



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط



Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Concept Note

UfM Seminar on Refugee Entrepreneurship

``Addressing Economic Recovery Amidst Conflict``

Cairo, 11-12 December 2024

Venue: Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir Cairo – Diamond room 1 -

Conflicts constitute one of the main challenges the world faces today amidst unprecedented geopolitical tensions. Beyond the heavy toll on human life, human rights degradation, and political instability, conflicts severely impact economic development by causing GDP decline, increase in inflation, and supply chain disruptions.

According to the Business & Peace Report 2024 released by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), the global economic impact of violence was \$17.5 trillion in 2023. This figure equates to 13 percent of the total GDP and represents a 6.6 percent increase since 2021. The average opportunity cost stands at 54 percent for foreign direct investment (FDI) and 41 percent for gross capital formation.

In parallel with peaceful conflict resolution efforts, entrepreneurship can play a crucial role both during conflicts and in post-conflict recovery. During conflicts, entrepreneurship can help identify innovative solutions to pressing problems, ensure access to vital services, and create jobs for those most affected. Post-conflict, it aids in recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Committed to promoting peace, stability, and shared economic prosperity in the region, the UfM will organize a seminar to discuss the role of entrepreneurship in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

At this event, speakers and participants from across the region and various backgrounds will exchange views on international and national best practices in addressing the economic fallout of conflicts through entrepreneurship and economic empowerment of affected people. Concrete cases, including the war in Gaza, will be discussed, and success stories showcased.

The outcomes of this event will pave the way for more targeted and impactful UfM actions in the future, including capacity-building events, mentorship support, and potential access to finance facilitation for relevant entrepreneurs and businesses.