

October, 2019



CURRICULUM VITAE

EL-MAHDI, Abda Yahia

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 13 April, 1959

Gender: Female

Nationality: Sudanese

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Unicons Consultancy Ltd.
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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Ms. El-Mahdi has over 30 years of experience in economic management at both the macro and micro levels. At the macro level, close exposure to the workings of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy in Sudan and work experience with the International Monetary Fund in Washington have contributed to her knowledge and expertise in matters related to macroeconomic policy formulation and public finance management and development cooperation. Previous management, economic analysis and research experience was gained at the ‘Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey’ in Cairo where she worked first as a Research Officer and later as a consultant. She gained seven years experience (1995 – 2002) during that period in managing their research project on Labor Markets and Human Resource Development in the MENA Region. This research included analyzing issues related to female economic participation and constraints faced in the labor market.

Ms. El-Mahdi served as State Minister of Finance and National Economy (2002 – 2004) and this added to her knowledge and expertise in matters related to macroeconomic policy formulation and public finance management with particular attention to public debt management in Sudan.

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Since 2005, Ms. El-Mahdi has been managing UNICONS Consultancy Ltd. an independent economic consultancy firm based in Khartoum, Sudan. She has been involved, as Project manager and task leader, in overseeing all aspects of the projects conducted by the firm including design, technical and logistical as well as evaluation aspects. In her capacity as Managing Director she is responsible for coordination and management of an expanding company portfolio of projects, established quality assurance procedures in delivering company services. She has acted as team leader, consultant and adviser on various studies and evaluations commissioned by bilateral and multilateral development finance institutions.

Ms. El-Mahdi was also a member and Chair of the Women Advisory Panel of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. As a member/ chair of the Panel, Ms. El-Mahdi was instrumental in formulating the Bank's strategy for mainstreaming women in the Bank's activities and she has contributed to influencing the Bank to move towards a gender responsive financing portfolio with its member countries.

Ms. El-Mahdi has also been researching the economic challenges facing Sudan particularly after secession of South Sudan in 2011 and has produced several papers and presentations in this connection. Ms. El-Mahdi sits in the Boards of Directors of several institutions.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

- 1986 – 87: Master of Science in Economics and Mathematical Economics, The London School of Economics and Political Sciences, United Kingdom.
- 1985 – 86: Diploma in Econometrics, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, United Kingdom.
- 1979 – 84: Bachelor of Science – Honors degree in Economics and Statistics, University of Khartoum, Sudan.

AFFILIATIONS

- Senior Research Associate: The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt (December 2005- present).
- Member of Editorial Board of the *Forum*, a policy portal of the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Egypt (July, 2017 – present)
- Member of the Board of Directors, The National Bank of Egypt (Khartoum); July 2012 – present.
- Member of the Board of Directors, The Horn of Africa Economic & Policy Institute (HESPI): September, 2017 – present
- Member and Vice Chair, European Chamber of Commerce in Sudan. 2019 - present

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Member of the Steering Committee: Mamoun Beheiry Center for Economic & Social Studies & Research in Africa, Khartoum, Sudan (Jan, 2010- 2019).

Council Member, Peace Research Institute, University of Khartoum, Sudan. “The Development Burden of Violent Conflict in Sudan”. (May 2016-2018)

Member of the Board of Trustees of Haggar Foundation: 2007 – 2017

Member of Advisory Panel for Women, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (February 2005 – June 2017).

Member of the Board of Directors, Haggar Holding Company, Khartoum, Sudan; 2013 – 2015.

Member of the Board of Directors: Future Trends Foundation for Strategic Studies and Dialogue - Sudan. (May 2004-2010)

Member of Advisory Panel, Ministry of Social Welfare, Khartoum, Sudan (2004 – 2009)

Member of Panel of Advisors, The Central Bank of Sudan, (March 2005 – 2007)

Member of the Board of Directors: Kenana Sugar Company Ltd.- Sudan. (December 2002 – Jan. 2005)

WORK EXPERIENCE

- March 2005 – present: Managing Director, UNICONS Consultancy Ltd. Economic consultancy firm based in Khartoum, Sudan.
- October 2002 – Dec. 2004: State Minister, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Khartoum, Sudan.
- July 1999 – October 2002: Consultant, the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt.
- February 1997 – June 1999: Research Officer for Labor Program, The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey (ERF), Cairo, Egypt.
- February 1995 – Feb. 1997: Research Coordinator, The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt.
- December 1988 – Jan. 1991: Technical Assistant to the Executive Director representing 17 African Countries, The International Monetary Fund, Washington, USA. (Resigned for family reasons).

RESPONSIBILITIES & CONSULTANCIES

Consultancies:

- WTO, Enhanced Integrated Framework: Consultant for formulation of Tier 1 project for Sudan. October, 2018 – January, 2019
- Alshamal Islamic Bank, 2018: Formulation of Five Year Strategic Plan (2018 – 2022)
- Economic Relations between Sudan and the Gulf Countries. May, 2017. Embassy of Japan in Sudan

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- Peace Research Institute, University of Khartoum: 2016: The Cost of Conflict in Sudan.
- Export Development Bank 2016: Formulation of Five Year Strategic Plan (2016-2020).
- Embassy of Japan in Sudan, 2015: An Evaluation and Analysis of the Sudan Government Budget.
- Embassy of Japan in Sudan, 2014: The Possibility of Debt Relief for Sudan
- Embassy of Japan in Sudan, 2013: The Economic Impact of the Implementation of Agreements between Sudan and South Sudan and the Possible Scenarios for the Sudanese Economy.
- World Bank: 2011, Support to State Transfer Review Study Program
- UNDP: June, 2008 Budget Analysis for Pro-poor spending 2000-2008 as part of the project “Public Finance Management 2008”
- World Bank: 2006. Access to Finance in Darfur as part of the World Bank report on Private Sector Development of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (DJAM).

