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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Conference "*Literacy challenges in the Arab Region:*"
Building partnerships and promoting innovative approaches,
Doha, Qatar, 12-14 March 2007

"Literacy and Vocational Training"

Programme name: Literacy and Vocational Training**Implemented by: Qatari-Mauritanian Institution for Social Development, Mauritania****Basic Facts**

Country: Mauritania

Starting year: 2006

Outreach: approximately 3,500 per year

Target Population: Poor and illiterate populations of South and South-East Mauritania

Language of instruction: Arabic

Operating in: 180 towns and villages located in the most remote areas

Main Funding: Qatar Foundation

Website:

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Brief Description

Inaugurated by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Misned, the Consort of the Emir of the State of Qatar and UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, the Qatari-Mauritanian Institute was established in order to provide an infrastructure to efficiently combat illiteracy and reduce poverty in the poorest regions of Mauritania.

Rationale

In certain regions of Mauritania, the poverty rate of a population may exceed 70%. Often, it is within these poorer areas that illiteracy levels are at their highest, making it necessary to implement targeted programmes that can have rapid and efficient results.

Objective

The programme aims, through literacy, at combating poverty and providing the most deprived populations with technical and vocational training. At a later stage, the learners have access to micro-credit loans in order to help them finance income-generating activities.

Conceptual Model and Methodology

A first component of the programme aims at developing the reading and writing skills of the beneficiaries through basic learning, which is then followed by vocational training. The second component which strives to answer the economic needs of the learners is a micro-credit scheme. Small loans are offered to the beneficiaries in order to help them start their own business.

The reading materials used follow both the adult learning curriculum of Mauritania as well as materials which have been specifically developed in order to meet the needs of the beneficiaries.

The programme operates in the most remote towns and villages of Mauritania through 180 literacy classes.

Innovative features

The main innovative feature of the programme is its ability to reach the most remote villages of Mauritania and provide them with literacy skills, technical and vocational training, and eventually, micro credit loans.