

BUSINESS, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION

Facing youth unemployment by shaping the spirit of entrepreneurship, Bahrain

Context

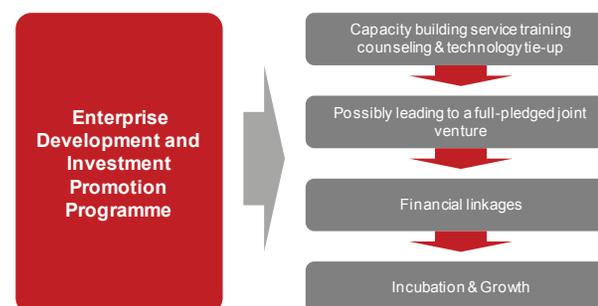
The growing youth bulge and unemployment rates in the Middle East are indicators of a need for a sustainable solution for poverty reduction and job creation. The Investment and Technology Promotion Office (ITPO) in Bahrain in cooperation with both Bahrain and India Governments established the Arab Regional Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment Training (ARCEIT) in 2000 for the purpose of developing domestic investment through the Enterprise Development & Investment training program for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Strategy

In 2001, it was conceptualized and implemented the Bahrain – Arab Model for Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion (EDIP). The model is a specialized program aimed at creating awareness and stimulating economic empowerment for Arab entrepreneurs. It assists entrepreneurs in starting their own businesses, helping to better attract partners and establish joint ventures. The EDIP is also a specialized programme for growth and access.

Current Status

- Since EDIP's inception in 2000, fifty-seven EDIPs have been conducted. This has resulted in assisting 2400 micro enterprises, 2000 small to medium-sized enterprises which lead to the establishment of 600 new enterprises with an estimated investment amount of \$1 billion USD, and the creation of 13,000 jobs.
- In light of the daily interaction with entrepreneurs, UNIDO jointly with ARCEIT have developed a new set of tools and programs has been developed to provide business growth services to entrepreneurs. These services include technical and/or administrative support, financial support, infrastructure, market access and mentoring.



Impact / Outlook

The overwhelming success of EDIP in Bahrain has resulted in requests from regional and international agencies to replicate the Bahrain-Arab model in various countries. EDIP is currently institutionalized in 32 countries with 49 centers around the globe. In 2009, the EDIP was named the best economic developmental program within the UN System.

At a Glance

OVERALL GOAL:	Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities
ARAB COUNTRIES:	Bahrain
MDGs:	Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger
THEMATIC AREA:	Investment & Technology promotion
DONOR:	Ministry of Finance -Bahrain
PARTNERS:	Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain