

# Bridging the Hope Gap:

Preparing Youth in MENA for the 21st century Workforce

**Zaki B. Khoury, PhD**  
Director, Education & Employment Alliance  
International Youth Foundation

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# Overview of the Presentation

- Youth Unemployment Context
- IYF and Building Alliances
- Education & Employment Alliance
- Recommendations

# Youth Unemployment

## World Total Youth Unemployment

88,195,000

### Industrialized Countries

Youth: 13.4%  
Adult: 5.7%  
Total: 6.8%

### LAC

Youth: 16.6%  
Adult: 5.4%  
Total: 8%

### MENA

Youth: 25.6%  
Adult: 7.8%  
Total: 12.2%

### SSA

Youth: 21%  
Adult: 6%  
Total: 10.9%

### Transition Economies

Youth: 18.6%  
Adult: 7.7%  
Total: 9.2%

### East Asia

Youth: 7%  
Adult: 2.4%  
Total: 3.3%

### SA + SEA

Youth: 30.3%  
Adult: 5.7%  
Total: 11.1%

Source: ILO Global Employment Trends for Youth 2003



# key challenges

- ❑ Job preparation
- ❑ Job placement
- ❑ Job creation
- ❑ Entrepreneur development & access to capital



# IYF History

- Established in 1990
- Focus on youth development: education, employability, leadership and health
- Build multi-sector alliances to increase impact of programs
- Promote effectiveness, scale and sustainability -  
- “what works”
- Global platforms: *Financial Times*, World Economic Forum, UN Youth Employment Network, International Business Leaders Forum

# Where We Operate



# Funding Partners





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- To expand education and employment opportunities among youth, age 24 and under, in MENA and Asia
- Multi-sector partnerships tap innovation and resources of public, private and non-profit sectors
- Alliances initially formed in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan and Philippines



# EEA Strategy

## ■ Innovation

- Innovation in terms of approaching the challenges/priorities, and programs
- identify innovative & proven approaches to help youth be successful, for example, in & out of school and to expand their options for gainful employment

## ■ Engagement

- bring forward new partners to develop effective, scalable programs for youth to gain marketable knowledge, skills, and attitudes for the job market or self-employment as entrepreneurs

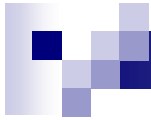
## ■ Sustainability

- Establish a sustainable Alliance structure to foster multi-sector collaboration and secure required financial, human, and material resources.

