

ACCELERATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A Resource Package



UNDP Innovation Arab States June 2020



Table of Contents

Introduction

Resources

- 1. Networking and Ideas Exchange
- 2. Financing
- 3. Challenges & Competitions, Incubators & Accelerators
- 4. Mentorship
- 5. Training
- 6. Technical Support

Acknowledgements

This resource package was compiled by the UNDP Regional Innovation Team in response to needs expressed by young entrepreneurs and changemakers that UNDP works with as part of the <u>Youth Leadership Programme</u> and other initiatives in the Arab States region.

UNDP would like to thank all those who contributed to the resource package. We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Teresa Wolverton who drafted the package, and to those YLP participants who provided input and suggestions. We would also like to thank Yousra Chaabane, Raina Fox, Paula Isturiz, Sam Painter, Zahra Saleh and Kawtar Zerouali for their contributions to the Resource Package.



Introduction

Welcome to UNDP's Resource Package for Accelerating Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development. This package is designed for social innovators of all kinds – entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, social activists, and changemakers – to facilitate access to best-in-class resources to support you as you ideate, design, prototype, implement, and scale your innovations.

What is the Resource Package for?

This Resource Package is not intended to be an exhaustive list of resources, but rather a guide to some of the best available tools that can help inspire and empower you to accelerate ideas into action through the application of innovative approaches. While different resources may target a specific stage, user demographic, or sector, collectively we hope they provide comprehensive support for the acceleration of all types of innovative and impactful development solutions, be they social enterprises, non-profit entities, NGOs, advocacy and awareness campaigns, or other initiatives.

What does innovation for sustainable development mean?

Innovation for sustainable development is about identifying new and more effective solutions that add value for the people most directly affected by development challenges. The UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development calls for the use of innovation in developing alternative solutions, testing of new ideas and technologies, and scaling of successful efforts to achieve its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP has been working to promote innovation for sustainable development in the Arab States region through a number of programmes, including the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP). Launched in 2015, YLP aims to foster innovative ideas and projects among young people by supporting their innovations from ideation to implementation to impact. In this way, YLP has supported thousands of young women and men in the Arab region to become changemakers, accelerating their solutions to sustainable development challenges in their own communities.







































What does it mean to accelerate innovative solutions for sustainable development?

Accelerating innovative solutions refers to advancing solutions from one stage to another efficiently and effectively. Knowing the various stages that most innovations pass through is useful for understanding how to put ideas to work. The resources presented in this package fall in the following stages: ideation (identifying issues and generating ideas), design (developing solutions), prototyping (building, testing, and refining solutions), implementation (enacting and implementing fully developed solutions) and scaling (expanding implementation and growing the solution to address challenges on a deeper and/or broader scale). They may help you progress from an idea to a design, from a design to an implemented service, product or program, or from a prototype to a fully implemented and scaled solution. While acceleration is typically conceptualized as moving forward, it is important to remember that progress in the innovation cycle is not necessarily unidirectional. At times in the process, you may need to cycle back to an earlier stage (for example, seeing the shortfalls in a prototype may prompt you to revisit the design stage). This is a common characteristic of successful innovation and will ultimately result in a more robust solution. No matter what stage your solution is currently in, we hope that this Resource Package will help you identify opportunities to advance and progress your innovative solutions, to recognize and resolve obstacles in the process, and to accelerate your solutions for sustainable development.



How does the Resource Package work?

The Resource Package provides resources in six key areas: Networking and Ideas Exchange; Financing; Challenges & Competitions, Incubators & Accelerators; Mentorship; Training; and Technical Support. Each resource is presented in a table that helps you understand what the resource is and how it can be used. As you use these resources, you may discover areas that you wish to explore further or see references to other resources that you might find useful. We encourage you to explore these resources as well, and to share feedback with UNDP and your peers about how these resources helped you!

We hope that this Resource Package will give you the inspiration, information, and tools necessary to accelerate your ideas into action — we look forward to seeing your innovative solutions become a reality! For new resources, current funding calls, upcoming events, or to join discussions on innovation for development, please search the #Inno4Dev and #InnoChallenge hashtags on Twitter, Facebook, and other social media networks.





1. NETWORKING AND IDEAS EXCHANGE

"The way to get good ideas is to get lots of ideas and throw the bad ones away."

- Linus Pauling



Global Innovation Exchange (GIE)	
What does it do?	The Global Innovation Exchange is a global development technology platform for innovations, funding opportunities, insights, and resources that allows the world to work together better to address humanity's greatest challenges. Its mission is to help scale the most promising innovations by utilizing its ever-growing database of information to serve as a reliable fundraising resource for global development innovations, as well as a source of credible innovation data for the international development community.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs, development professionals
How do I use it?	 Create a profile Scan the horizon via GIE's <u>database of over 14,000 innovations</u> across sectors and geographies Quickly find funding opportunities through a centralized database of open funding Get on the radar of funders and other prospective partners by showcasing your innovation's story and key milestones
How do I access it?	https://www.globalinnovationexchange.org/
What else should I know?	The Global Innovation Exchange website also provides information about upcoming innovation challenges. GIE is hosting digital pitch contests, including free remote support for start-ups. For more information click here .

Yomken	
What does it do?	Yomken works with people who have brilliant ideas for innovative products and who are looking for financial, collaboration or marketing support to complete these ideas.

Who is it for?	Innovators, entrepreneurs, product designers and other creative people in the Arab World; NGOs, companies and government agencies looking for solutions outside their organizational boundaries
How do I use it?	 Join the open-innovation platform or marketplace of innovators Get support and/or investment from other collaborators Develop your project and contribute to others' projects
How do I access it?	https://www.yomken.com/about/
What else should I know?	Yomken offers two main services: 1) An open-innovation platform for low tech micro and small enterprises (MSEs) to post their challenges and tap into creative solutions offered by the crowd; and 2) A marketplace where innovators and creative people can post their innovative projects, patents, and market researches to be linked with financial vehicles (e.g., VCs, crowdfunding platforms, etc.) and technical collaborators. The website is available in Arabic, French, and English.

