

Egypt-US Startup Connection

Building Bridges of Innovation Through Youth Entrepreneurship

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The Challenge

Youth unemployment is a major challenge facing Egypt and the US, and it is highest among recent college graduates. Now more than ever before, people have access to postsecondary education; however, if economic situations limit the ability for communities to fully utilize their most educated members, talent will become stunted. This challenge represents a unique economic growth opportunity: to engage university youth in entrepreneurship workshops that enable them to use their talents to create ventures.



Project Overview

The Egypt-US Startup Connection is a startup diplomacy initiative for eighty American and Egyptian students to receive intense entrepreneurial training, so they can start ventures that address problems in their communities. This initiative will build the next generation of Egyptian and American entrepreneurs into innovation bridges between the East and the West by facilitating virtual and in-person dialogue among participants. Within ten months, two-hundred Egyptian and American university students will participate in the initiative and develop cooperative, collective solutions to their region's most pressing issues.

The Goal

- Cultivate the entrepreneurial mindset, specifically risk taking and innovative thinking
- Develop cross-disciplinary teamwork skills
- Engage participants with local talent pipelines that align with their skills and interests
- Increase the mutual understanding among Egyptians and Americans through building constructive ventures that address problems in their communities

Population Served

Cairo University and University of Texas at Austin full-time students

Project Milestones

Phase 1:

(Leadership Development): Select Cairo University and the University of Texas at Austin students, begin a three-month leadership training program.

Phase 2:

(Recruitment): Leadership training program participants engage two-hundred students from diverse backgrounds through an educational application process.

Phase 3:

(Venture Creation and East-West Dialogue): Eighty students participate in 3 Day Startup's rapid-format, immersive venture creation workshop and corresponding virtual seminars; an American 3DS facilitator will lead the program at Cairo University and train an Egyptian 3DS facilitator who will lead the same program at the University of Texas at Austin.

Phase 4:

(Measure Impact): In partnership with the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, the action project team will submit a final impact evaluation to the Shafik Gabr Foundation.

Expected Outcomes

- 10-14 early stage ventures developed
- Positive change in the entrepreneurial mindset of participants
- Participant mutual understanding of the people of Egypt and the US

Furthering the Foundation's Mission

The Egypt-US Startup Connection furthers the foundation's mission by engaging youth in Egypt and the US in entrepreneurship training workshops. These workshops will spark action-oriented dialogue about how to develop cooperative, collective solutions to their region's most pressing issues.

For further information, please go to our website at egyptstartups.3daystartup.org.