

# Skilled Young Palestine – Improving Resilience and Job Opportunities for Youth- Skills Development Fund



## Summary

As part of the Skilled Young Palestine project led by Enabel to Improve Resilience and Job Opportunities for Young people in Palestine, People 1st were commissioned to design a Skills Development Fund (SDF) and provide coaching in its operationalisation. Working in partnership with partner EFE Palestine, the coaching covered five areas: successful public private partnerships, quality assurance, recruitment & selection of trainees, gender equality and social inclusion and using labour market intelligence.

## Challenge/Opportunity

The private sector in Palestine is the key driver for economic growth and job creation, but Palestinian enterprises have been affected by political instability, unresolved conflict, and continued restrictions on movement, access to resources, services and trade. Youth and women are strongly affected by unemployment and underemployment. The gap in the labour participation rate between men and women in Palestine remains the highest in the MENA region. Employers report a strong mismatch between the supply of skills and the demand on the labour market. This includes technical and essential 'soft' skills such as teamwork, problem solving and adaptability.

The Skills Development Fund will create an eco-system that encourages training providers to supply skills that society and the economy need and will facilitate collaborative public private partnerships.

## Skills Solution

To introduce the concept of a skills development fund to the different implementing partners of the Skilled Young Palestine project and roll out a pilot, we carried out the following interventions:

- Researched international and regional experiences in relation to TVET and skills financing and funds to gather all relevant, accurate and up-to-date information related to the TVET system and funding of skills development in Palestine
- Analysed the effectiveness of funds to strengthen the private sector involvement in skills development and make training more labour-market relevant (which mechanism works best, what are the facilitating and hindering factors)
- Analysed the legal framework and local context for setting up a Skills Development Fund in Palestine
- Developed a blueprint for setting-up a skills development fund in Palestine (including set-up, management structure, roles/tasks, budget/funding, criteria for membership, roles and responsibilities)
- Provided a workplan for piloting the blueprint within the Skilled Young Palestine projects
- Provided coaching and guidance to the Skills Development Funds that were set-up under the project Skilled Young Palestine
- Provided policy recommendations to Enabel, the Ministry of Labour and other stakeholders

## Outcome/Impact

The blueprint for the Skills Development Fund increased youth resilience in Palestine by building the technical competencies of young people to secure employment through enhancement of the partnership between the TVET institutions and the private sector and delivery of work-based learning.

Coupled with an action plan, the delivery of the blueprint for the Skills Development Fund provided a sustainable financing system for skills development through an institutional framework for collecting and allocating funding to training providers. Following the pilot, the fund will support Palestine to:

- Increase the relevance of the TVET system
- Upgrade the quality and relevance of skills provision
- Increase equitable access to skills provision
- Enhance the effectiveness of skills provision
- Enhance public-private partnerships in skills provision
- Provide access to realistic employment opportunities for young people particularly vulnerable youth, women and the unemployed.

## About People 1st International

Our team of expert international consultants support countries with a true thirst for professional development, who are passionate about helping young people, challenging social and gender exclusion, addressing the barriers to work and supporting continuous professional development of the existing workforce.

To discover how we can support you with labour market intelligence, technical vocational education and training strategies and practical skills solutions, get in touch at [info@people1st.co.uk](mailto:info@people1st.co.uk) or visit [www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk).