

Objective 3.2. Fostering opportunities for Youth

The WBG will promote youth inclusion through interventions targeting youth employability that foster entrepreneurship and innovation. The WBG will seek to support entrepreneurship development by improving access to finance, encouraging concept development and commercialization of new ideas (via business plan competitions and grants at seed/early stage), supporting the different players in the entrepreneurship ecosystem (incubators, accelerators, angel investor community), and providing mentoring, coaching and networking opportunities to entrepreneurs, and mobilizing Tunisians living abroad to support young entrepreneurs and invest in Tunisia. This engagement will be driven by the findings of the World Development Report 2013 on jobs and the 2013 report on “*Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion*” which provides an analysis of the aspirations and needs of young Tunisians, taking into account both non-economic and economic measures of exclusion. The Tunisia Youth Inclusion ESF developed in the ISN period provides ample data and evidence on youth economic, social and political exclusion, as well as comprehensive sets of measures to address it. The WBG will remain involved in the education through analytical work, policy dialogue and targeted financial support. The Bank has consistently supported the education sector in Tunisia since the 60’s (Tunisia has benefited from the 1st IDA grant to education). Over the past years, dialogue has mostly focused on higher education for employment through the recently closed PARES2 project and reforms related to higher education institutions increased autonomy under the GOJ DPL.

The WBG will remain involved through analytical work and policy dialogue in the entire education sector (ECD, primary and secondary, vocational and higher education) with an objective of improving quality, relevance and governance of education and promoting public-private partnership for all aspects of education. The WBG will support specific interventions aiming at improving the quality of education and youth employability through the Tertiary Education and Employability Project (TEEP), the Accelerating High-Speed Internet Access project (see objective 2.2) and the WBG-IsDB regional Education for Competitiveness program (E4C). TEEP activities will consist of support to university management including increased autonomy, incentives-based financing and fostering effective partnerships with private sector to enhance employability of future graduates. IFC will continue to focus on developing skills in the ICT sector, with potential additional work into other growth sectors identified as facing skills constraints, including construction, tourism, and electro-mechanical industries.

Through new interventions, the WBG will seek to upgrade parts of the entrepreneurship ecosystem. The focus under this area will be four-pronged:

- (i) to guide the education system toward entrepreneurship (see 1.2);
- (ii) provide training and support on business skills and entrepreneurship to youth and women, including in lagging areas, through IFC’s E4E FAST program;
- (iii) to make GoT more responsive to private sector employment needs;
- (iv) to facilitate innovation in key clusters with economic potential; and
- (v) to create a diversified and efficient financial system.

IFC and the World Bank will work closely with financial institutions (banks, leasing companies, SME equity funds and microfinance institutions), through financing (mostly risk sharing facilities, trade lines, loan and equity investment) as well as advisory services by promoting MSME finance, deploying capacity building products and further developing leasing products in order to ease MSME’s access to equipment. To complement these structural interventions, a multi-faceted media strategy will be developed to facilitate behavior change amongst target populations, thereby making entrepreneurship and innovation careers more appealing (e.g., through showcasing role models). They will specifically target unemployed youth and women by providing market-relevant skills and opportunities to develop entrepreneurship. The WBG will support the mobilization of funds to enhance entrepreneurship opportunities. In addition, this expected outcome area will be supported by the CPF engagement in Social Protection and Labor, especially to direct attention to the lower skilled youth and to offer support for a more integrated approach to skills development.