THE TWIN CHALLENGES OF CHILD LABOUR & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARAB STATES



Child Labour in the Arab States



Number of children trapped in child labour is high



Child labourers in Arab States log very long working hours per week



This increases their exposure to workplace hazards and reduces time for other activities



Child labourers are less likely to attend school, hindering basic education.



Child labourers who do attend school lag behind in terms of grade progression and have poorer school performance



As a result, child labourers are compromised both in terms of school attendance and performance

Youth Unemployment Rates in the Arab Region



The rate in the Arab region is the highest in the world

OVER 28%

of economically active

15 to 24 year-olds



are unable to find jobs



The rate is four times higher than the rate for adults

30%

of all 15-24
year-olds in the
Arab States are in
the labour force*

13%

of female youth are in the labour force*

*the lowest labour force participation rates in the world

The Job Challenge



Low quality and informal



Without written contracts and no corresponding benefits

Employer feedback shows that





Arab youth lack job-relevant skills, a major constraint to growth



Mismatches exist between the skills produced by the education system and those needed in the labour market

Arab States Should

put more effort in eliminating child labour by



ensure Decent Work for youth by

