site to determine the exact needs of both youth and the local labor market. Community Action Plan (CAPs) in turn will be developed to address those gaps and needs identified by the RCA. Capacity building will draw on a cadre of regional master trainers who, under IYF's portfolio of workforce development programs across the Middle East region, have been trained in effective youth programming, service delivery, and evaluation. Finally, the program will invite proposals for pilot projects to be funded by the program through an RFA process. Rigorous monitoring and evaluation will be a key component of the program and the experts described above. IYF will also support the sharing of experiences and lessons learned between participants in benchmark sites through learning events, exchange visits, and a social networking tool.

IYF's programs in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine will provide experiences and partners to draw from, as well as useful linkages to networks in the other WLI countries. Across the program, IYF will be assisted by two of its strategic regional partners, the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) Child and Youth Protection Initiative and Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)/Lebanon, who have expertise in programming for vulnerable and disadvantaged youth and integrated community rural development respectively. AUDI will also draw on its role as a major convening power of municipalities and local

authorities across the region to help secure local endorsement for our work at the each of the benchmark sites. IYF and its partners propose a phased approach to program implementation. During Phase 1, we will look to pilot the program in Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon over a two year time period at a cost \$1.9 million. Following program evaluation and refinement, we propose to expand the program to Egypt and Syria in Phase 2 (with a cost of \$1.8 million) and to Iraq<sup>1</sup> and Yemen in Phase 3 (with a cost of \$2.2 million).

## **II. Background/Need**

Today, the world's youth cohort – 1.1 billion young people ages 15-24 – is the largest in human history. Within the next decade, one billion jobs must be created to take advantage of this surge in new citizens. The challenge is that nearly 200 million youth are living in poverty and as many as 88 million are unemployed. In the MENA region in particular, youth make up nearly 60 percent of the population, making this one of the most youthful regions in the world. At the same time, youth unemployment rates range from 20-30 percent in most countries in the region, and the rate reaches as high as 45.4 percent in Iraq.

Meanwhile, approximately 76 percent of Middle East region's poor are located in rural areas. Even though the agricultural sector absorbs a large proportion of the workforce in the region's rural areas, farmers and other agricultural workers do not make enough income to support their families. Previous initiatives designed to support supplementary sources of income, for example eco-tourism promotion, have also been ineffective because of a gap in linkages between services and providers and poorly integrated marketing practices. Unfortunately, deprivation and economic deterioration in rural areas in turn leads to poverty in urban areas due to high levels of migration.

IYF sees the youth bulge in the Middle East region as a demographic bonus, an opportunity to support a large number of young people to improve their lives and change the world around them. In order to emerge from unemployment and poverty, thrive and lead, young people in the region need access to effective programs and resources that inspire and challenge them. The voices and aspirations of the youth are at the heart of IYF's work, driving us toward continuous improvement and innovation. IYF proposes partnering with USAID through the WLI project under IYF's Youth:Work Leader with Associates mechanism in order to reach significant numbers of impoverished rural youth who are willing and able to learn marketable skills and to contribute to the economic growth and overall well-being of their communities.

## **III. Outcomes/Expected Results**

While the main goal of the WLI's Youth Work program is to train young people in rural areas for new careers and livelihoods, IYF sees this goal as part of a continuum rather than a set of activities to be performed discreetly. Capacity building activities are part and parcel of our programs because they will contribute to a program's sustainability by assuring that partners have the ability to maintain high quality training and support activities beyond the life of the program.

Under this program, therefore, IYF will use its globally tested methods, rigorous quality standards and partnership development expertise to build the capacity of local organizations to design, implement, and

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<sup>1</sup> Selected Iraqi partners will be brought to Amman for capacity building training.

evaluate youth employability and civic engagement programs. At the conclusion of the program, local community based organizations (CBOs) at or near each of the WLI benchmarks will be in a better position to serve youth in rural communities with programming that will help them obtain and maintain quality employment and be active participants in the improvement of their communities and countries. A special focus of capacity building will be the development of skills training and service learning projects related to water management, sustainable agriculture, food security, sustainable resource management, and eco-tourism.

Finally, through the awarding of grants for pilot projects, young people in each community will learn skills and gain competencies which will help them find jobs.