UN Solutions	UN Solutions Summit	
What does it do?	The UN Solutions Summit aims to: 1) lift up exceptional innovators (technologists, engineers, scientists, and others) who are developing solutions that address the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and 2) catalyse a grassroots effort, where communities scout and convene resources around solution-makers.	
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs with solutions that address the Sustainable Development Goals	
How do I use it?	Submit a project through the Solutions Summit application process. Winning solutions join in-person accelerator sessions with people around the world as part of the United Nations General Assembly and give a 'lightning talk' about their breakthrough efforts to an audience of senior policymakers, investors, industry leaders, fellow entrepreneurs, and members of the general public.	
How do I access it?	http://www.solutions-summit.org	
What else should I know?	See the website for highlights of the 2019 Summit and here for selected solutions from 2015-2019.	

Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)	
What does it do?	DOT programs support youth to deepen their understanding of the needs of their communities and challenges, and provide them with the tools, knowledge, networks, and support to launch sustainable social initiatives that create positive change. Youth develop entrepreneurial mindsets and communication, teamwork, decision-making, and digital skills. Their initiatives create a ripple effect of opportunities for themselves and others,

	leading to jobs, businesses, sustainable social and economic change, and transformed, resilient communities.
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs, changemakers and innovators between the ages of 18 and 29
How do I use it?	 Create a profile to join the <u>#DOTYouth</u> Network and apply Explore events and opportunities Build out your skills with the help of interactive online tools
How do I access it?	https://www.dotrust.org/
What else should I know?	DOT's <u>Youth Leadership Program</u> supports young people to become Community Leaders, Digital Champions, and Social Innovators in their communities.

MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab Region	
What does it do?	With offices in Beirut and Dubai, the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab Region aims to develop and nurture a culture of entrepreneurship across the Arab region. It has a proven track record in promoting MIT-style entrepreneurship through its platform, enabling the empowerment of entrepreneurs by providing opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, showcasing businesses, coaching, and mentoring.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	You can engage with three programmes: <u>Arab Start-up Competition</u> (more on this in the Challenges & Competitions section), <u>Innovate for Refugees</u> , and the <u>Silicon Valley Program</u> . Each program has its own application process and requirements and eligibility criteria.
	See also the competitions run by Enterprise Forum Saudi Arabia.
How do I access it?	https://www.mitefarab.org/
What else should I know?	About 80 Arab entrepreneurs have represented the region under an MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab pavilion at events worldwide. Find more information here .

Wamda	
What does it do?	Wamda is a platform of integrated programs that accelerates entrepreneurship ecosystems throughout the MENA region. Its core focus is on media, community development, research, and corporate and government advisory services. It offers entrepreneurs and innovators resources for networking, mentorship, and financing opportunities in the MENA region.

Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Join the Wamda community Follow along for updates via the Wamda website and social media Browse by topic or country to identify resources of interest
How do I access it?	https://www.wamda.com/
What else should I know?	 Offers the possibility to connect with other entrepreneurs. Innovation news, including start-up watch, and data are also available. Check out <u>A Practitioner's Guide for Social Entrepreneurs in Egypt and the Arab Region</u> for advice specific to the Arab States.

Youth Opportunities	
What does it do?	Youth Opportunities (YO) is the largest opportunity discovery platform for youth across the world. YO provides easy and instantaneous access to unlimited opportunities for youth development for free. It produces and delivers high-quality, value additive educational and capacity building materials.
Who is it for?	Young changemakers interested in continuous self-development
How do I use it?	Explore opportunities for competitions, conferences, scholarships, exchange programs, fellowships, internships, workshops and more.
How do I access it?	https://www.youthop.com/

Startup Grind	
What does it do?	Startup Grind is the largest independent start-up community, actively educating, inspiring, and connecting more than 2,000,000 entrepreneurs in over 600 chapters. It nurtures startup ecosystems in 125+ countries through events, media, and partnerships with organizations like Google for Startups .
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs worldwide
How do I use it?	Subscribe on the Startup Grind website to receive news, resources, and more.
How do I access it?	https://www.startupgrind.com
What else should I know?	Through the <u>Startup Program</u> , start-ups can apply to exhibit at one of Startup Grind's conferences (for a fee), and then have an option to apply to the Accelerate Program, providing further education, networking, and exposure.



Impact Hub	
What does it do?	Impact Hub is a global community of more than 16,000 members in more than 100 places across the globe, with a shared focus on creating measurable positive social impact. Hubs in 50 countries offer networking opportunities as well as fellowships and scale-up support.
Who is it for?	Social innovators worldwide
How do I use it?	Join the community through the Impact Hub website. If there's no physical Hub in your country, consider opening one!
How do I access it?	https://impacthub.net

StartupWave	
What does it do?	StartupWave provides services in two distinct phases – pre-incubation and incubation. Pre-incubation services are designed to help ideation-to-pilot stage start-ups get accepted into incubators. Anyone with a business idea can access these services for free. Incubation services (to be launched soon) are designed to help start-ups raise funding.
Who is it for?	Start-up leaders and social entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Register and get access to your own personalized dashboard Use resources from the Startup Garage Explore events and opportunities Build out your idea with the help of interactive online tools Submit your completed canvas to the evaluation committee Receive feedback on areas for improvement Build a business plan to be shared with Partner Incubators
How do I access it?	https://www.startupwave.co/



2. FINANCING

\$7 billion

Estimated size of crowdfunding market in Middle East and North Africa

"I think money is a wonderful thing because it enables you to do things, it enables you to invest in ideas that don't have a short-term payback" - Steve Jobs

