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Implemented by:



Vocational training - Egypt

Finally prospects of a job

The Arab Spring raised the hope of a better life. Yet especially among Egypt's youth this optimism is fading. The younger generation – insufficiently trained for the requirements of the Egyptian labour market – are unable to find work. Young men and women between 15 and 29 years of age now make up more than three-quarters of the country's unemployed. To improve their prospects of employment, KfW is supporting the establishment of a training centre for technical professions in Upper Egypt. The centre will offer modern, needs-oriented apprenticeships at various academic levels.

Context

The labour market in Egypt is in a state of imbalance. On the one hand, there is a large number of vacancies in production and in the service industry which cannot be filled, and on the other hand, there is a shockingly high number of unemployed young men and women. In Egypt with its large population, 700,000 young people flood the job market every year, but only a quarter can find employment. The rest join the ranks of the unemployed or find jobs in the informal sector.

The dire state of the labour market has its roots in structural issues, for instance the apprenticeships offered to date do not meet the current requirements of the market in Egypt. In most cases, vocational training is too theoretical and far removed from practice, and at universities, over many decades, the focus was on humanities. However, these subjects were not and are not needed on the labour market. Furthermore, employers' acceptance of diploma and certificates from vocational training courses is still too low.

On behalf of the German government, KfW has been active in the education sector, particularly in primary school education, for many decades. In the past, around 750 primary schools were built, renovated and newly equipped. Capacity building was provided for parent and district representatives, as well as local administrative structures, to enable them to operate and maintain the schools. Currently, the focus is on improving the now decentralised management of school infrastructure at all administrative levels. A total of around 320,000 school children have already benefited from these measures.

Project name	ITEC - Integrated Technical Education Cluster
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Arabic Republic of Egypt
Lead executing agency	Egyptian Education Development Fund; State Academy for Training and HR Development in Schools, Esslingen





Are they the future apprentices and specialists? Source: KfW / Ute Grabowsky

Project approach

The Arab Spring movement, which was largely borne by young people, clearly highlighted how urgent it is for the country to develop better prospects for the future, particularly for young adults. Reforming vocational training is an initial promising route to do just that.

To support the Arab reform movement, KfW has been accompanying and providing advice for the ITEC measure (Integrated Technical Education Cluster) since 2012. The new apprenticeship centre should put vocational training in the Upper Egyptian town of Asyut on a new footing. The centre will enable young people to work towards qualifications relevant to the labour market in technical professions, after completing their schooling.

The programme was launched in 2014. The Egyptian Education Development Fund and the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Culture entered into a cooperation project. High-quality, technical apprenticeships relevant to market needs are to be offered in Asyut, adapted to fit local conditions and at differing academic levels, thanks to a transfer of knowledge from southern Germany. The curricula and the selection of subjects is to be coordinated with the requirements of the region's industrial companies. At the outset, students will be able to choose between three-year apprenticeships in electrotechnics and mechatronics. These will follow on from the nine years of regular schooling, but the centre will also offer academic courses of study lasting from five to seven years.

The funds for the programme, EUR 20 million, are from debt conversion, whereby the German government

agrees with the partner country to forgo repayments for financial cooperation, on the condition that the resulting available funds are then used jointly for selected measures. The construction of the centre and the equipping of workshops and laboratories will be financed with these funds. Arabic and English-language teaching aids will also be developed, and teaching and training staff will be able to work towards qualifications.

Staff of the "State Academy for Training and HR Development in Schools" are accompanying the planning and implementing stages of the programme on behalf of the Ministry of Culture Baden-Wuerttemberg. The team from Esslingen is to provide help especially for developing specialist content, cooperation with industry both locally and in Germany, qualifying trainers and assuring quality. In a further step, the qualifications from the ITEC Asyut are to be recognised in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Impact

When the centre with its labour market oriented courses of studies is ready to open, the prerequisites for finding good employment will be improved for an approx. annual total of 700 apprentices and students in Asyut, Upper Egypt. At the same time, the idea of the ITEC is to release at least half the apprentices successfully on to the labour market after each vocational qualification level. If required, and depending on ambition, young men and women can then gain further qualifications by pursuing academic courses of studies at a higher level. In doing so, the ITEC will offer participants various routes for setting up their own existence. The centre will also therefore provide important impetus for growth and the competitiveness of the Egyptian economy.



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