

## TECHNOLOGY FOR YOUTH AND JOBS (TechStart)

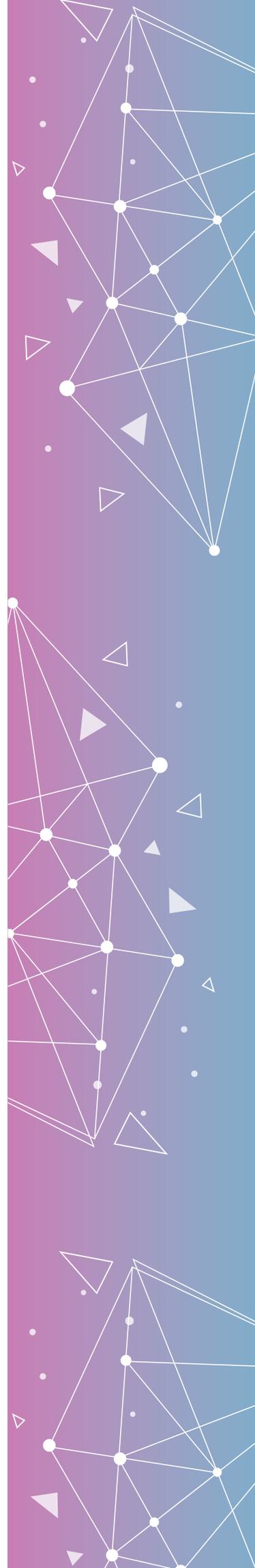
### OVERVIEW

---

Information technology sector has become a significant factor in development and has the potential to be a source of economic growth and employment. Demand for IT services has increased significantly in Palestine, and there is a growing trend toward IT outsourcing. Moreover, the IT sector can offer opportunities to Palestinian youth.

In response to the fact that there is an increasing emphasis on using information technologies in the context of communities' and youth priorities and on investing in a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem; The Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT) through its World Bank funded Technology for Youth and Jobs Project (TechStart) will design and execute initiatives and programs to promote entrepreneurship and support the Palestinian IT sector to create jobs and help companies pursue opportunities in domestic and international markets.

Given that the IT sector relies primarily on technology and skilled human capital, TechStart project will encourage companies to invest in these areas, thus addressing impediments to the supply of high-quality IT services. TechStart Project will target firms and individuals that need upskilling to better meet the needs of clients. The project will also provide seed grants to stimulate private investments in the sector, including for research and development. Private sector actors will have the opportunity to invest in new IT firms, training, or human resources services. The project will also stimulate the demand for Palestinian IT services by attracting foreign direct investment, fostering partnerships with global tech companies, and improving market access. It will help diffuse information abroad on market opportunities in the Palestinian IT sector.



# IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENTS

## Improving IT service capabilities

**Human Capital Improvement Stipends:** This intervention includes the provision of stipends for internships, on-the-job training for recently hired IT professionals, in addition to covering the additional cost of hiring international senior employees and the cost of enrolment in online training and/or certification programs for staff of existing IT services firms affected by COVID-19 crisis.

**Advisory Services on Managerial Capabilities:** TechStart will provide technical assistance to eligible Palestinian IT services firms to improve their managerial and organizational abilities, and leadership skills, in addition to develop and implement business resiliency measures and business relaunch measures to respond to COVID-19 crisis.

**IT and Gender Needs Assessment and Engagement:** TechStart will conduct an assessment for gender-related issues within the Palestinian IT service sector, identifying policy reforms to promote women's participation.

**Covid-19 employment support subsidies.**



## Improving the IT Service Ecosystem

- **Seed grants to stimulate private investments in the IT service ecosystem:** TechStart will provide seed grants to stimulate private investments, where private sector actors will have the opportunity to invest in training and human resources services.
- **Grants for shared R&D hubs:** TechStart will provide matching grants to support the establishment of R&D hubs for exploration of targeted technologies relevant to Palestinian IT firms.
- **Grants for IT business infrastructure:** TechStart will support the IT firms with needed business infrastructure to have a secure and safe operations, upgraded technological capabilities and professional work environment.

## Improving market access & increasing demand & investments:

- **Awareness raising and international market linkages:** This intervention entails raising the international awareness of outsourcing opportunities in the West Bank & Gaza and support the strategic promotion of market linkages by providing matchmaking services between international buyers & Palestinian companies.
- **Promotion and facilitation of FDI in the Palestinian IT ecosystem:** The objective of this intervention is to leverage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for bringing new knowhow, managerial processes, technology, market services, global client networks and investments to the West Bank and Gaza.

A Project of:



Funded By:



Implemented By:

