

April 8, 2014

Steering Committee
MENA Transition Fund

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Re: Endorsement of Yemen's proposal – The Education For Employment (e4e) Project for Yemen – Presented to the Transition Fund

Dear Sirs,

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) endorses the Yemen activities of the Education For Employment (e4e) Project for Yemen presented by the Government of Yemen to the Middle East and North Africa transition fund Steering Committee and to act as an Implementation Support Agency (ISA) for the implementation of the project.

Unemployment and under-employment are serious issues in Yemen and the public sector in Yemen cannot absorb the large, and rising, number of youth reaching employable age,. There is a clear need to improve economic policies, the investment climate, including security issues to accelerate investment and job creation by the private sector in Yemen. This work is being done by the Government of Yemen and a large number of supporting institutions, including the IFC and the ISDB through other programs and projects. However, even with increased investment and rising job creation, Yemen will still face the problem of a significant mismatch between the skills needed by the private (whether in Yemen or in the wider regional economy) and what is being taught to students and trainees today and this is the focus of our joint project. By improving the content of what is taught to students and trainees to ensure that it reflects the private sectors needs we hope to give them the skills that they will need to be employable whether in Yemen or elsewhere in the region thus helping them to find employment and increase family income.

We have substantial evidence that the local private sector struggles to find people with the appropriate skills for available positions. It is also clear that there are opportunities in the gulf region for employment if applicants have the needed skills, this could be a very important short term safety valve for the Yemeni economy by providing increased income and remittances from workers abroad. Through this project we expect to help identify sectors with significant employment opportunities and then help implement a pilot to adopt a new, industry driven, qualifications framework that will assure the employability of graduates. In this way we can help test a new model of private sector lead curricula development that can lead to a significant shift to market based skill development in Yemen.

On this basis, IFC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) developed a project aiming at supporting Government of Yemen (GoY) through a targeted long term intervention focusing on

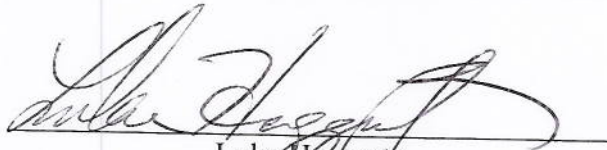
supporting the GoY efforts to improve the quality of the TVET to strengthen youth employability.

The project has been prepared following normal policies and procedures. Project preparation has been finalized and cleared by management, as per attached Project documents and relevant Annexes.

We thank the Steering Committee for its consideration of this project, and look forward to the opportunity to support Yemen in implementing the project in the benefit of the people of Yemen.

Best regards,

Very truly yours,
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION



Luke Haggarty
Senior Manager, IFC Advisory Services in MENA

Attachments:

- A completed application form and a results framework outlining concrete outputs and outcomes
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Copy to:

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