Crowdfundin	g Platforms
What does it do?	Crowdfunding is a mechanism that allows innovators and entrepreneurs to raise funds for a project by sharing their ideas online, attracting potential investors, financial supporters, and customers. With so many platforms out there, it's important to find the one that's right for you. We suggest starting by exploring those listed below.
Who is it for?	Innovators and entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Register to create an account Design your crowdfunding campaign based on the platform's specificities (many platforms provide their own crowdfunding campaign development guide or other forms of advice and best practices) Launch campaign
Which platform might be right for me?	Indiegogo: In addition to crowdfunding campaigns, Indiegogo offers exclusive partnerships for design, prototyping, and manufacturing, as well as key resources including the Crowdfunding Field Guide and the Essential Guide to Crowdfunding.
	Kiva: Kiva is a non-profit that expands access to capital for entrepreneurs around the world. Its services include up to \$10,000 at 0% interest, free marketing and access to new customers, and the opportunity to build business credit by repaying loans.
	GoFundMe: GoFundMe allows users to create fundraising campaigns, engage with potential donors/investors via its website and app, monitor progress, and receive donations/investments. It also provides resources developed by campaign experts to help campaign owners get the best possible results.
	Zoomaal: The Zoomaal crowdfunding platform allows users to raise funds for projects exclusively in the Arab world. The platform also gives the option to pay offline, making donations possible for those without a credit card.



<u>Eureeca</u>: Eureeca is the first crowdinvesting platform to connect online investors to businesses by raising funds through crowdfunding with equity. It enables members of its investor network to buy shares in growth-oriented businesses, while providing operational businesses with access to capital.

<u>GivingLoop</u>: GivingLoop helps non-profits to become more sustainable by reducing fundraising inefficiencies through recurring donations made on the platform. After its initial private release, 250+ non-profits have joined the platform from the Middle East.

- Check out <u>Indiegogo's Crowdfunding Field Guide</u> for useful tips about designing a crowdfunding campaign.
- Check out The World Bank's report, <u>Crowdfunding's Potential for the</u>
 <u>Developing World</u>, which explores crowdfunding opportunities in
 developing countries.
- Find more crowdfunding tips from UNDP in <u>UNDP Crowdfunding</u>
 Guidance for Project Managers and here.
- Always be sure to carefully review the rules for receiving funds: each
 platform has its own unique requirements and rules (for example, some
 platforms require you to reach 100% of your target to receive any
 funding while others don't). A bank account is typically required in order
 to receive funds.

Social Impact	Social Impact Funds and other financing	
What does it do?	Impact investments are investments made in companies, organizations, and projects that measure their success through social and environmental impact as well as through financial returns. Social impact funds invest in efforts that not only provide a financial return on investment but also address specific social needs. Learn more about impact investing, the actors involved, risks and challenges, opportunities, and more with this UNDP overview .	
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs	
How do I use it?	 Select the platform and fund that's right for you Apply to receive funding, either directly from a social impact fund or through a platform that connects investors to social innovators and entrepreneurs Work with your investor to establish the terms of investment 	
Which fund might be right for me?	Allied Crowds: Allied Crowds is the first aggregator and directory of alternative finance providers in the developing world. It helps donors, investors, and entrepreneurs navigate the alternative finance space through reports, data, and the SDG Capital Finder function, a searchable database of impact investors to identify funders aligned with SDGs and increase the flow of capital to deserving projects globally. Allied Crowds also consults on alternative finance solutions and provides customized crowdfunding platforms, which are flexible, affordable, and have great marketing potential.	

Transform Fund: The Transform Fund is a \$500 million fund of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) that supports science, technology and innovation initiatives that will tackle development challenges around the globe. The Transform Fund works in line with UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Innovators, scientists, businesses, NGOs, Governments and academic institutions are eligible to apply. Transform runs in tandem with IsDB's new online hub, ENGAGE - designed to connect innovators in developing communities with market opportunities and funding. In 2019, the deadline for applications to the Transform Fund call for innovations was June 1st.

Global Innovation Fund: The Global Innovation Fund invests in social innovations that aim to improve the lives and opportunities of millions of people in the developing world. Through grants and risk capital, it supports breakthrough solutions to global development challenges from social enterprises, for-profit firms, non-profit organisations, international organisations, researchers, and government agencies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

<u>Acumen Fund</u>: Acumen invests in companies, leaders, and ideas that are changing the way the world tackles poverty. The fund raises charitable donations that allow it to make patient long-term debt or equity investments in early-stage companies providing reliable and affordable access to agricultural inputs, quality education, clean energy, healthcare services, formal housing, and safe drinking water to low-income customers.

Omidyar Network: Omidyar is a philanthropic investment firm that supports market-based approaches with the potential for large-scale, catalytic impact. It invests in for-profit companies and provides grants to non-profit organizations with the potential to embody innovation, scale, and sustainability or help bring them about within their industry. Omidyar's efforts are focused in five key areas that strengthen prosperous, stable, and open societies: Education, Emerging Tech, Financial Inclusion, Governance & Citizen Engagement, and Property Rights.

What else should I know?

For more information, check out these additional resources:

Global Impact Investing Network: GIIN accelerates the development of the impact investing market by building critical infrastructure and supporting activities that help advance the development of the impact investing industry. The network does not directly offer funding; instead, it provides a range of training programs and resources to understand impact investment.

Blogs from UNDP:

- Impact investing benefits business, people and planet
- What role for the private sector in financing the new sustainable development agenda?



