



UNITED NATIONS  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



## Women, Youth and Crisis-affected populations

### CONTEXT

Within rural communities, women and young people face worse conditions than the rest of the local population. Working largely in informal businesses, they often lack mentors, networks and investors to bridge this divide. In the wake of war, political upheaval, disease or natural disasters, increasingly related to climate change, such conditions are aggravated, leading to further violence and despair, mounting migration pressures and overexploitation of land resources.

### APPROACH

UNIDO helps create an enabling environment, revise policies in sectors with high growth potential, channel finance, and reform the supply of technical, vocational and entrepreneurial skills so that women and youth can not only be the beneficiaries of rural modernization but their prime drivers.

In post crisis-settings, and in order to provide sustainable solutions that protect the livelihoods and dignity of people, UNIDO builds resilience to crises and helps people affected by such disruptions to develop skills that will allow them to be productive and regain stability. Furthermore, it channels immediate relief

to productive activities in the form of reconstruction/rehabilitation of facilities, be they enterprises or training centres, including replacement of damaged equipment.

UNIDO's approach is based on providing support to tap market potential, attract small investments and financing, and improve technical, business and management skills of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs are assisted in finding ways to increase productivity and improve product quality standards to meet market demand on a continuous basis. UNIDO's activities in this area focus on:

- Strengthening and rehabilitating vocational training systems to promote demand-oriented training programmes for vulnerable groups, which also instill an entrepreneurial culture.
- Upgrading physical infrastructure and provision of modern equipment to vocational training systems.
- Establishing Outreach Training Programmes to target specific groups and remote target areas.
- Setting up enterprise-based technical vocational training programmes, involving the private sector.
- Fostering MSMEs creation and expansion through facilitation of BDS, market linkages, micro finance schemes and business promotion.



### MICRO

- Conduct rapid-impact training and business support
- Contribute to the humanitarian-peace-development nexus

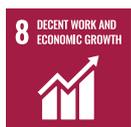
### MESO

- Conduct gender analyses to design targeted actions
- Rehabilitate support infrastructure

### MACRO

- Organize policy and regulatory framework dialogues
- Draft and adopt inclusive industrial policies

### WORKING TOWARDS



**CONTACT**

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## IMPROVING INDUSTRIAL VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING TO ACCELERATE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The Syrian conflict has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of our generation. In 2019, an estimated 11.9 million people were still in need of various forms of humanitarian assistance, and the poverty rate had reached 83%. The conflict has also caused massive destruction of physical infrastructure and economic activity, resulting in widespread unemployment. More recently, the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the situation with disruptions to supply chains, restrictions on trade, industry and agriculture.

Despite some signs of recovery, the industrial sector is still suffering from the destruction of infrastructure and high levels of emigration of qualified personnel. About two thirds of government technical and vocational education and training (TVET) centres and complexes are damaged or out of service and have a serious deficit of modern equipment and

human resources. As a result, people lack training and employment opportunities, severely restricting an early recovery of the industrial sector.

To help overcome this, since 2018, with funding from the Government of Japan, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been supporting capacity-building efforts in Syria by improving technical and vocational training possibilities for disadvantaged groups. Three labs have been rehabilitated at the vocational training centre complexes in Damascus and Aleppo and have been equipped with state-of-the-art equipment from FESTO, a German multinational industrial control and automation company. An interactive English-language lab has been set up at the Management Development Productivity Centre in Damascus with ready-to-use lessons and turnkey interactive exercises to stimulate student's language learning.

**“My participation in the training of trainers on hydraulics was a great learning experience. What differentiates this training was its mix of theory, tutorial, case studies, and hands-on practical tasks. I am now ready to transfer the gained automation skills to everyone who needs it in the future.”**

Hassan Alimam, Teaching Assistant at Damascus University



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3 labs have been rehabilitated and equipped with state-of-the-art equipment

An interactive English-language lab has been set up



6 training courses have been developed

200

beneficiaries, trained in hydraulics, advanced hydraulics, pneumatic and electro-pneumatic technology, industrial electrical controls, Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) and the English language



30%

of beneficiaries are female