

Deliverable 1

1) Problematic : problem to solve in the ecosystem – with real data.

The problematic educational situation in Tunisia highlights significant challenges in providing adequate education for children, particularly in rural areas.

UNICEF's 2014 report revealed that 7% of children, including 5-year-olds and primary school-aged kids, had no access to education.[1] In 2022, UNICEF disclosed that while preschool coverage rates increased from 7% in 1990 to 51% in 2018, regional disparities persist. Notably, 1 in every 2 children aged 3-5 years old is enrolled in preschool, but in the rural areas only 1 in 4 children attend preschool, and only 1 in 6 children whose parents are poor go to preschool. [2] Additionally, Mohammad, a social worker in Kébili, reported that 2,900 children between the ages of 6-18, and 509 children under the age of 5, living in poor households require support. This situation prompted the "AMEN Social" program in 2023, offering financial aid to school-aged children.[3]

Ensuring equitable educational opportunities is vital for the well-being and overall development of Tunisia's children.

This problematic situation directly contradicts SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) and SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure).

2) Benchmark : any available solutions in the market ? What is available/missing ?

Taki Academy stands out as an e-learning platform offering online support classes across all subjects and educational levels, from the last 2 years primary to secondary school, up to the baccalaureate level.

However, several critical gaps and limitations are apparent. Firstly, Taki Academy is costly for disadvantaged students, creating an accessibility barrier. Moreover, the platform primarily caters to students beyond pre-primary education, and lacks early childhood support. Furthermore, the existing learning platforms rely on traditional academic materials, lacking content that fosters children's critical thinking, curiosity, and innovation. Addressing these shortcomings is essential to ensure a more inclusive and effective education system in Tunisia.

3) Proposed solution : description of the project idea : overall idea / target customer / objectives.

Our proposed solution is the development of an inclusive e-learning platform designed to address the educational needs of children in Tunisia, with a specific focus on pre-primary education (ages 3-6), without being limited to it, to cover pre-primary education essentials that many children fail to receive and reduce the risks of primary school drop-out rates.

For Pre-Primary Education (Ages 3-6):

- Facilitate innovative and engaging learning experiences using proven pedagogical techniques such as educational cartoons, games with reward systems, storytelling, tales, and songs to help children acquire foundational academic skills.
- Enhance children's learning techniques by increasing their focus, pattern recognition abilities, curiosity, and creativity.
- Foster the development of crucial life skills, enabling children to face challenges, understand potential risks, and learn safety measures (crossing the streets, activities, environment, hygiene...).

4) Conclusion :

All in all, this project is meant to address the root causes of the challenges in Tunisia's education system, aims to provide quality educational content, reduce dropout rates, and enhance the potential, culture, and leadership abilities of the country's youth. These improvements, in turn, have the potential to positively impact economic growth, workforce development, and innovation, thus aligning with the targeted SDGs mentioned in the initial problem statement.

a. References :

[1] UNICEF MENA, (December 2014), Out-of-School Children in Tunisia
<https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/out-school-children-tunisia>

[2] UNICEF MENA, (April 20, 2022), Preschools building roots for the future, In the town of Haffouz in Tunisia.

<https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/recits/preschools-building-roots-future>

[3] UNICEF MENA, (June 6, 2023), Social Protection to Empower a Mother striving for her daughters' Education.

<https://www.unicef.org/tunisia/recits/social-protection-empower-mother-striving-her-daughters-education>

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