3. CHALLENGES & COMPETITIONS, INCUBATORS & ACCELERATORS

"It always seems impossible until it is done."
- Nelson Mandela

1 Year = 365 Opportunities

Open Innovat	Open Innovation Challenges & Competitions	
What does it do?	Open innovation challenges crowdsource breakthroughs by pushing participants to create fresh solutions to strategic challenges facing industry, government and academic institutions. These challenges exchange innovative solutions for financial rewards or another form of support that accelerates the solution's implementation.	
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs	
Which challenge might be right for me?	While new challenges are being launched every day, here are a few that take place annually and are particularly well suited to changemakers in the Arab States.	
	Hult Prize: The Hult Prize is open to college and university students who apply through one of five regional rounds of competition. In July and August every year, the regional finalist teams attend the Hult Prize Accelerator, a six-week program of intensive entrepreneurial seminars hosted by Hult International Business School. Annual Hult Prize winners can make their ideas reality with the help of \$1 million in seed funding.	
	D-Prize: The D-Prize focuses on distribution challenges that prevent effective development solutions from being implemented at mass-scale. Selected projects receive up to \$20,000 to be used in a region where extreme poverty exists. There are no geographical or age restrictions for application. Look out for the 2020 application timeline.	
	LAUNCH: LAUNCH is a network-centred innovation platform founded on the belief that the problems of today are too big to be solved by any one organization alone. LAUNCH was founded by NASA, USAID, the US Department of State and NIKE, Inc. who joined together to identify, showcase and support innovative approaches to sustainability challenges. Challenges are held regularly for innovators working on new approaches of design and manufacturing for a circular economy.	

<u>Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition</u>: This global platform empowers young entrepreneurs (age 15-35) to engage in a more peaceful world. Participants are invited to submit their innovative ideas and projects with a societal impact, which champion and implement one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

<u>Grand Challenges</u>: Led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges is a family of initiatives fostering innovation to solve key global health and development problems. Individual challenges occasionally address similar problems but from differing perspectives, resulting in a rethinking of the way to solve today's most challenging issues.

1776 Challenge Cup: The 1776 Challenge Cup seeks to discover the most promising, highly scalable startups poised to solve complex challenges across borders, regulated industries, and emerging technologies. The Challenge Cup takes place in 75 cities, partnering with a leading local startup program. The startup hosts the Challenge Cup experience on 1776's UNION Network, a digital platform that connects startup ecosystems around the world. These qualifying competitions identify one winning startup from each city to advance to the Global Finals Challenge Festival, which convenes investors, policymakers, and innovators from across the globe.

<u>UNLEASH</u>: UNLEASH is a global innovation lab that brings together young people from around the world to transform 1,000 personal insights into hundreds of ideas and build lasting global networks around the Sustainable Development Goals.

MIT Inclusive Innovation Challenge: The Inclusive Innovation Challenge (IIC) is the flagship initiative of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy (IDE). The Challenge awards over \$1 million in prizes to Inclusive Innovators, organizations around the world that are using technology to solve the greatest challenges of our time.

MIT SOLVE: Solve is an initiative of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that advances lasting solutions from tech entrepreneurs to address the world's most pressing problems. Each year, Solve issues Global Challenges to find the most promising Solver teams who will drive transformational change. Solve then builds and convenes a community of leaders and changemakers to form the partnerships these Solver teams need to scale their impact. Anyone, anywhere can submit a solution, usually between March and July each year. MIT Solve also runs the Elevate Prize, which awards up to USD \$5 million annually to multiple Global Heroes, who receive valuable coaching for two years after being selected.

The <u>Arab Startup Competition</u> is a yearly competition run by the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab Region that organizes its entrepreneurs in 3 different tracks: Ideas Track, Startups Track, and Social Entrepreneurship Track. The winning entrepreneurs are awarded prizes worth more than \$160K and benefit from a range of other activities, including top tier training, mentorship, coaching, media exposure, and great networking opportunities.

	Expo Live Innovation Impact Grant Programme: The Expo Live Innovation Impact Grant Programme by Expo 2020 Dubai funds novel and innovative solutions reflecting the theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" and sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility, and Sustainability. The award includes up to \$100,000 to support the growth of social enterprises, startups, and grassroots projects from around the world whose solutions generate real social value. The final round of grant applications will start from October 2020.
	The King Hamad Award: The King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the SDGs seeks youth (ages 15-30) who are recognized leaders amongst their peers and have devoted themselves to supporting the SDGs. Awardees receive \$25,000 grants for demonstrating proven contribution to the SDGs, innovation, creativity and thought leadership.
What else should I know?	Open innovation challenges are also a great way to connect with other social innovators and entrepreneurs and expand your network.

UNDP Youth Le	UNDP Youth Leadership Programme	
What does it do?	YLP is an annual programme by UNDP that aims to bring youth from the Arab region together to develop their solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In workshops and during the regional conference youth learn leadership skills, how to pitch and develop their ideas, about the SDGs, innovative tools such as design thinking, how to mainstream gender into the youth projects, and much more.	
Who is it for?	Young people aged 19-29 who: - Have an innovative idea, prototype or early project - Are highly motivated and interested in social work and social change - Reside in a participating Arab country	
How do I use it?	Applications should be submitted directly to UNDP Country Offices.	
How do I access it?	https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/youth-leadership-programme0.html	
What else should I know?	Past YLP participants have gone on to launch enterprises, implement their projects jointly with governments, and become elected politicians. Many have also represented YLP and their countries as part of the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum at UN headquarters in New York.	

Accelerate2030	
What does it do?	Initiated by UNDP and Impact Hub Geneva, Accelerate2030 is a nine-month acceleration programme for up to 10 high-potential ventures enabling projects to become more investment-ready, and to measure impact in order to scale internationally. It is not a standard programme of workshops and courses. Rather, Accelerate2030 builds a program based on the ventures' specific needs. Furthermore, it provides access to the Impact Hub global network of 100+ collaborative spaces with over 16,000 social innovators that will support you globally.