Minister:

- International financial arrangements including debt management issues.
- Formulation of macroeconomic policies and reforms under IMF Staff Monitored Program.
- Debt Management
- Sudan’s Interim Poverty Eradication Strategy
- Head of Government side of the economic cluster of the Joint Assessment Mission for Sudan (2004)

ERF Consultant:

- All activities including research, workshops and conferences related to the Labor, Human Resource Development & Poverty Program of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries Iran & Turkey (ERF).
- ERF Coordinator for workshop on “The Analysis of Poverty & its Determinants in the MENA Region”, Sanaa, Yemen August 2001.
- ERF Coordinator for the workshop “Partners for Employment Creation and Social Protection”, Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF3). Organized with the World Bank, Cairo, March 2000.
- Coordinator for ERF/WB training project on “The Use of Household Data for Policy Analysis in the areas of Poverty and Human Resource Development in the Middle East and North Africa Region”.

Researcher:

Member of a research team working on the collection, preparation and preliminary analysis of the 1998 Egypt Labor Market Survey funded by ERF.

Research Officer (Previous):

- Coordinate ERF’s program on Labor & Human Resources.

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- Responsible for the Chapter “Labor Markets & Human Resource Development”, *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, ERF publication 1996, 1999, 2001.
- Coordinator for Conference on “Population Challenges in MENA Countries: Toward the 21st Century”, Cairo, November 1999.

PUBLICATIONS

- El-Mahdi, A, October, 2019 “Budget Restructuring and the Pursuit of a Fiscal Rescue Plan”. Presented at Conference “Towards Inclusive Economic Growth in Sudan: Stabilization & Recovery”. Organized by Chatham House. Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, March, 2019. “Short & Medium Term Priorities for Stabilization & Recovery in Sudan”. Presented at the roundtable “Sudan’s Economic Reform Priorities: Options for Stabilization & Recovery”. Organized by Chatham House. Nairobi, Kenya.
- El-Mahdi, A, November, 2017. “Sudan Economy: Coping with a New Global Order”. Presented at the Conference “Arab Oil Exports: Coping with a New Global Oil Order. Organized by the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development & ERF. Kuwait
- El-Mahdi, A. June, 2014. “Sudan Economic Challenges: Issues & Cooperation with South Sudan”, Presented at the Conference “Agricultural Development, Business Enterprise, Oil, Finance and Economic Development in the Two Sudans” organized by The Sudanese Programme, St Anthony’s College, Oxford, U.K.
- El-Mahdi, A. August, 2012. “Challenges of the Economic Crises afflicting Post-Seccession Sudan” (in Arabic. Published in the Journal of the Peace Institute, University of Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. July, 2011. “A Review of Transfers to States in Sudan: Post Seccession Challenges”. Study commissioned by the World Bank as part of the Project: “--- Support to State Transfer Review Study Program --“.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2011. “Post- Seccession Economic Cooperation between North and South Sudan” – presented in Symposium held by National Organization for Voluntary Unity, Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2010. “Post-Referendum Economic Challenges: Focus On Northern Sudan” paper presented on November 2010, Mamoun Beheiry Center for Economic and Social Studies and Research in Africa (MBC), Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2008. “Public Spending in Sudan: Pro-Poor Considerations”. Contributing paper for Public Expenditure Management report sponsored by the UNDP in Sudan and implemented by Unicons Consultancy Ltd, Khartoum, Sudan.

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- El-Mahdi, A. 2006. "Access to Finance, in the Post Conflict Era for the Darfur's Private Sector". Background paper for the chapter on Private Sector Development of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (DJAM), World Bank.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2005. "Public Finance in Sudan"; Centre for International Cooperation (CIC), New York University, USA.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1999. "Poverty in Egypt", a report submitted to Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali (CENSIS), Rome, Italy as part of a research project on "Poverty in Transformation: Definition, Indicators and Key Players at the National and Mediterranean Level", funded by the European Union, December 1999.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1999. "The Structure of Jobs in Egypt: Gender Comparisons over the period 1988-1999 - Preliminary results of the 1998 Egypt Labor Market Survey". Presented at ERF Annual Conference, October 1999, Cairo, Egypt.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1998. "The Employment Challenge Facing MENA Countries" Paper presented at the International Conference, *The Plural Mediterranean: New Scenarios for the Mediterranean Area*, March 1998, Giovanni Agnelli Foundation, Torino, Italy.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1996. "Labor Flows and Remittances in the MENA Region". Background paper for ERF publication, *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, Cairo, Egypt.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English: Proficient
Arabic: Fluent
Italian: Basic

References

Dr. Sabir Hassan, Former Governor of the Central Bank of Sudan.
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