#### **IV. Strategy/Program Activities**

In implementing the program, IYF proposes to draw on strong network of strategic partnerships it has developed with NGOs and CBOs in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, and Egypt as well as Middle East-based organizations engaging in important work across the region. In particular, for example, IYF proposes working with the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) Child and Youth Protection Initiative and the YMCA of Lebanon. Both AUDI and the YMCA have actively engaged with IYF on youth employability related capacity building programming in Lebanon under a World Bank funded project there. AUDI is a regional, non-governmental organization focusing on upgrading the capacities of local authorities and municipalities throughout the MENA region to improve the well-being of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and youth and to enhance knowledge of effective policies and programs that address critical issues of children in the region. Given the organization's direct relations with local authorities across the region and strong advocacy of youth issues, AUDI will assist in gaining public sector cooperation and endorsement of our proposed work at each of the benchmark sites. Meanwhile, the YMCA is a Beirut-based development organization with long experience working in youth development and in the agriculture and environmental development fields.

Working closely with its partners, IYF proposes the following activities to strengthen the capacity of local youth-serving organizations:

- A. Conducting Rapid Community Appraisals (RCAs) and Formulating Community Action Plans (CAPs)
- B. Building the Capacity of Local Partners to Implement Youth Friendly Services
- C. Supporting Design and Implementation of Demonstration Projects

##### *A. Conducting Rapid Community Appraisals (RCAs) and Formulating Community Action Plans (CAPs)*

Conducting RCAs is viewed as a critical component of youth programming as it helps IYF and its partners identify the gaps and needs of young people and their communities and articulate CAPs outlining how best to address these gaps and needs. RCAs will be conducted at each of the WLI benchmark sites and will identify challenges facing young people in each setting in terms of family income, educational attainment, and employment status. They will also document the range of job-related opportunities and youth-friendly services already available (and those soon to be available under the WLI program) and assess the level of civic engagement among targeted youth, as well as their perspectives on quality of life issues. The assessments will be designed to provide new knowledge and recommendations that will inform IYF and local partners' youth

employability and civic engagement programming at each location. Rapid community appraisals, as the name suggests, will be conducted in a very short timeframe at the outset of the program. Based on our experience in other regional programs, informative assessments can be completed at the outset of the program in an approximately three month timeframe, with the exact length depending on extent of the geographical areas being covered.

### *B. Building Capacity of Local Partners*

IYF will design and deliver a series of capacity building workshops targeting local community based organizations and youth development practitioners at or near benchmark sites. In the case that a benchmark site is located in a particularly rural area with few or no youth-serving institutions, IYF and partners will engage in the capacity building of organizations in nearby cities to set up methods or local offices to serve such areas. These workshops are intended to build local capacity to adapt and deliver life skills, community engagement and other employability training for youth and support the establishment of appropriate systems and processes, including monitoring and evaluation, and to promote long-term sustainability and scalability of these initiatives.

These capacity building efforts will center on effective youth programming and service delivery in the following areas:

- Employment training, including career counseling, job training, life and employability skills, and job placement;
- Entrepreneurship training, including linkages to market analysis, mentoring and financing;
- Civic engagement and volunteerism to encourage young people to give back to their communities as problem solvers of societal challenges.
- Best practices in establishing and maintaining public/private/NGO partnerships that support the positive development of youth; and
- The Outcome Logic Model<sup>2</sup> as a planning and evaluation tool for youth development interventions.

A special focus of job training, enterprise development and civic engagement and volunteerism projects will be on WLI-related technical areas: high-yield/value vegetable and fruit production; value chain food processing and marketing; natural resources management; production of herbal, medicinal and aromatic plants; plastic and glass house management; livestock product processing; modern irrigation techniques; deficit irrigation; treated wastewater and bio-solids reuse; use of raised beds; soil-testing; composting; organic agricultural techniques; product traceability systems; and agro-eco-tourism.

In conducting such training IYF will employ a minimum standards tool it has developed to comprehensively address the relative strengths and weaknesses of NGOs and CBOs in seven subject areas: employability, entrepreneurship, career exploration and guidance, business English, information technology, youth friendly services and civic engagement and youth participation.

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<sup>2</sup> The schematic presentation, for evaluation purposes, of a given program's inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact.

Such training will be conducted by IYF's staff of Baltimore-based Master Trainers as well as the cadre of regionally based professionals already trained under other IYF programs in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, the West Bank and Gaza. These trainers are well versed in IYF's minimum standards tool and practiced at delivering such content using adult learner-centered methodologies.

