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Financial Inclusion MENA Newsletter



By GIZ for the Promotion of Financial Inclusion in the MENA region on behalf of the BMZ and EU.

Dear reader,

2018 came to an end with a grand finale indeed.

The **Palestinian Authorities released the country's Financial Inclusion Strategy**, which marks the 2nd strategy launch in the region following the Financial Inclusion for the Arab Region Initiative (FIARI). This strategy aims at empowering clients, quality financial services across the country, and equal opportunities for women and men; it will help to guide public and private sectors towards those goals.

Angel investors united under the new **Middle East Angel Investment Network (MAIN)** gathered for the 1st Middle East Conference on Business Angel Investment in El Gouna from 1-



2 November. MAIN brings together start-up investors from the region, helping them to exchange experience and explore new cross-border investment opportunities. The event established MAIN as a regional investor network.

GIZ 2017...

More than 250 public and private sector affiliates convened at the **Arab #FinTex Symposium on Blockchain & Financial Inclusion co-hosted by FIARI partners from 12-13 December** to examine how best to promote transformative FinTech for development in the region. The Abu Dhabi FinTech for Financial Inclusion Agenda emphasizes the Arab World's priorities in technology-driven financial innovation and unique opportunities that unfold across borders and policy and market levels.

Looking ahead, we are very enthused about **FIARI's program** highlighting Green Financial Inclusion, FinTech, Microfinance, Agricultural Finance, and Strategy & Data; as well as about our new partnerships to boost Start-up Bootcamps together with investors. 2019 has much to offer for further policy, infrastructure, and market level change processes in the region!

Yours sincerely,

Hayder Al-Bagdadi

Feature: National Strategy for Financial Inclusion in Palestine



Financial Inclusion in Palestine





Palestine Launches Financial Inclusion Strategy – Advancing Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development

Empowered financial clients. Quality financial services used by people and businesses in all corners of the country. Equal opportunities for women and men. Palestine presents its policy priorities for financial inclusion with the launch of the national strategy 2018-2025.

[Read more...](#)

[Read the strategy \(English\)...](#)

[Read the strategy \(Arabic\)...](#)

Financial Inclusion Study in Palestine (Summary)

The study aims at providing detailed proposals and recommendations based on facts and evidence to devise a National Strategy on Financial Inclusion, in line with accurate knowledge of financial inclusion strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges.

[Read the summary of the study \(English\)...](#)

[Read the summary of the study \(Arabic\)...](#)

Arab #FinTex Symposium on Blockchain & Financial Inclusion

Member institutions of the Financial Inclusion for the Arab Region Initiative (FIARI), partners and affiliates from the Arab region and beyond met in December 2018 at the 2018 Arab #FinTex Symposium to discuss the latest international developments in Blockchain & Financial Inclusion and conducive approaches to financial technology (FinTech) for the Arab Region.

[Read the press release...](#)

[Visit the webpage...](#)

[Read opening remarks](#) by Dr. Alfred Hannig, Executive Director, AFI...

[Read more at the AFI...](#)



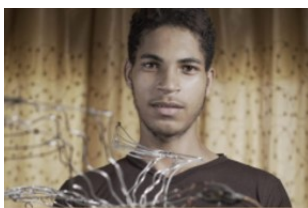
Further Project News

[Success Story: Khaled](#)

[Subscription](#)

"I tell everybody to work hard on their hobbies like I did. It will be tough, but eventually they will reap the fruit and they will succeed."

[Watch video...](#)



Microfinance Regulator Roundtable: Challenges and Learnings for the Next Phase of Microfinance Market Development in Arab Countries

Distinguished microfinance regulators from Palestine, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt gathered at the Microfinance Regulator



Roundtable to exchange on the state of affairs and experiences in their countries.

[Read more...](#)

From the World's FinTech Capital



'Fintech' heralds the dawn of narrow banking and portfolio optimization. It will change the nature of money, shake the foundations of central banking and deliver nothing less than a

democratic revolution for all who use financial services.

[Read more...](#)

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More Arabic News

Visit CGAP's [Arabic FinDev Gateway](#) and read their [monthly bulletin](#) or follow them on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

Upcoming events

FinTech Innovations & the Future of Banking Services

5 - 6 March 2019, Dead Sea (Jordan)

[More...](#)

15th Annual Global Microfinance Forum

14 - 15 March 2019, Amsterdam (Netherlands)

[More...](#)

Blockchain Summit Frankfurt

26 March 2019, Frankfurt Main (Germany)

[More...](#)

Executive Microfinance & Financial Inclusion School 2019

25 - 29 March 2019, Dubai (UAE)

[More...](#)

Arab Financial Inclusion Day

27 April 2019, Arab Countries

To be announced...



Regional News

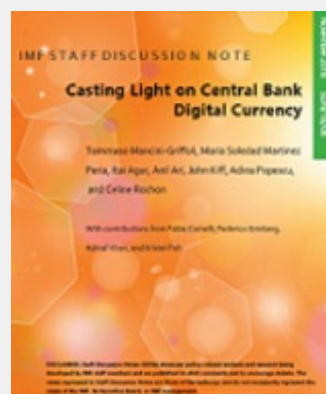
Digi#ances Project Successfully Completes Development Partnership with Jordanian Fintech Dinarak

Since early 2017, the GIZ project Improving Access to Remittances and other Financial Services through Digital Solutions (Digi#ances) has been engaged in a development partnership with the mobile payment service



Digi#ances

Publications



provider Dinarak in Jordan.

[Read more...](#)

Smart Regulation Is Key for Creating a New Digital Economy in Mena

The call for the transformation of the role of the state contained in the latest MENA Economic Monitor (MEM) cannot be overemphasized. For the "moonshot approach" to the new digital economy to succeed in generating equitable growth and creating millions of jobs, public authorities in the region must become effective regulators.

[Read more...](#)

Who Is Innovating in the Arab World?

Meet the eight finalists and winners of the inaugural edition of the Arab Financial Inclusion Innovation Prize.

[Read more \(English\)...](#)

[Read more \(Arabic\)...](#)

AFI Congratulates Palestine on Launching NFIS Aimed at Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

"Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) is proud to have journeyed with Palestinian Monetary Authority in the development and finalization of its National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS)," said AFI Executive Director Dr. Alfred Hannig in his keynote address during the NFIS launch ceremony organized by the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA) and Palestine Capital Markets Authority (PCMA) on 2 December 2018 in Ramallah.

[Read more...](#)

Casting Light on Central Bank Digital Currencies

Tommaso Mancini-Griffoli, Maria Soledad Martinez Peria, Itai Agur, Anil Ari, John Kiff, Adina Popescu, and Celine Rochon, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

[More...](#) (English)



The Nadi Action Agenda on Green Financial Inclusion
Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI)
[More...](#) (English)



Global Microscope 2018: The Enabling Environment for Financial Inclusion and the Expansion of Digital Financial Services
The Economist Intelligence Unit
[More...](#) (English)



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