

Social Impact Business Incubator (in collaboration with iPARK)

This is an intervention summary from the MSD for employment (MSD4E) landscape assessment.

Youth Impact Labs, in partnership with iPARK (an innovation hub and incubator) established 'Generation Impact,' the first social impact business incubator in Jordan. The facility provides enterprises - including over 20 Jobtech SMEs - with office space at a subsidised rate; peer learning, networking, and coaching; as well as access to finance and investments, in collaboration with Beyond Capital, another local actor.

Background information

Project	Youth Impact Labs
Funder	Google
Implementer	Mercy Corps
Contact	Khaleel Najjar (knajjar@mercycorps.org)
Rural or urban?	Rural and urban
Sectors	Labour intensive digital platforms Sharing economy and gig economy Jobtech SME BDS SME Access to finance
Intended employment outcomes	Access to jobs
Target group (end beneficiaries)	Young people (18-35) Host communities and refugee youth in Jordan
Cross-cutting priorities	GESI Inclusion for refugees and female workers and job seekers Decent work
Years of operation	2017-2020

What constraints did the intervention aim to address?

Young people in Jordan often face challenges in accessing employment due to limited professional networks, limited experience, and gaps in labour market information. Work in the gig economy can offer benefits including flexible working arrangements and lower barriers to entry (versus permanent positions). Despite this, firms looking to improve young people's access to the gig economy often face challenges of their own, including limited access to finance, gaps in logistical and operational support, and limited access to coaching, mentoring, and strategic guidance. In response, YIL collaborated with local market actors to improve access to these services for Jobtech SMEs.

Which market actor partners did the intervention work with?

1. **iPARK**, an innovation hub and an incubator with a focus on social impact
2. **Beyond Capital**, a venture capital with social impact goals
3. Sharing economy and gig economy digital platforms

What were the intended behaviour changes for these partners?

- **Access to finance partners** (Beyond Capital) and incubation partners (iPARK) increased their focus on sharing economy and gig economy platforms, providing customised offerings tailored to the needs of these businesses.
- **Sharing economy and gig economy platforms** became more inclusive of young people, women, and refugees by expanding their reach to these groups and segments. They also enriched their services to provide the "value add" needed by these groups, such as help with accessible and affordable health insurance.

How sustainable are these behaviour changes?

The incubator remains sustainable at the time preparing this summary, operating on a commercially viable fee-based model. It continues to host new impact-driven digital platforms, increasingly incorporating youth, women, and refugees into its services.

What were the intervention's key results?

- 3,000 young people accessed sustainable and decent income generation opportunities.
- The incubator hosted 20+ impact-driven Jobtech platforms.

<i>Has a third party been involved in measuring these results?</i>	Yes
<i>Is the partner behaviour change the sole/major/minor contributing factor towards the employment-related outcome you've reported? (i.e. are there other contributing factors?)</i>	Major
<i>Results chain available?</i>	Yes

Relevant project documents

- Final Evaluation Report for Youth Impact Labs: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZR-gsdKVHeY-zjI2JeUecqRFsOQBv/view?usp=sharing>

The MSD4E Intervention Library was compiled by the MSD4E Community of Practice and funded by the ILO, Mercy Corps and Swisscontact.

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