#### Specialized Training: Integrated Water Resources Management

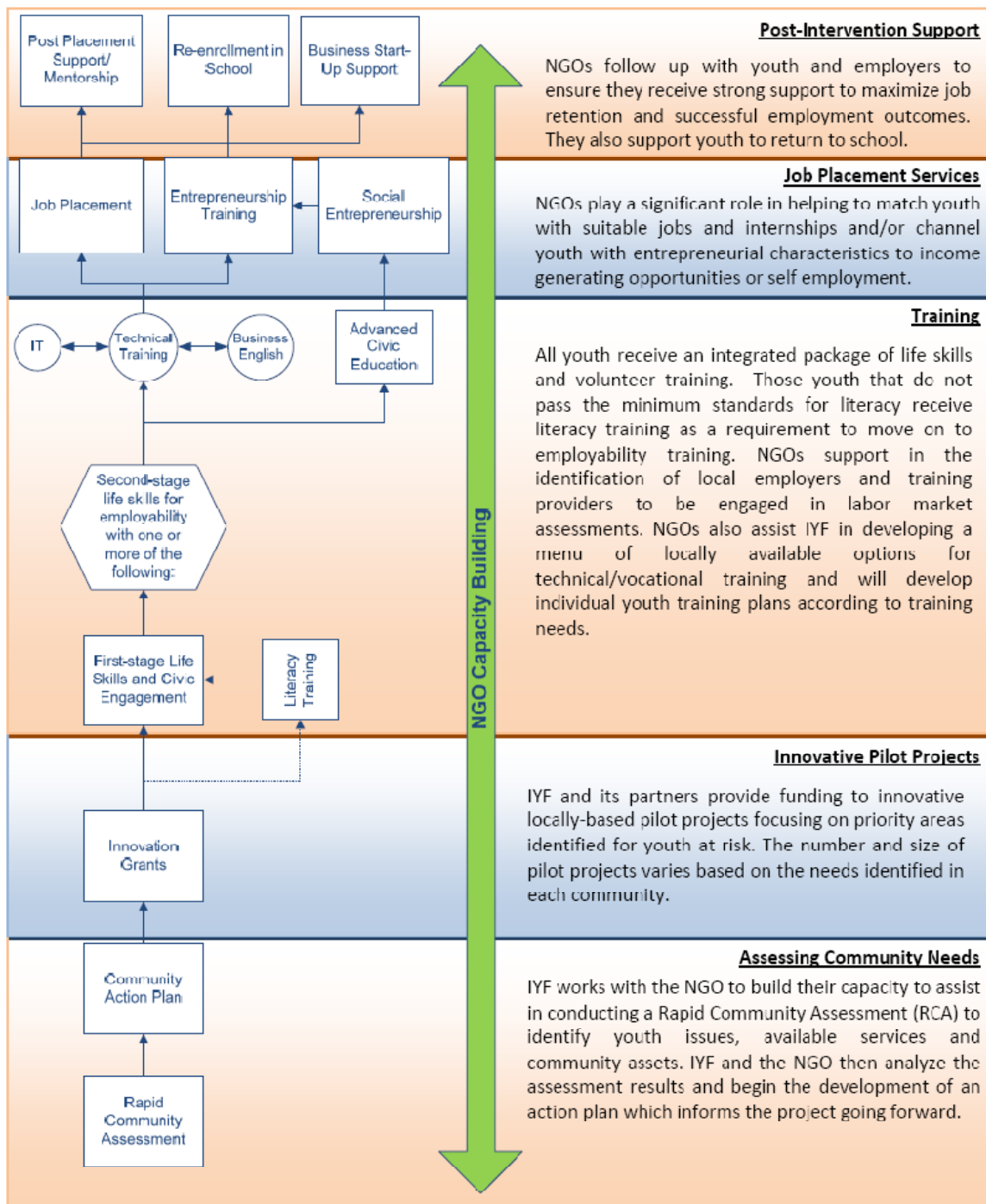
Additionally, IYF proposes offering specialized training and certification for a cohort of qualified young people at each benchmark site in the field of integrated water resources management (IRWM). For example, IYF and partners will provide training to youth in an IRWM diploma program like that offered by United Nations' "Water Virtual Learning Centre." Such a course will provide technical training in the following subject areas: water resources management, terrestrial ecosystem and impacts of land use changes; the aquatic system; wastewater; governance and community based approaches; and organizational infrastructure and management. After the satisfactory completion of the program, students will be awarded a diploma which will help them develop professions the water sector.