Who is it for?	Young changemakers innovating around the Sustainable Development Goals
How do I use it?	 Create a profile and apply Look out for the 2020 application round on the website (link below)
How do I access it?	http://www.accelerate2030.net/
What else should I know?	Find the program timeline and more information here . Accelerate 2030 is linked to the SDG Finance Geneva Summit , as is Growth Stage Impact Ventures for SDGs (see below).

Growth Stage	Growth Stage Impact Ventures for SDGs	
What does it do?	Organized by UNDP, EPFL Tech4Impact, Orange, and SAP, this process focuses on mature impact ventures in emerging countries with a catalytic potential that can drive both large impact and yield.	
Who is it for?	See the website for a full list of selection criteria.	
How do I use it?	Third parties (accelerators, impact funds, family offices, international organizations, etc.) can each nominate up to 3 entrepreneurs meeting the eligibility criteria. The selected entrepreneurs will receive exposure before and during the SDG Finance Geneva Summit (SGS Geneva), and will have access to a wide network of decision-makers interested to learn more about their innovation and scale up their company. Participants' travel costs will be covered (flight and per diem), they will be given access to a prepping program, and they will benefit from a package of services provided by the SGS Geneva partners. The most innovative solution presented at the event will be awarded the	
	Jason Spindler Tech4Dev Prize of USD 5000.	
How do I access it?	https://www.europe.undp.org/content/geneva/en/home/social-good- summit/Growt-Stage-Impact-Ventures-for-SDGs.html	
What else should I know?	Only products and services reducing inequality through solutions that empower people in developing countries are considered.	

PeaceTech Accelerator	
What does it do?	The PeaceTech Accelerator provides the mentorship and training needed to scale both for- and not-for-profit peacetech initiatives rapidly, securely, and cost-effectively. The Accelerator is supported by C5 Capital Limited, Amazon Web Services (AWS), and PeaceTech Lab. Participating peacetech startups will have the chance to pitch to potential investors and receive up to \$50K in AWS credit.



Who is it for?	Innovators and entrepreneurs working on new technologies designed to promote and scale peacetech. Priority is given to the tools that help individuals and communities on the frontlines of conflict save lives or contain violence before it spreads. Product/service solutions must be able to scale on the cloud.
How do I use it?	Create a profileApplications are open on a rolling basis.
How do I access it?	http://www.peacetechlab.org/peacetech-accelerator/

FinTech Hive a	FinTech Hive at the Dubai International Financial Centre	
What does it do?	The FinTech Hive at the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) has been developed to help refine and test early stage business and innovation ideas with the support of the world's leading financial firms. The 12-week accelerator programme targets tech-focused entrepreneurs, start-ups, and SMEs to analyse the opportunities within the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) regions' financial sector, cultivating creative FinTech solutions for regional and international leading financial institutions.	
Who is it for?	Tech-focused entrepreneurs with a minimum alpha or beta product that is ready for demonstration. Participants must be able to commit to being based in Dubai throughout the 12-week programme.	
How do I use it?	Look out for the next application period using the below link	
How do I access it?	https://fintechhive.difc.ae/	
What else should I know?	The program includes mentoring, work space, workshops and training programs, as well as insider intel. The accelerator program is based in Dubai and any expenses associated with participating must be self-funded.	

Womena/Womentum	
What does it	Womena is a platform dedicated to encouraging gender diversity and
do?	inclusion in the regional entrepreneurship ecosystem. Its 4-month
	accelerator called Womentum is the first female-focused program in the
	Middle East and North Africa, bringing participants together in two major
	global start-up hubs: Berlin and Dubai.
Who is it for?	Early stage start-ups that:
	- Have a gender-diverse team with at least one female co-founder
	- Are developing an innovative and scalable tech product
	- Have proof of concept and an existing prototype
	- Are based in or operating in the MENA market
	- Have 6 months to 2 years of operations
	- Are willing to be featured on media and appear on camera throughout
	the program
How do I use it?	- Fill out the application form
	- Applications open until 7 June 2020 for this year's cohort.



	- Create an elevator pitch via video (30 – 60 seconds) where you pitch your team and your start-up as MENA's next unicorn. Upload it to any social media/content platform and send the link
How do I access it?	https://womena.com/womentum/

Google for Startups Accelerators focused on the SDGs	
What does it do?	Part of <u>Google for Startups</u> , the SDGs Accelerator provides access to training, products and technical support for social impact technology start-ups. Start-up founders work with Google engineers and receive mentoring from over 20 teams at Google, as well as outside experts and local mentors.
	Start-ups are selected based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.
	There are also regional Accelerators that cover some countries in the region, e.g., Africa Accelerator includes Morocco and Tunisia.
Who is it for?	Social impact technology start-ups working to create a healthier and more sustainable future.
How do I use it?	Apply for Accelerator programme (the current round of Accelerator: SDGs and Accelerator: Africa applications have closed)
How do I access it?	https://blog.google/around-the-globe/google-europe/supporting-social-impact-startups/

ImpactAim Venture Accelerator	
What does it do?	Developed by UNDP Armenia, ImpactAim is an independent platform that aims to develop different, field-based acceleration programs of 3-6 months, to support early stage and established start-ups that address identified gaps in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). So far programs have targeted climate tech, govtech (focused on public service delivery), agritech ventures, and tech skills for women and children.
Who is it for?	The calls for application to the accelerator programs are global. Selection criteria are outlined on the application page.
How do I use it?	Application rounds are published <u>here</u> . The current window focuses on climate tech, with a deadline of 15 July 2020.
How do I access it?	https://impactaim.com



4. MENTORSHIP

"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."

