



International Labour Organization  
Regional Office for Arab States

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## **Making microfinance work in Arab states**

*Arab microfinance managers hone skills to promote decent work*

Beirut (ILO News) – Microfinance managers from Iraq, Syria and Lebanon will gather in Beirut, Lebanon from January 17-28, 2011 for a ten-day workshop to improve their technical knowledge and management skills in using financial instruments to promote decent work.

Delivered by an experienced team of seven regional trainers from Iraq, Lebanon and the West Bank, the “Making Microfinance Work: Managing for Improved Performance” course uses training materials developed by the ILO Social Finance Programme and by the International Training Centre of the ILO. These training methodologies have been successfully delivered to over 1,500 microfinance institution managers from 47 countries worldwide.

The ILO views microfinance as an important tool for poverty alleviation and job creation, which are integral to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals and promoting decent work opportunities.

Microfinance serves the poor by promoting self-employment and by providing capital to micro-enterprises, in order to generate more and better employment.

“We are keen to develop a core of local trainers across the region who can deliver high quality training using ILO know-how on microfinance and other sustainable enterprise development sources,” said ILO Regional Director for the Arab States Nada al-Nashif.

Selected participants will emerge from the workshop with ILO certification, allowing them to deliver the course in the future. The ILO will continue to support them with mentoring, updated training materials, and a network of over 76 certified trainers from 35 countries ([www.mmw.ilo.org](http://www.mmw.ilo.org)).

Participating microfinance providers include CHF International – Access to Credit Services (Iraq), UNDP Syria, Al-Majmoua (Lebanon), and Relief International (Lebanon). The event is supported by the Lebanon Recovery Fund, the MDG Fund (Spain) and UNDP.

The “Making Microfinance Work” workshop is within the framework of the ILO’s socio-economic recovery and employment promotion projects presently implemented in Lebanon.

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