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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
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"Douars Integrated Development (DID)"

Programme name: Douars (villages) Integrated Development (DID)
Implemented by: Zakoura Education Foundation, Morocco

Basic Facts

Country: Morocco

Starting year: 2001

Outreach: approximately 1000 women, children and youth per year

Target Population: children aged 8-16 years (drop-outs or children who have never attended school), women and young girls (16 and above), youth (16-25 years)

Language of instruction: Darija and Moroccan (dialects) and standard Arabic

Operating in: 12 sites in the provinces of Larache and Tetouan

Main Funding: Fondation CODESPA

Website www.zakoura-education.org

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Brief Description

The Douars Integrated Development (DID) is the most comprehensive programme of the Zakoura Education Foundation. Targeting rural populations living in isolated areas where human development indices are low, it offers a holistic solution for countering the obstacles to development and is based on a participatory approach.

Rationale

DID is a response to the lack of well-adapted adult literacy programmes. Indeed, existing literacy programmes fail to sustain the engagement of the learners, who feel that the basic skills (reading, writing, numeracy) are too abstract and tedious to acquire and that the courses are not adapted to the constraints of their everyday lives.

Moreover, adult learners are reticent to join a learning programme due to social and cultural pressure. At the same time, their environment is not conducive to enhancing their personal, intellectual and economic development.

Objective

The long-term objective of the programme is to increase the autonomy of the community by providing its members with the means to lead their own development through educational, professional and economic programmes which correspond to their needs.

The DID also aims at meeting the needs of the community for economic self-sufficiency. To this end, a micro-credit scheme is available for adults who have skills, but lack the access to loans from banks or other traditional finance channels. This component of the programme is run by Zakoura Microcredit Foundation, a financially independent sister organization.

Conceptual Model and Methodology

Running over 39 months, the DID programme strives to raise the educational levels of the different population categories of the *douar* (village) through (i) non-formal education for children aged 8-16, who have dropped out of or have never attended school; (ii) adult literacy classes; (iii) awareness-raising on issues of health and hygiene for the women and young girls and (iv) vocational workshops for youth (above 16).

Over time, the Zakoura Foundation has succeeded in designing its own curriculum drawing from the experiences of the beneficiaries and from the advances in research made in the area of literacy, but which was initially based on the contents of the official textbooks published by the State Secretariat for literacy and non-formal education.

The learning materials are designed to take into account the specificities of adult learners and are supported by tools for evaluating and monitoring the progress of the beneficiaries.

Innovative features

The DID programme strives to answer to the needs of the learners at every level and in a sustainable manner. This has been achieved by creating a learning space within the community, where every member of the *douar* may have access to and participate freely in the educational and economic activities.