- Steven Spielberg



Mowgli Mentor	
What does it do?	Mowgli catalyses the development of successful and sustainable entrepreneurship by providing mentoring programs that inspire, connect and guide entrepreneurs. Mowgli's mentorship platform helps changemakers overcome challenges and achieve their potential with support from its trained mentors. These mentors build both long-term relationships and a global community with access to networking, learning and growth opportunities.
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs who are able to commit to owning and driving the mentoring relationship for one year, including a minimum of 2 hours per month plus the initial 2-day Kickstart workshop.
How do I use it?	Sign up on the websiteFind a mentor through Mowgli's matching process
How do I access it?	http://www.mowgli.org.uk/about/our-story/
What else should I know?	Mowgli currently has trained mentors in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

TechWadi Mentorship Roadshow	
What does it do?	TechWadi works with leading regional and international organizations to empower high impact entrepreneurs and help build a sustainable infrastructure in which entrepreneurship can thrive in the MENA region. The TechWadi Mentorship Roadshow provides mentorship opportunities,

	cutting-edge trainings, and workshops for young entrepreneurs throughout the MENA region.
Who is it for?	Technology entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	Sign up onlineSelect the membership level that's right for you
How do I access it?	https://techwadi.org/about-us/
What else should I know?	The program has strong connections to the Silicon Valley business community and leads the Sprint Acceleration Programme. The platform is structured as a series of webinars. Membership fees are tiered and provide access to different resources.

INJAZ Al-Arab	INJAZ Al-Arab Network	
What does it do?	INJAZ is a non-profit organization dedicated to overcoming unemployment in the region. Working under three main pillars – workforce readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship – INJAZ strives to bridge the gap between education and the requirements of the labour market through hands-on training and mentoring programmes delivered by volunteer business leaders and entrepreneurs. Operating in 13 countries, the aim is to reach one million students annually across the region by 2022.	
Who is it for?	Youth, especially young entrepreneurs, in the MENA region	
How do I use it?	 For high school and university students, participate in INJAZ's Company Program at the national level, which is designed to provide participants with the necessary tools to turn business ideas into successful startups. Winners of the annual Youth Entrepreneurship Competition (YEC) at the national level participate in the Regional Youth Entrepreneurship Celebration. Join INJAZ's network of 88,000 committed classroom volunteers to help to spread entrepreneurship skills 	
How do I access it?	Explore the INJAZ regional website and find the details of your national INJAZ organisation: https://www.injazalarab.org/	
What else should I know?	INJAZ has hundreds of private sector partners that are supporting training delivery, including Mastercard, Maharat min Google, Microsoft, Citi Foundation, McKinsey, Deloitte, Oliver Wyman, H+K Strategies, ExxonMobil, Alghanim, Boeing, MetLife, Investcorp, HSBC, Ooredoo, MBC Group, Schneider Electric, FedEx, SABIC, SAP, BNY Mellon, PepsiCo Foundation and many more.	





5. Training

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

Pele

"EVERYONE YOU WILL EVER MEET KNOWS SOMETHING YOU DON'T."

-BILL NYE-

Edraak	
What does it do?	Edraak is the first non-profit Arabic massive open online course (MOOC) platform. The platform is an initiative of the Queen Rania Foundation (QRF) and works to ensure that the Arab world is at the forefront of educational innovation. Edraak broadcasts the best Arab professors to the region, offering original Arabic courses to further enrich Arab education.
Who is it for?	Changemakers, students and social entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Register and log in Enroll in a course Attend a course Obtain a certificate Share with your network
How do I access it?	https://www.edraak.org/
What else should I know?	Through its partnership with EdX, the platform also gives Arab learners access in Arabic to courses taught and developed at top-tier institutions like HarvardX, MITX, and UC BerkeleyX. All courses are available at no cost.

EdX	
What does it do?	EdX aims to increase global access to quality education, connecting learners to the best universities and institutions from around the world. EdX has a particularly strong offering in the areas of Computer Science, Engineering, Business & Management, and Data Analysis & Statistics.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs, digital entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Create an EdX account Enroll in the courses that interest you Learn at your own pace



How do I access it?	https://www.edx.org/course/
What else should I know?	New courses are added constantly. Learning pace can be self-determined or led by a tutor. The cost of access ranges from \$0 - \$600, depending on the course.

Entrepreneurship Campus	
What does it do?	The online training consists of two courses. The Brains versus Capital course is based on the bestselling book of the same name by Prof. Günter Faltin and supports entrepreneurs (in the making) to further develop their ideas and projects. The Sustainable Entrepreneurship course focuses on the topic of sustainability and shows how entrepreneurs establish and run sustainable companies.
Who is it for?	Social entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	Select the course you'd like to takeLearn at your own pace and free of charge
How do I access it?	https://www.entrepreneurship-campus.org/groups/entrepreneurship-campus/courses/
What else should I know?	Entrepreneurship Campus also runs the Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition, seeking innovative ideas and projects that champion the SDGs. Those aged 13-29 should submit to the Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship category, while there is a separate Adult Citizen Entrepreneurship category for those above 30.

Coursera	
What does it do?	Coursera provides universal access to the world's best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses online. Some suggested courses include: - Becoming a Changemaker: Introduction to Social Innovation - Social Entrepreneurship Specialization - Innovation Management - Innovation & Entrepreneurship - From Basics to Open Innovation - Innovation & Entrepreneurship - From Design Thinking to Funding
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs, digital entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	 Create a Coursera account Enroll in the courses that interest you Follow the course schedule or learn at your own pace
How do I access it?	https://www.coursera.org/



What else should I know?	New courses are added constantly. Access to course work is free, but the price of a verified certificate of completion for most courses is USD 49. Financial aid is available
-----------------------------	---

IdeoU	
What does it do?	IdeoU is an online school that cultivates creative problem solving through a range of tutorials and multi-week long courses on topics related to design thinking and innovation. IdeoU's website also offers a range of blogs and tools helpful for innovation and social entrepreneurship.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs, creatives
How do I use it?	 Create an account Enroll in the courses that interest you Learn at your own pace
How do I access it?	https://www.ideou.com/ - Insights for Innovation (\$399) - From Ideas to Action (\$399)
What else should I know?	IdeoU also has a regular blog series with links to additional free training resources, such as: - Design Thinking - How to Prototype a New Business - Discovery-Driven Planning - Digital Prototyping Tools like Invision, Principle, Proto.io, and Framer

