

COMCEC 21st MEETING POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

October 9th- 10th , 2023

Ankara, Türkiye

General Insights on ICYF

What is ICYF?

Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum is an international organization, uniting youth organizations from the Member-States of the OIC as well as international youth organizations, operating in the OIC region and youth organizations representing significant Muslim minorities worldwide.

The structure of ICYF

ICYF has a general structure which consists of 56 OIC Member States with their national and international youth organizations. As of 4th General Assembly held in 25-26 August 2021, we have 65 member organizations and 49 of them are the national institutions from OIC member countries approved by their governments and the rest are international youth organizations and Muslim communities from Non OIC countries.

State of Youth in OIC Countries

What are the challenges?

- High levels of youth unemployment and underemployment.
- Limited access to finance for young entrepreneurs.
- Informal employment lacking job security and social protection.
- Economic inequality with limited access to education and job opportunities.
- Limited economic integration within the region.

What are the opportunities?

- Demographic dividend with a large youth population.
- Youth entrepreneurship for job creation and economic growth.
- The rise of the digital economy.
- Youth-led innovation driving economic growth and addressing social and environmental challenges.
- Regional economic integration for larger markets and knowledge sharing.

What is ICYF doing for Economic Empowerment?

Young Business Hub (YBH) and International Incubation Center (IIC)

YBH is the umbrella comprehensive Youth Economic Empowerment initiative of ICYF among economy related programs. YBH has been developed to overcome substantial economic problems of the youth through a multi-level strategic approach consisting of several layers including the Start-up Investment Summits, Entrepreneurship Forums, Bootcamps and Vocational Educational Training programs.

Capacity Building

Skills Development

- Robotic Process Automation (RPA)
- Developer Camp (DevCamp)
- Future Founders Fundamental Entrepreneurship Program
- Lebanon and Niger TVET Projects

Access to Global Markets

- Azerbaijan Investment & Youth Entrepreneurship Forum
- Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum
- Take Off International Startup Summit
- World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF)
- Kazakhstan-Pakistan-Türkiye-Youth Forum on Biotechnology

Niger TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Project

An agricultural production facility was established in the Torodi region of Niger in cooperation with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum ICYF.

Outcomes:

- Approximately 250 people trained in fruit and vegetable cultivation, pond fish farming, and breeding.
- 20 young individuals employed (7 female, 13 male) through the project.
- Successful completion of the first harvest of young moringa plants in the garden.
- Anticipated increase in employment to 50 people as fish and fruits mature, with a target of training 500 participants in the coming year.

Lebanon TVET Project: “Agriculture for Youth”

The project titled "Agriculture for Youth" was carried out with the cooperation of the Representation Office of Islam Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) in Lebanon, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture, Islamic Risala Scout Association, and Saint Joseph University.

Objective:

- The project aim was to help alleviate the youth unemployment rate in Lebanon by channelizing young people towards agriculture and alternative agricultural products.

Outcomes:

- Throughout the project, 120 young people were given theoretical and applied trainings on greenhouse cultivation, saffron farming and drying fruits and vegetables.
- Following the trainings, 16.000 saffron onions were planted and harvested in Beqaa.

Economic Empowerment of Rural Families in Uganda

Objectives:

- The project aims at addressing unemployment and poverty among vulnerable groups, especially youth, in rural areas of Uganda by promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through goat and sheep rearing activities.
- Providing a stable source of income for young people by establishing small-scale goat/sheep rearing enterprises. This involves identifying 100 poor rural families or farmers and providing each of them with at least five pregnant goats/sheep.

Expected outcomes:

- Economic Empowerment of Rural Families: It is expected that each recipient rural family will be able to get out of poverty in two to three years.
- Improved food Security for rural communities and enhanced environmental protection
- Improved health for rural communities: Improved availability of food and vegetables will lead to improve health of the families involved in the project.

International Incubation Center (IIC)

The IIC was established in accordance with the signed trilateral agreement between the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye Investment Office, IT Valley of Türkiye, and the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF).

- IIC is a pilot model initiative of ICYF which was established for inspiring other OIC countries to adapt this kind of centers for their youth's innovative entrepreneurship development and enhancements of capacities and capabilities.
- IIC aims to produce quality and competitive entrepreneurs by using innovative global trends to adapt them to the digital age. The Center creates innovative solutions, distinguishing start-ups with two different programs as Pre-Incubation and Incubation.

What do we offer?

1

Coaching/Mentoring

We provide a wide range of mentors to guide our startups. In order to meet their needs, we have a mentor pool which consists of 20 people who are experts in their fields.

2

Training Programs

We organize trainings within our incubation center, by experts in their fields, for our startups to learn and put into practice what they have learned from these trainings.

3

Networking Opportunities

We offer a wide variety of networking opportunities thanks to our connections with the international institutions through ICYF, our international investment summits, forums and our partnerships.



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