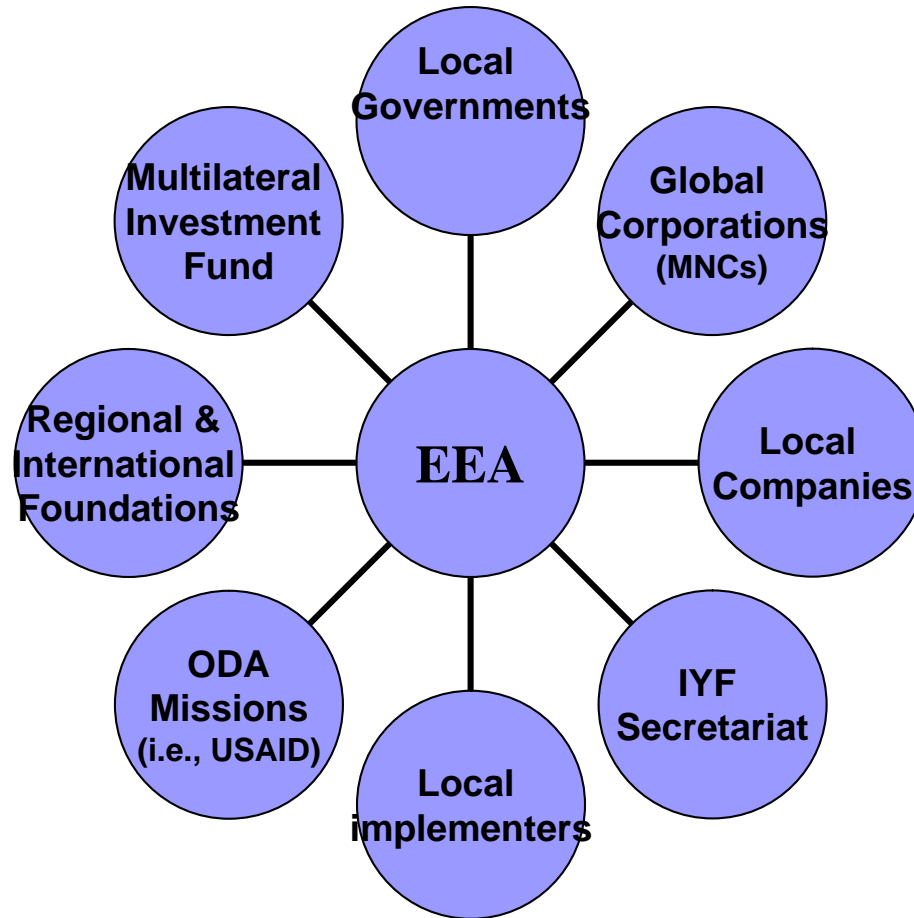


# EEA Implementation Approach

- Stakeholders, gaps & assets analysis
- Country-level Alliances
  - Goals, strategies and objectives
- National Steering Committee
  - Governance
  - Thematic priorities
  - new Allies & Resources
- Seed Funding
  - Leverage 1:3
- Activities & Implementing Partners
- Global Support → Global Secretariat & Advisory Board (Coordination, Networking, and TA)



# Key Partners





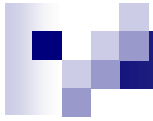
# Benefits

- Global & local Visibility and Recognition
- Access to new Networks, Contacts and Markets
- Opportunities for Staff Engagement
- Enhanced Leverage and Resources