#### *C. Supporting Design and Implementation of Demonstration Projects*

Building on community action plans and capacity building efforts, a youth development fund will be established to support local CBOs in implementing selected innovative projects on priority areas identified for youth at risk at or near WLI benchmark sites. This fund will be implemented by IYF in Jordan and Palestine where we have a local field presence and by carefully selected Coordinating NGOs (or CNGOs) in the five other WLI countries. In the case where a CNGO partner has not already been identified, IYF will work closely with USAID and other program partners to identify viable CNGO partners who are deemed to have sufficient capacity to undertake project implementation activities. Selection will take place after the program assesses potential partners' experience in youth workforce development, effective grants management, and proper financial administration.

IYF and CNGOs will then provide seed grants to successful applicants to implement pilot projects. The number and size of pilot projects will vary based on the needs identified in each country and target localities. IYF expects that the total value of grants per country will range from \$100,000 to \$200,000 depending on geographical area and number of young people targeted. These grants will support the provision of life and employability skills young people need coupled with the technical training needed to ensure that young people are prepared to enter the job market or start their own businesses, as well as be productive and engaged citizens in their communities. The grants will also provide ongoing psycho-social support service to young people and their families as well as follow-up support after young people are trained to help them find jobs or start businesses. IYF will provide technical assistance to implementing partners in alliance building, grant management systems, and overall program design and implementation.

Finally, WLI's Youth Work will also support local partners in establishing a rigorous M&E system that will not only capture participation, completion and placement rates, but also what works in identifying and scaling up local approaches to effective youth development for out-of school, out-of work rural youth. (Please see the following page for a flowchart representing major components of the WLI's Youth Work program.)



*Flowchart Representing WLI's Youth Work Program Components*

## Phased Implementation

IYF proposes rolling out the program in phases, starting with a pilot of the program in Jordan and Palestine (where IYF has field offices operating large scale youth employment and civic engagement programs) and in Lebanon (where we are currently implementing related programming with World Bank support). In Jordan and Palestine, IYF will serve as the Program Secretariat providing capacity building training directly to CBOs at or near WLI benchmark sites while in Lebanon we will work with our close partner, the YMCA, who will serve as the program's Coordinating NGO there. Following the conclusion of Phase 1, we will then carefully evaluate the program in and draw lessons learned and best practices to apply to following phases. We propose that Phase 2 would bring WLI's Youth Work to Egypt and Syria and Phase 3 to Iraq and Yemen. In each of these five countries we would select national organizations to serve as Coordinating NGOs. In the case of Egypt, we propose working with an NGO partner we have already identified who have experience in youth employability training and sub-granting to CBOs.

### *Program Implementation Chart*

Country	Program Secretariat/Coordinating NGO Partner
<b>Phase 1</b>	
Jordan	IYF Jordan Office
Palestine	IYF West Bank Office
Lebanon	YMCA-Lebanon
<b>Phase 2</b>	
Egypt	Nahdet El Mahrousa
Syria	To be determined in consultation with USAID and program partners
<b>Phase 3</b>	
Iraq	To be determined in consultation with USAID and program partners
Yemen	To be determined in consultation with USAID and program partners

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

WLI's Youth Work will include a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning system to effectively measure and report on results while using the data to guide decision-making on implementation and plans for scale and sustainability. IYF uses standardized instruments so that lessons can be drawn across multiple contexts while taking into account the diversity of project designs and environments. IYF will collect disaggregated data on youth employment and education status by gender, employer benefits and level of satisfaction with new youth hires, access to services, and viability of youth enterprises, among other things.

IYF and its WLI's Youth Work partners will host a series of learning events, at the regional, national, and community level to assess program results and share program knowledge and learning. The program will also support a robust youth-led learning and exchange among key actors from WLI benchmark sites to further support broad ownership and the long term sustainability of programs. Our experience is that such learning and exchanges help position program successes to be spread by new networks, further spur the uptake of models by the public sector, and, ultimately, increase the number of youth benefitted through our programs.

