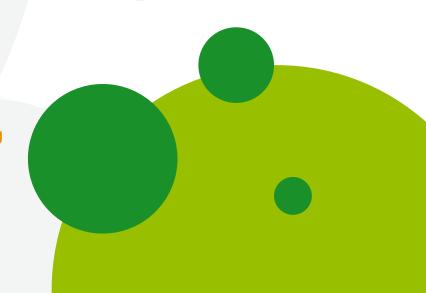JUST4ALL

ADULT EDUCATION
FOR JUST TRANSITION

BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Arab Initiative for Empowerment and Sustainability

Community Movement for Educating for Sustainable Development

JULY 2024

Arab Initiative for Empowerment and Sustainability
– Community Movement for Educating for Sustainable Development

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	The Arab Initiative for Empowerment and Sustainability, Community movement for educating and learning for sustainable development.
Geographical scope	Regional, at the level of the Arab region
Sources of funding	Fully funded by the Women and Society Association, which founded the initiative, and in full solidarity partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations.
Duration of the initiative	A long-term strategy, and the participatory evaluation is carried out with all partners every 5 years (2015 - 2030).
Target audience	Social responsibility in the private sector Workers in the literacy and adult education sector Women free from literacy Arab non-governmental organizations concerned with adult education and learning and sustainablale development. Young media professional and artists Institutions concerned with media, culture and arts
Social justice focus area	The initiative adopts a social justice focus and principles of sustainability with the direct target groups of women freed from illiteracy and focuses on social justice, justice and economic empowerment and sustainable development for women, girls and factory workers. We worked with three of the largest factories in Egypt.
Goals of the initiative	The general goal is to mobilize the vital and active forces in society to participate in literacy issues, build awareness, and support lifelong learning as a way to build learning and knowledge societies, and support mechanisms, based on the principles of sustainability for economic and social empowerment for women free from illiteracy.

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

Information not available

Methodology used (if available)

The initiative adopts a participatory work methodology that is characterized by transparency and trust, for example:
The initiative represents a new vision about participatory work with all stakeholders from sectors of society, the government sector, non-governmental organizations, private sector, media, academic centers, experts, and women free from illiteracy, which relies on four main elements of the work methodology.
A – Participation in establishing, managing and developing the initiative through effective partnership with all stakeholders.
B – Self-financing of all the initiative's activities from non-governmental organizations, the private sector, experts and academic centers.

C – Flexibility, diversity, and innovation in the initiative's programs

D – Planning and evaluation with all partners of the initiative every 5 years until 2030 (2015 - 2030)

Teaching approaches (if available)

The initiative promotes curricula and teaching methods that study and meet the needs of diverse local communities, including urban, rural, desert areas, and labor areas, especially areas exposed to climate challenges. We are in the process of issuing an educational curriculum for workers in factories.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Information not available

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Difficulty communicating with Parliament to issue new legislation for literacy and adult education programs adopted by civil society associations and organizations.

The existence of laws and policies restricting civil society movement.

The great need for capacity building for workers in the government sector and civil society organizations in the field of literacy and adult education.

Weak government sector budget for literacy and adult education.

The great weakness of funding for non-governmental organizations in the field of literacy and adult education.

Recommendations

The importance of preparing alternative policies for global emergencies, crises, disasters and pandemic and various climate and environmental challenges.

Adopting a model of effective partnership for the Arab initiative for the Social and Economic Empowerment of Women Freed from Illiteracy as a pioneering model in the Arab region, where all stakeholders are represented to achieve the goal of education, learning, sustainable development, and empowering women from different sectors of society.

The importance of preparing an integrated training program to develop the human capabilities of civil society organization active in the field of adult education and linking them to achieving sustainable development goals.

Encouraging the private sector's participation in issues of supporting literacy and developing adult education within the framework of sustainable development goals.

Designing programs and curricula for effective citizenship education and integrating them within the framework of approaches to adult education, development, capacity building, and community participation, based on the principles of sustainability.

Impact

Over the course of 10 years the initiative achieved: Building a coalition of all six stakeholders: the official sector, experts, academics, civil society organizations, the private sector, media professionals, and women freed from illiteracy through the initiative of 6 programs.

The first program: Building and developing partnerships for economic and social empowerment and implementing sustainable development with the private sector and civil society organizations.

The third program: launching a knowledge platform for education, lifelong learning and sustainable development.

Establishing and launching the digital regional newsletter "Learning and the Future" in 2018 and launching 13 issues with the participation of 46 Arab and international experts and stakeholders from 11 countries.

The Arab Educational Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD) was established and launched in 2020, which organized eight Arab forums and presented working papers from experts, academics and researchers from Arab countries on important issues, such as the future of education communication across generations/community messages to confront climate change. Ahead of AFSD, preparatory meetings and regional consultations take place to discuss regional priorities including environmental, natural resource and climate issues.

Fourth program: Issuing studies and research related to education, learning and sustainable development. Launching a survey in cooperation with an academic center at Ain Shams University Adult Education, Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development," which is a social and descriptive analysis study of the social and economic conditions of women freed from illiteracy through five hundred nomination forms and presenting the results of the study with those concerned and experts to work on finding mechanisms to address Development gaps. Launching an approach study towards effective policies for adult education, empowerment and sustainable development targeting lifelong learning.