+Acumen	+Acumen	
What does it do?	+Acumen offers world-class online courses that empower people to think differently learn collaboratively and join a global community of learners and doers with a burning desire to change the world. +Acumen offers free and low-cost courses aimed at all levels of social changemakers as well as the +Acumen Journal that features practical insights from a diversity of experts to further drive social change. Students and volunteers can connect and take action by getting involved in the +Acumen Community.	
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs	
How do I use it?	 Browse courses Enroll in the courses that interest you Learn at your own pace 	
How do I access it?	http://www.plusacumen.org/courses/	



There are many ways to get involved in the +Acumen community beyond just taking courses. This could include applying to become a Catalyst, joining
+Acumen Corps, or creating your own Chapter.

HP LIFE Training	
What does it do?	HP Life e-Learning is a free, peer-reviewed online training program to develop business and IT skills. 23 course topics cover core business competencies in the areas of finance, marketing, operations, communication, and other special topics such as leadership, social entrepreneurship, and energy efficiency.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	Sign up for an accountEnroll in coursesLearn at your own pace
How do I access it?	http://www.life-global.org/
What else should I know?	Each course requires approximately 30 minutes to complete. Courses are available in English, Arabic, and French and free of charge.

LinkedIn Learning	
What does it do?	LinkedIn Learning is an online educational platform that helps you discover and develop business, technology-related, and creative skills through expert-led course videos. With more than 5,000 courses and personalized recommendations, you can discover, complete, and track courses related to your field and interests. You can also choose to add these courses and related skills to your LinkedIn profile once you've completed them.
Who is it for?	Everybody, but particularly aims to provide talent development solutions to organizations
How do I use it?	 Create an account Enroll in the courses that interest you Learn at your own pace
How do I access it?	https://www.linkedin.com/learning
What else should I know?	Following a 1-month free trial, subscriptions are available monthly or annually.

One Million A	One Million Arab Coders	
What does it do?	One Million Arab Coders is a free program for individuals interested in developing their digital skills. The goal of the initiative is youth empowerment, giving one million young Arabs the essential skills for the technological labor market. The platform offers tracks by Udacity and courses by Microsoft. The courses include Java script, data analysis, introduction to AI, web development, and introduction to design thinking. Furthermore, there are rewards for the top students, including internships, job opportunities, and startup programs as well as nanodegree scholarships.	
Who is it for?	The program targets the Arab youth specifically, but anyone can register for an account.	
How do I use it?	 Sign up for an account Link your account with Udacity or Microsoft by choosing either of them. Create a new account/sign in to your Udacity or Microsoft account. Choose the track you want from your Million Arab Coders account. Start learning 	
How do I access it?	http://www.arabcoders.ae/	
What else should I know?	To receive a Certificate of Completion, you must successfully complete Milestone 2 of your track within 6 months of enrollment; however, the content itself needs no longer than 3 months to complete.	

Udacity	Udacity	
What does it do?	The platform is where lifelong learners come to learn the skills they need, to land the jobs they want, to build the lives they deserve. Its mission is to democratize education through the offering of world-class higher education opportunities that are accessible, flexible, and economical. Udacity offers "nano degrees" in data science, AI, programming, autonomous systems, and cloud computing.	
Who is it for?	Those looking to empower themselves with knowledge of the technology industry.	
How do I use it?	 Sign up with Facebook, Google+, or your email Select a nanodegree Start learning 	
How do I access it?	https://www.udacity.com/	
What else should I know?	Udacity and Microsoft partnered with the Mohammed bin Rashid Foundation to create the One Million Arab Coders Initiative (see above). Anyone with a Udacity account may participate in the program.	

Future Learn	
What does it do?	Offers a diverse selection of courses from leading universities and cultural institutions from around the world. Courses are accessible on mobile, tablet and desktop, in categories including entrepreneurship, innovation, and big data.
Who is it for?	The courses are tailored to the needs of the learner and are accessible to all.
How do I use it?	 Register using Facebook or with your email Browse course list Select a course Start learning
How do I access it?	https://www.futurelearn.com/
What else should I know?	Users can choose to learn with the free, upgrade, or unlimited packages, the latter costing \$239 per year. Learn more here .

Cognitive Clas	Cognitive Class	
What does it do?	The platform's goal is to address the skills shortage in emerging technologies such as data science, AI, big data, cloud computing and blockchain. Therefore, it offers learning paths in those technologies for free.	
Who is it for?	Those looking to learn more about emerging technologies.	
How do I use it?	 Sign up with Facebook, google+, IBMid, Linkedin, or your email Choose a learning path Select a course and start learning 	
How do I access it?	https://cognitiveclass.ai/	
What else should I know?	In addition to courses offered via online videos, a <u>virtual lab environment</u> is available that enables users to <i>practice</i> what they learn.	

Iversity	
What does it do?	The learning platform offers courses in a variety of topics ranging from philosophy to the STEM fields, in seven languages. There are three course types: MOOCs, PROcourses, and Espresso. The platform has both free and paid courses.
Who is it for?	Anyone looking to learn or deepen their skills in a variety of topics.



How do I use it?	 Sign up with your email, Facebook, or Google+ Select a course Start learning
How do I access it?	https://iversity.org/en
What else should I know?	Iversity offers a <u>platform</u> that specializes in teaching your business, or organization, the skills needed to thrive in the fast paced digital age.

More learning platforms	
What do they do?	The platforms listed here offer online courses, both free and paid, in various areas including business management, finance, and technology.
Who are they for?	Arabic speakers
How do I use them?	Simply register and start learning!
How do I access them?	Al Mentor Rwaq Doroob Nadrus Dawrat



6. Technical Support

DO WHAT IS RIGHT, NOT WHAT IS EASY

From another point of view.