The WLI's Youth Work program will be part of IYF's Youth:Work Leader Award, and therefore the information and data gleaned from this project will contribute to our collective knowledge about programs with highly vulnerable youth. The program will contribute to the indicators developed at the Youth:Work Leader Award level for global reporting. WLI's Youth Work will contribute to all three of the Youth:Work Leader's Intermediate Results, which feed into the overarching Assistance Objective of "Improved Livelihood Opportunities for Disadvantaged Young People":

- IR1. Improved Access to High Quality, Integrated Training to Increase Youth Employability
- IR2. Expanded Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship Support Services and Networks
- IR3. Improved Enabling Environment for Youth Employability

## **V. Management and Personnel**

As an institution, IYF believes that the best programs are those that rely on and strengthen local capacity as an implementation methodology. IYF prefers to rely on local partners, including young people themselves, to own the design of activities, deliver services, and oversee program management.

AUDI will provide important introductions at the national, regional, and local government levels to continue to facilitate the program's expansion into new communities. AUDI will also assist in helping to provide leveraged resources to expand the impact of USAID's investment. IYF's regional partners will assist in providing master trainers in Arabic for training adult facilitators in IYF's *Passport to Success*<sup>3</sup> life and employability skills curriculum and well as lend their special expertise in best practices in water management, sustainable agriculture, food security, eco-tourism, and natural resources management.

IYF's support to the WLI will be coordinated by Jack Boyson. Mr. Boyson has been with IYF since 1993, and has designed many of the Foundation's major initiatives in education, employment, and civic engagement and conducted numerous workshops on positive youth development, life and employability skills, community assessments, project planning, organizational capacity-building, program sustainability, and monitoring and evaluation. In his professional career, he has also planned a water harvesting project in Jordan (Project Rainkeep<sup>4</sup>), a food security project for lead female farmers displaced by civil strife in Mozambique, and a value chain/income generation enhancement project for growing tilapia in Jamaica. He has trained fellow staff at IYF and colleagues of the Foundation's global network of country partners, as well as staff of various government Ministries, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and USAID. Mr. Boyson has a BA in Music and History from Southern Adventist University and a MA in (Social) Marketing and Communications from Andrews University. IYF will also draw on its extensive cadre of technical experts in Baltimore and throughout the MENA region specializing in such topics as life and employability skills, entrepreneurship, and monitoring and evaluation.

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<sup>3</sup> Passport to Success Life Skills is a complete work readiness and service learning curriculum targeted specifically for youth who are entering the workforce, strengthening communication, self-confidence, decision-making, and goal-setting; effective work habits, teamwork and cooperation, financial literacy; project planning and implementation.

<sup>4</sup> Project Rainkeep aims to discover and disseminate best practices for restoring and reusing ancient water cisterns in the country of Jordan.



## VI. WLI's Youth Work Partners

The **International Youth Foundation (IYF)** invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts of change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills, make healthy choices, and improve their communities. IYF has been recognized worldwide for its success in forging public private partnerships for youth development. In past two decades, IYF has worked with over 300 youth serving organizations in 86 countries and has benefited 12 million young people through IYF programs.

The **Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) Middle East and North Africa Child and Youth Protection Initiative** is located in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is a regional, non-governmental organization focusing on upgrading the capacities of local authorities and municipalities throughout the MENA region to improve the well-being of children, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged ones, and to enhance knowledge of effective policies and programs that address critical issues of children in the region. AUDI's convening power at the sub-sovereign level through its proximity to the mayors, municipalities, and local authorities have had a significant impact on the outlook of the mayors who now view children and youth issues as central matters to be addressed by their municipalities.

The **Young Men's Christian Association of Lebanon (YMCA)** was founded in 1890 and formally established its bylaws in 1931. It is a nonprofit organization providing support for people living in Lebanon independently from any religious and/or political affiliation. The YMCA's strategy is to support projects through local CBOs and building their capacity. It supports development programs in agriculture; forestry and water management; sustainable environmental practices; community-based access to ICT; economic empowerment of women in 37 cooperatives, including food processing and value chain enhancement; youth employment, vocational training, and job placement services; child rights; good governance at the municipality level and within CBOs; and health through a network of over 450 community-based health clinics.

