BAREFOOT COLLEGE

‘The Grandmother Revolution’

First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo - ILO Solution Forum: Youth Employment and Decent Work in the Arab States
Qatar, 19-21 February 2014

Presented by Raouf Dabbas
The Jordanian Friends of Environment Society
49 Least Developed Countries make up 12% of the world population.

80% of these people live in rural areas.
High unemployment rates especially among the youth

Extreme poverty

Social unrest and civil disobedience

Difficult living environment
The solutions being offered are often irrelevant & inadequate to their lives.
The solution be a Grandmother?

Scalable Impact

64 COUNTRIES
859 BAREFOOT SOLAR ENGINEERS
1081 VILLAGES
45,000 HOUSES
What can we do?
Triangular cooperation...  
A partnership among equals

- Knowledge sharing and transfer of southern grown development solutions

- **Sharing good practices in the formulation and adaptation (or replication) of micro-finance schemes to face the rising levels of unemployment and loss of jobs among vulnerable groups;**

- Sharing experiences on new incentives and mechanisms for enterprise creation, especially SMEs, which in developing and developed countries constitute the largest part of the sustainable and growth-generating employment base;

- Promoting the replication and adaptation of employment guarantee programmes/schemes in developing countries that can be especially cost-effective during a crisis. (e.g. in Argentina, Indonesia and, particularly, in India);

- **Sharing of youth employment schemes, given that young men and women are most likely to be affected by growing unemployment and precarious jobs.**
Women For Solar Electrification of Rural villages

The Jordanian Friends of Environment Society
Learning by doing – hand signals, colors, drawings
6 month training in a remote rural village where they don’t speak the language, the food is different, life is different.
Exposed to a **World of Possibilities**

Our grandmother experiences 40 years of rural village transformation upon arrival to Barefoot College.
World of Possibilities Activism Solutions

ACTIVISM

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

POLITICAL
Thank you...

For more information regarding:
Jordanian Friends of Environment
http://www.jofoe.org

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barefoot college
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