UNDP Resource	ces for Innovation
What does it do?	The UNDP Resources for Innovation are a set of resources that can be used to understand the role of innovation in catalysing social change. The resource set includes guides and toolkits, publications and reports, blogs, and videos. Among the resources, be sure to check out: - The UNDP Design Thinking Guide for Prototyping and Testing Solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals: (available in English, French, and Arabic) This guide by the UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States walks through the process of prototyping, testing, and implementing solutions and includes additional tools and resources to help you take action. - UNDP Iraq has developed a Design Thinking Training Manual in English and Arabic. The manual provides tools on innovation, design thinking and entrepreneurship that are useful and relevant for young entrepreneurs in all countries. - The UNDP Field Guide to Exploring Innovation: An overview with tips and examples of four of the innovation approaches that UNDP uses with national partners around the world. - Social Innovation Camps — A Toolkit for Troublemakers: A toolkit distilling UNDP's experience with Social Innovation Camps into a "how-to" manual. - The UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States maintains the Inno4ArabStates Repository, with UNDP innovation practices from across the region. It can be searched by methodology (e.g. crowdfunding, innovation camps) and may be a source of inspiration.
Who is it for?	Social innovators, entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, development practitioners
How do I use it?	Download, read, or watch the relevant resources.
What else should I know?	Additional UN(DP) Innovation resources: - UNDP Innovation on YouTube - The UN SDG Acceleration Toolkit - Colour of Innovation podcast - UN Innovation Network

NESTA Development Impact & You (DIY) Toolkit	
What does it do?	NESTA's DIY Toolkit provides practical tools to support social innovation. Included resources present techniques for every project stage, from generating ideas and crowdfunding, to implementing and sustaining entrepreneurial projects.
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs, development workers
How do I use it?	 Download the full guide or the template or tool that interests you Follow the instructions in the guide for use
How do I access it?	http://diytoolkit.org/ (English) or http://ae.diytoolkit.org/ (Arabic) or http://fr.diytoolkit.org/ (French)
What else should I know?	The NESTA <u>website</u> offers a range of other resources and guides on innovation. One of the latest additions is the <u>Collective Intelligence</u> <u>Playbook</u> , which will introduce you to activities you can use to orchestrate diverse groups of people, data and technology to achieve your goals.

Strategyzer	
What does it do?	Strategyzer brings together online courses, workshops, tools, and templates for entrepreneurs to better design, test, and assess business ideas. Strategyzer's most well-known resource is The Business Model Canvas.
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs, Innovators
How do I use it?	Create an accountDownload resources in Arabic
How do I access it?	https://strategyzer.com/
What else should I know?	Certain functions require payment for access. A similar set of resources are available in Arabic here . Similar business model canvas frameworks can be found here .

Lean Service Creation Toolkit	
What does it do?	Lean Service Creation is the only open-source design process and toolkit. It provides a full range of innovative templates that help you work your way through the ideation, design, and implementation of a project. The creators encourage you to take it, use it, break it, make it yours and make it better. Lean Service Creation is made of best practices from hundreds of projects blending service design, user-centric approach, lean business thinking, agile development, and start up mentality
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs

How do I use it?	 Browse the toolkit and resources Download the guide, template, or tool that interests you Follow the instructions in the guide for use Share feedback with the creators and community
How do I access it?	https://www.leanservicecreation.com/
What else should I know?	Learn more about Lean Service Creation through their Vimeo site.

Microsoft's Inclusive Design	
What does it do?	Microsoft Design's Inclusive Design tools aim to empower every person on the planet to achieve more. Its resources guide changemakers through the process of designing for inclusivity, which opens up experiences to all and showcases the human ability to adapt to a changing world. Resources include an Inclusive Design Manual, activities that can be integrated into the design process to ensure inclusivity, and videos that help prioritize humans throughout the design process.
Who is it for?	Social innovators and entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	- Browse the online resources - Download resources
How do I access it?	https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/design/inclusive

The Impact Tracker Technology (ITT)	
What does it do?	The purpose of this catalogue is to help organizations navigate the seemingly complex world of digital tech. There are so many affordable and useful apps, platforms, sensors, tools, etc. out there that non-profits and social enterprises should be using to make their work more efficient and impactful. But the reality is that these tools aren't being maximized - and the catalogue aims to bridge this gap.
Who is it for?	Social entrepreneurs, non-profits
How do I use it?	Access tools online in categories such as: - Digital data collection - Mobile communication technology platforms - Geospatial mapping tools - Remote sensors - Data analysis and visualization tools
How do I access it?	http://impacttrackertech.kopernik.info/



Design Kit	
What does it do?	Design Kit is IDEO.org's platform to learn human-centred design. It features mindsets, methods, and case studies to help you in the design process. A highlight among the resources provided by Design Kit is the <u>Field Guide to Human-Centered Design</u> , a step-by-step guide to solving problems like a designer.
Who is it for?	Anybody looking to learn about or apply human-centred design.
How do I use it?	You will need to create an account in order to access the resources.
How do I access it?	https://www.designkit.org/
What else should I know?	Design Kit also offers free training courses on +Acumen, such as this introductory course on human-centred design.

Board of Innovation	
What does it do?	Board of Innovation is a business design and innovation strategy firm. It provides hands-on, easy-to-use, and actionable <u>innovation tools</u> , free of charge! You can also browse their <u>guides and templates</u> .
Who is it for?	Entrepreneurs
How do I use it?	Fill in your contact details to download the free resources.
How do I access it?	https://www.boardofinnovation.com
What else should I know?	See the Board of Innovation's <u>staff picks</u> if you're not sure where to start.

YOU SAY
I OREAM
TOO BIT
I SAY
YOU THINK
TOO SMALL