**Nahdet El Mahrousa (NM)**, established in 2002, seeks to make a positive impact on Egypt's cultural, economic and social development by engaging youth and young Egyptian professionals in the country's development. NM aims to empower youth to shape Egypt's future and works as an incubator for ideas that present successful models for national implementation. Two of NM's most prominent incubated projects include the Young Innovators' Awards (YIA) program which supports scientific research and development amongst public university engineering students and the Career and Entrepreneurship Development Office (CEDO) at Cairo University which aims to improve prospects for employment for young graduates.

## VII. Relevant Work in the MENA Region

**Promoting Youth Employment and Employability Program (Lebanon):** IYF and its partner, the YMCA, have been working together in Tripoli and two adjacent municipalities, Al Mina and Baddawi with the support of the World Bank. This program has conducted Rapid Community Appraisals (RCAs) in 12 neighborhoods, which form the basis of community action plans to address youth need and gaps in services available for young people. IYF and its partners provide seed funding through Innovation Grants coupled with capacity building and technical assistance to help local partners implement youth-led community projects to fulfill the vision

described in the community action plans. This program is part of the Global Partnership to Promote Youth Employment and Employability, which formed in 2008 with support from the World Bank with the goal of the building and disseminating evidence on effective programs and approaches to help address the challenges facing young people in their transition to work. Other partners include the Youth Employment Network (YEN), the Arab Urban Development Institute/MENA Child Protection Initiative (AUDI/MENA CPI), and the Understanding Children's Work Project (UCW). To date, the partnership has launched a range of youth employment programs, research initiatives, and learning events in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America.

**Youth:Work Jordan (YWJ):** YWJ is a five-year, youth-led and community-based program that improves livelihoods and provides support for the long-term development of Jordan's youth. YWJ was developed in partnership with USAID, Jordan's Ministry of Social Development, and IYF. YWJ's Community Assessments studied local labor market demands, identified economic opportunities for young people, and mapped out specific youth-serving institutions. This knowledge became the basis for developing Community Action Plans, which prioritize needs, propose interventions, and identify approaches best suited to each neighborhood for implementation through a network of community-based organizations. YWJ provides life skills, IT, and Business English training to out-of-work and out-of school youth in the targeted communities. This basic employability skills training is integrated with the technical and vocational training to give the youth a comprehensive package of youth employability skills to maximize their economic opportunities and better equip them to find a job and stay employed. Youth are also implementing small-scale volunteer projects to improve their neighborhoods in each community. YWJ will engage over 4,000 youth in employability and civic engagement training programs by the end of 2011 and over 15,000 by the end of the program.

**Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program (West Bank/Gaza):** This USAID supported program has been established to improve employability and entrepreneurship skills among Palestinian youth. Under the program, IYF and partners will provide young people with access to high quality, comprehensive training linked with internships or apprenticeships that will prepare them for formal sector Employment or the capacity to start their own enterprises. The Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program also offers participants service learning opportunities through youth-led community activities. The initiative will reach 10,000 youth with training in life skills, ICT, vocational and technical skills, basic education, and enterprise development.

**IT4Youth program (West Bank):** IT4Youth won the UN Habitat Award for Best Practice in 2004. It introduced computer-based information technology to underserved young people in the West Bank. IT4Youth consisted of school-based and community-based components in a cluster of rural villages between Nablus and Jenin, and in Ramallah, near the refugee camps of Qadurra, Al Amari and Qalandia. The program reached over 17,000 students who received training in 44 schools in the target regions. Computer labs were constructed or renovated in 14 secondary schools and computer equipment and software was provided to 44 secondary schools. As a result of the program, 50 IT teachers, engineers, and staff at the directorates of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) were trained; 280 non-IT teachers trained in basic computer applications relevant to classroom use; and an IT curriculum (FutureKids) for students at secondary schools was developed.

**Education and Employment Alliance (EEA) Program:** EEA worked in six countries with high unemployment rates and large disadvantaged populations: Egypt, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Morocco. In each country, IYF and its partners provided grants and in-kind donations to spur public-private partnerships

that carried out education and employment projects for youth. In total, IYF and partners supported 43 pilot programs across the six countries. In Egypt, Morocco, Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Philippines, over 30,000 young people benefited from activities intended to improve learning outcomes, develop new employment skills and help young people start their own businesses. The program was able to build an extensive network of private sector and NGO partners to support these institutions and that leveraged almost \$3 million in cash and in kind resources from a wide range of program participants that increased service offerings and reach a larger number of participants.