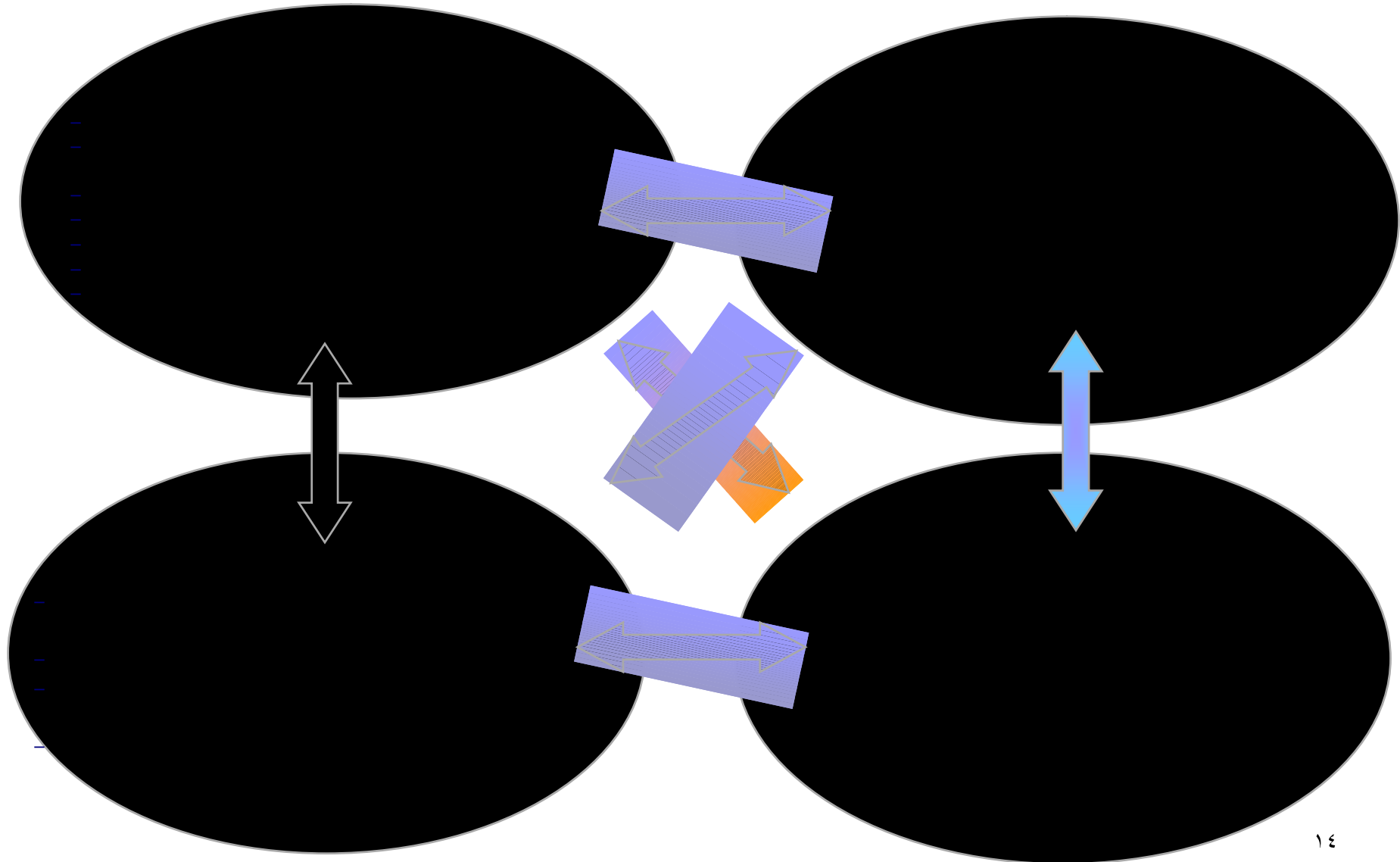


# Illustration: The Philippines

- 45% National unemployment rate for young people (15-24 years)
- *Geographic focus*: Mindanao (southernmost region)
- *Labor Market research study*: identify Economic Trends & Skill Gaps amongst youth
- *Alliance theme*: Labor skills program; emphasizing ICT and SME generation
- *Stakeholder Strategy*: getting alliance “buy-in” from corporations at the initiation level of the study to possible help in job placement
- *Leverage Opportunities* (Nokia, Microsoft, Cisco, Intel, PMSI, PLDT, ...)
- *Planned activities* (SMS job placement through; building web sites for young entrepreneurs)
- *Sustainability strategies*: working with Mindanao Business Council and the national secretariat of the Alliance
- *Risks*: matching of program needs with corporate objectives and branded programs / social context and sources of funding



## Roles & Responsibilities: Four-Way Cooperation





# Policy Recommendations

- From **Philanthropy** to **Corporate Social Responsibility**
- From simple **partnership** to multi-parties **Alliance**
- From meeting the **needs** to focusing on **opportunities**



## The Hope Gap

*“...It is the **hope gap** that separates the world’s people, from the earliest ages, into those who have a future and those who cannot even imagine one. Every time we connect students to the Internet, install computer labs in community centers, expand employability training programs, hire young people in meaningful jobs, or provide opportunities for youth to contribute, we help to build healthy economies and stable communities...”*

*Her Majesty **Queen Rania** Al-Abdullah of Jordan  
Member of IYF Board of Directors*



# Thank You . . .

For more info on IYF, please go to

[www.iyfnet.org](http://www.iyfnet.org)

*What Works in Public/Private Partnering: Building Alliances for Youth Development*

Contact for more info on EEA

Zaki B. Khoury, PhD

Director, Education & Employment Alliance

[zkhoury@iyfnet.org](mailto:zkhoury@iyfnet.org)