Towards a National Strategy on Economical and Financial Education in Lebanon
Outline

1. Who we are
2. Our Core Business
3. Economical and Financial Awareness Portfolio
4. MENA Context
5. Lebanon in a Glimpse
6. Towards Building a National Strategy
7. Lessons Learned
Who we are: L’Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan

An Autonomous Public Agency reporting to the Minister of Finance

1. Knowledge and skills building: Ministry of Finance (Finance, Customs, cadastre) and other administrations

2. Information dissemination, awareness and education of citizens on Economical and Financial issues.

3. Institutional cooperation and networking with ministries of finance in MENA as well as local, regional, and international institutions involved in Eco-Fin issues.

4. Center of excellence in Eco-Fin in MENA (Regional training center for WCO, WBI, ADETEF, etc.)

A total of 33,600 trainees participated in IoF trainings over its 14 years of service

Our goal: Initiate, support and reinforce Human Capital Formation in the public sector in Lebanon and contribute to Economical and Financial education of citizens
Our Core business:
L’Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan

- **Rallying stakeholders around the reform vision**: Internal communication (newsletter, seminars, meetings, etc.)
- **Access to information**: pamphlets, Citizen's Guides, Library of Finance Activities, etc.
- **Communities of knowledge**: Youth programs, Consultative committees with private sector, Financial Literacy, etc.

- **Capacity building by improving performance & upgrading skills**: Training courses in IT, Languages, management skills, ethics
- **Sharing knowledge & best practices in financial governance**: Specialized Technical Programs (fiscal, budgeting, customs)
- **Training Engineering and adult learning**: as part of a long term strategy for building a learning environment in the public sector
- **Reinforcing application of the rule of law**: Training courses on specific laws (counterfeit, anti-smuggling, drugs detection, frauds, etc..)

- **Advisory role on placement of new staff**
- **Leadership development**: identification, performance tracking, tailored competencies development plans
- **Upgrading Human resources in the Public sector**: Targeting youth & competencies, Organization of internal placement procedures, Modernization of recruitment & Manpower planning, Link b/w recruitment and placement
Government Programmes - Lebanon: Financial education and literacy, The Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance (IoF)

This page (to be updated) provides a description of the The Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance (IoF) role and mandate in relations with financial education and literacy.

1. The Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance (IoF) is the training and communication agency of the Lebanese Ministry of Finance (More about IoF: [English] [français]; Annual Report 2009 – DOC3; [français]).

2. The Institute launched, starting 2001, several initiatives aimed at improving economic and financial literacy especially among youth:
   - 2010 – 2012: Promoting Financial And Economic Education Among Youth (DOC5; DOC6)
   - 2010 : Memorandum of Understanding between the Lebanese Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to Promote Economic and Financial Education at school (DOC7)
   - 2009-2010 : Capacity-Building For Public School Teachers In Economics And Public Finance (DOC8; DOC9; DOC10)
   A number of these publications aim at educating citizens especially young entrants to the labor market to their rights and obligations, and empowering them by providing
MENA Context

- **An increase in Life Expectancy**
  Ranging from 63 years in Yemen, to 79 years in Jordan; Lebanon 73 years and retirement age 65.

- **Literacy rates are still low in some countries**
  Population 50% Yemen, 52% Morocco, 70% Algeria, 71% Egypt; vs 89.9% Jordan, 87.4% Lebanon
  Men 65% Morocco, 70% Yemen, 76% UAE; vs 95% Jordan, 93.1% Lebanon
  Women 30% Yemen, 39% Morocco, 59% Egypt, 60% Algeria; vs 85% Jordan, 82.2% Lebanon

- **Low female participation in Labor Force**
  10-47% with some outliers
  Lebanon 35.72%

MENA Context (2)

- **Large informal sectors**
  Egypt 70%, Tunis 38%, Morocco 36%, UAE 26%, Saudi Arabia and Jordan 19%, Lebanon 34%

- **Large Rural Population**
  Middle East 57.1%, North Africa 48%, Lebanon 12.8%

- **Importance of Micro and SMEs in some countries**
  Large share in overall firm structure:
  example Lebanon 80%

Source: Microfinance in the Arab States, United Nations Capital Development Fund, 2004
MENA Context (3)

● Underdeveloped Pension Markets
  Pension reforms: not yet implemented but a must in the coming 2 decades
demography: large young population

● Underdeveloped Capital Markets
  Unbalanced capital markets: dominance of banking sector

Lebanon in a Glimpse

Main Contextual Elements

- Increase in Life Expectancy: 73 years; retirement age 65
- High Literacy but low Economical and Financial Literacy
- Low female participation in Labor Force: 35.72%
- Large informal sectors: 34%
- Importance of Micro and SMEs: 80% firm structures
- Underdeveloped Pension Markets
- Underdeveloped Capital Markets

Identified Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Finance
- Banque du Liban
- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Banks
- National Social Security Fund
- Pension Systems (employees, military, teachers…)
- Universities
- Civil Societies and non-governmental organizations
Toward Building a National Strategy

National Strategy

National Capacity-Building Programs

Communication and Awareness Tools, Educational Games

Pension Awareness

FALL - WINTER 2010 / SPRING - SUMMER 2011

National Survey → Expert Group Meetings → National Conference → Discussion in Parliament

Continuous training programs targeting Teachers and Students in Public schools all over Lebanon

Specialized trainings on Macroeconomics - Jeu de L’île
Capacity-building for public school teachers
National Awareness sessions/workshops Econ-Fin

Youth encounters → Comic books & Activity booklets → Gateway

Citizen Guides - Information Disemination - Accompanying Reform Program

In Partnership with

NGOs
Lessons Learned

INFE platform has been a key in developing the conceptual framework of our current work.

Experiences of other countries have been instrumental (international best practices and success stories): UK, Spain, Czech Republic

Beyond Economical and financial literacy, this portfolio has a Developmental and Governance dimension especially relevant in fragile states and conflict prone context.

- promoting better understanding by the public of challenges of economic competitiveness and global integration
- building participation and forging a mutually beneficial private-public partnership that would lead to economic growth and sustainable human development.
- creating better understanding and adherence to often painful reforms (pension reforms, capital market reforms, tax reforms, etc), and key in social risk mitigation.
- key to efficient participation of citizens to public life and consolidation of democratic institutions.