## VIII: Summary

Under WLI's Youth Work, IYF proposes to help design and support high quality youth employment, entrepreneurship, and engagement projects to teach young people skills relevant to managing local water, maintaining sustainable agriculture, securing food sources, and building and operating related supply chains across all seven country where WLI currently operations.

The program will begin with a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) at each benchmark site to determine the exact needs of both youth and the local labor market. Community Action Plans in turn will be developed to address those gaps and needs identified by the RCA. The program will then invite proposals for pilot youth employment and civic engagement projects to be funded by the program through an RFA process. IYF will provide capacity building to local implementing partners in the fields of employment and entrepreneurship related technical and life skills training; youth civic engagement; partnership building; and effective monitoring and evaluation strategies.

WLI's Youth Work provides a splendid opportunity for IYF to expand its tailor-made programming into an existing platform across some of the most geo-politically important countries of the Middle East. IYF welcomes the opportunity to complement and buttress an already existing team of agriculturalists, educators and international scientists from social and biophysical disciplines in a translational exercise where new technologies can and will be put into practice to create employment for the region's creative and innovative youth.

## IX: Co-financing Budget and Timeframe

Since 2008, USAID has invested \$1,798,978 in the WLI and is expecting to obligate another \$2,635,000 in 2011, for an investment of \$4,433,978 in direct funding. This proposal calls for additional support to fund WLI's Youth Work Component for implementation in three phases between 2011 and 2016.

Phase	Budget
<b>Phase 1</b>	
Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon	\$1.9 million
<b>Phase 2</b>	
Egypt, Syria	\$1.8 million
<b>Phase 3</b>	
Iraq, Yemen	\$2.2 million

**ANNEX 1: WATER & LIVELIHOODS INITIATIVE (WLI) <http://www.icarda.org/wli> -- a partnership:**

- National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) systems, organized through work at benchmark sites across three major Agro-Ecosystems:
  - (I) Irrigated (Egypt, Southern Iraq, Yemen); (II) Rainfed (Northern Iraq, Syria, Lebanon) and (III) Badia/rangeland (Jordan, Eastern slopes of the West Bank).
- Three Centers from the CGIAR (ICARDA, IFPRI, IWMI)<sup>5</sup>
- Five US University Systems (TAMU, UC-D/R, UF, UIUC, USU)<sup>6</sup>
- Three regional hub universities organized to link with national universities within the agro-ecosystems, i.e. Irrigated: American University in Cairo (AUC); Rainfed: American University of Beirut (AUB); and Badia: University of Jordan (UJ). See website for National universities.

**The WLI will establish the following:**

- Local : Introduce sustainable land and water management practices and livelihood strategies; enhanced knowledge, skills, and qualifications for stakeholders
- National : Recommend integrated water management and land-use strategies
- International: “twinning” of countries by agro-ecosystem in a difficult but geo-politically important region, allowing lessons to be readily passed among countries;
- Demonstration: Serve as a regional pilot to group non-focus countries from the Middle East so that they can be affiliated with the Feed the Future Initiative on Food Security
- Higher Education: Increased exposure and opportunity for engagement of US universities in Middle East countries – a two way street of learning

**The WLI is expected to result in the following:**

- Increased income in rural households/villages.
- New livelihoods adapted/diversified production systems adopted.
- Access to clean, high quality water improved by adoption of better water management.
- Natural resources managed better at community and institutional levels.
- Land use intensified, decreasing pressure to move agriculture to new or fragile lands.
- Improved water quality and decreased land degradation.
- Improved capacity of extension and research institutions

**USAID support has been essential to development of WLI activities:**

- USAID initial funding support of \$350,000 in 2008 - three planning workshops were held in Cairo, Aleppo, and Amman between April and May, 2009 .USAID granted \$913,978 in 2009 and \$535,000 in 2010 that will be used to launch regional and bilateral foundational activities while seeking Mission support in USAID presence countries.
- The WLI is also seeking cooperation with key donors.

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<sup>5</sup> Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR): International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Food Policy Research Center (IFPRI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

<sup>6</sup> Texas A&M University (TAMU), University of California at Davis and Riverside (UC-D/R), University of Florida (UF), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Utah State University (USU)