

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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Economic Development and Integration Division,  
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### SUMMARY

Chief of Economic Development and Poverty Section at UN-ESCWA. EDPS plays a lead role in rethinking development measurement and policy and produces regional flagship publications. From 2002-2012, Regional Adviser at UNDP on Macroeconomics and Poverty Reduction. Held economist/senior economist at Egypt's Cabinet's Decision Support Center (1992-1995), USAID (1995-1996) and Office of the Egyptian Minister for Public Enterprises (1996-1997).

Policy advisory and technical backstopping assignments/missions for the UN at the country and regional levels with a focus on economic development policy and monitoring of development results. Experience with the UN also includes the design and implementation of country projects as well as regional initiatives on macroeconomic policies, employment and poverty.

Lead and/or co-lead author of several UN flagship publications: "Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030" (ESCWA, 2015), "Arab Development Challenges Report" (UNDP, 2009 and 2012), "The Arab MDG Report" (UN and LAS, 2013), "Arab Middle Class" (ESCWA, 2014), and "Rethinking Economic Growth" (ILO and UNDP, 2012). "Arab Poverty Report" (forthcoming, ESCWA 2016). Other areas of research interest include: macroeconomic (fiscal) policies, employment, food security, poverty (money metric and multi-dimensional) and inequality.

Faculty member of the Lebanese American University.

M. Phil and D. Phil. in Development Economics from the New School for Social Research in New York (Thesis Adviser: Lance Taylor), M. Phil. in Development Planning and Environment from the University of Dundee in Scotland (Thesis Adviser: Allan Findlay), B. A. in Economics from the American University in Cairo.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### CHIEF OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY SECTION (P5, 11)

April 12 – Present

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION DIVISION,

#### UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA BEIRUT, LEBANON

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Lead and guide the Economic Development and Poverty Section.
- Lead ESCWA in defining economic policies for human development and poverty reduction with emphasis on employment and fiscal space for development expenditure.
- Represent ESCWA at regional development forums, such as the relevant LAS Ministerial Councils.
- Play supervisory, substantive and advisory role in the project on National Agenda for the Future of Syria and in other country programs.
- Liaise and collaborate with leading experts on the region and with regional and global think-tanks and research institutions on all of the above issues.
- Manage the Division as officer in charge during the absence of the Division Director, upon his request.

Main achievements:

- Led EDID's re-evaluation of development policies after the Arab uprisings,
- Key role in forming ESCWA's and Arab (LAS) position on SDGs.
- Rethinking multi-dimensional poverty and inequality measurement in the Arab region (co-lead author of the first Arab Poverty Report and background technical papers).
- Rethinking the measurement and role of the Arab Middle Class (lead author of the Arab Middle Class Report, 2014 and background technical papers).
- Rethinking Development Policy at its nexus with Regional Security (co-lead author of the Arab Development Outlook Report: Vision 2025, 2015)
- Capture and raise awareness on development impact of conflict (co-lead author of the ESCWA report on the Syrian Conflict and its Impact on Macroeconomy and MDGs, 2014)

**MDG/POVERTY AND MACROECONOMIC POLICY ADVISER (P5)****April 09 – April 12****UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REGIONAL CENTER IN CAIRO (RCC) CAIRO, EGYPT**

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Provide policy advisory services to UNDP COs, Arab Governments and other partners (LAS) in the region in the areas of macroeconomic and social policies, poverty assessments, MDG costing, poverty and social impact assessment (PSIA), food security, debt sustainability and employment.
- Provide policy advisory services to the Governments and other partners in the region in the area of pro-poor macroeconomic frameworks, strategies for poverty and inequality reduction and the achievement of the MDGs, and conducive sectoral strategies;
- Manage the poverty and macroeconomic policies section within the RCC

Main achievements:

- Represent UNDP and liaise with UN agencies and the LAS on MDGs
- Lead author of the Arab Development Challenges Reports (2009 and 2012).
- Co-author of the ILO-UNDP flagship publication “Rethinking Economic Growth” (2012) (with Zafiris Tzannatos)
- Lead author of the Third Arab MDG Report (2010) and national MDG Report for Syria (2009) and co-author of Lebanon's first Poverty Assessment report (2008-2009).
- Contributing author and reader for the Arab Human Development Report (2009).
- Member of the drafting committee for Egypt's ten year master plan (2013-2023)

**MACROECONOMICS AND POVERTY POLICY SPECIALIST (P4)****May 02 – March 09****UNDP SURF-AS (SUB-REGIONAL RESOURCE FACILITY FOR ARAB STATES) BEIRUT, LEBANON**

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Contribute to the design and formulation of CO programmes, drawing upon lessons from programmes and other initiatives in the region and from global experiences, on pro-poor macroeconomic frameworks, strategies for poverty and inequality reduction and designing of sectoral strategies
- Represent UNDP to advocate poverty practice messages in regional and international forums with key contributions to Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM): food security and climate change, MDGs and statistics.
- Design of UNDP country programs and regional programmes on trade, poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

Main professional achievements:

- Over 80 country missions in response to technical-backstopping and policy advisory requests from 15 Arab countries (see below regional and national policy reports and technical papers).
- Supported national development plans and poverty reduction strategies in Syria, Yemen, KSA, Lebanon and Sudan.
- Macroeconomic models for MDG costing and assessment of macroeconomic implications of poverty reduction in Yemen (2005) and Syria (2006).

**ECONOMIST (EXPORT-LED GROWTH)****February 97- August 97**

PUBLIC ENTERPRISE OFFICE (OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) CAIRO, EGYPT

**PUBLIC SECTOR ECONOMIST (PRIVATIZATION)****March 96- January 97**

PARTNERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (USAID PROJECT) CAIRO, EGYPT

**ECONOMIC RESEARCHER (EXTERNAL DEBT MANAGEMENT)****June 92- February 96**

EGYPTIAN CABINET'S INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT CENTER (GOVERNMENT THINK TANK) CAIRO, EGYPT

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE****LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (PART TIME FACULTY)****Fall 15- Present****ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT**

Courses taught: Economic Development in the Middle East (Graduate Level).

**REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

1. “Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030” (2015) (ESCWA) (with Tamim Al Barghouti)
2. “The Arab Middle Class” (2014) (ESCWA) (lead author)
3. ‘Arab Millennium Development Goals Report: facing challenges and looking beyond 2015’. (2013) (UN and LAS) (lead author)
4. ‘Rethinking Economic Growth: Towards Productive and Inclusive Arab Societies’. (2012) (ILO and UNDP) (with Zafiris Tzannatos)
5. ‘Development Challenges in the Arab Countries: Towards Developmental States’. (2011) (UNDP) (lead author)

6. 'Arab Millennium Development Goals Report: the millennium development goals in the Arab region and the impact of the crises on their attainment'. (2010) (UN and LAS) (lead author)
7. 'Arab Human Development Report: challenges to human security in the Arab countries'. (2009) (UNDP) (contributing author with Ali Abdel Gader)
8. 'Development Challenges in the Arab countries: A Human Development Approach'. (2009) (UNDP and League of Arab States) (lead author).
9. 'Development Challenges in the Arab Countries: Food Security and Agriculture'. (2009) (UNDP and League of Arab States) (lead author).

## COUNTRY REPORTS AND TECHNICAL PAPERS

1. 'Rethinking human development measurement'. (2016, forthcoming) (UN-ESCWA) (with Aljaz Kuncic and Seth Caldwell)
2. 'Tailoring multi-dimensional poverty measurement to middle income countries'. (2015) (UN-ESCWA) (with Marwan EL Khawaja, Dina Aramanious, Maya Ramadan and Heba El Laithy).
3. "The Syrian Conflict: Impact on Macro-economy and MDGs". (2014) (UN-ESCWA) (lead author)
4. 'MDGs in Syria'. (2009) (UNDP and State Planning Commission) (lead author)
5. 'Poverty, Growth and Inequality in Syria: 2004-2008'. (2009) (UNDP and State Planning Commission) (with Heba El Laithy)
6. 'Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon'. (2008) (UNDP) (with Heba el Laithy and Kamal Hemdan)
7. 'Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Yemen: 1998-2006'. (2007) (UNDP) (with Heba El Laithy)
8. 'Macroeconomic Policies for Poverty Reduction in Yemen'. (2006) (UNDP and Ministry of Planning) (with Massoud Karshenas and Terry Mckinley).
9. 'Macroeconomic Policies for Poverty Reduction in Sudan'. (2006) (UNDP) (contributing author).
10. 'Poverty in Syria: 1996-2004, Diagnosis and Pro-poor Policy Considerations'. (2005) (UNDP) (with Heba El Laithy).
11. 'Macroeconomic Policies for Poverty Reduction in Syria'. (2005) (UNDP) (with Mahmoud Abdel Fadel).
12. 'Socioeconomic Roots and Impact of the Syrian crisis' (2013) (Syrian Center for Policy Research) (with Rabe Nasr and Zeki Mechi)
13. "National Targets, Regional Priorities and Global Goals: An Arab Perspective on the SDGs" (2014) (ESCWA) (with Aljaz Kuncic, Naren Prasad and Niranjana Sarangi)
14. "Fiscal space in Arab countries". (2012) (ESCWA) (with Kenneth Iversen and Abdel Hameed Nawar)
15. 'Poverty and inequality in Arab States: a proposal for a pan-Arab multi-purpose survey'. (2014) (UN-ESCWA) (with Niranjana Sarangi, Racha Ramadan and Heba El Laithy).
16. 'Rethinking poverty measurement' (2011) (UNDP) (with Gihane Ahmed and Racha Ramadan)
17. Socioeconomic ramifications of the political stalemate in Egypt and short-term policy options' (2013) (ESCWA) (with Abdallah Dardari, Mohamed Hedi Bchir, Yasuhisa Yamamoto, Denise Sumpf and Kenneth Iversen)
18. 'Towards a new social contract in Egypt: policies for inclusive development and good governance' (2012) (UNDP) (background paper for the 2013-2023 master-plan of Egypt) (with Ibrahim Awad and Mohamed Mohedin)
19. 'Profile of the working poor in Jordan' (2012) (ESCWA) (with Kenneth Iversen and Jose Pedrosa)
20. 'Employment, vulnerability, social protection and the crisis of economic reforms in Arab States' (2011) (UNDP) (with Gihane Ahmed, Mohammad Moheidin and Jennifer Olmsted)
21. 'Trade and industrial policy in Arab countries' (2011) (UNDP) (with Ahmed Mustafa and Merve Arabaci)
22. 'Structural retardation of Arab countries' (2011) (UNDP) (with Rudi Von Arinm, Codrina Rada and Ali Abdel Gader)
23. 'Human development and poverty in Arab countries: phenomenal progress or mixed results?' (2011) (UNDP) (with Abdel Hameed Nawar, Asmaa Abdel Nabi and Gihan Ahmed).
24. 'Is there enough fiscal space in Arab countries to support a development transformation?' (2011) (UNDP) (with Rathin Roy and Raquel Ramos).
25. 'Inequality in Syria'. (2009) (UNDP and State Planning Commission of Syria) (with Heba El Laithy)
26. 'Inequality, state and market dynamics in Syria'. (2009) (UNDP and State Planning Commission of Syria) (with Ali Abdel Gader)
27. 'Economic security of Arab Countries'. (2009) (Background paper to the Arab Human Development Report, UNDP) (with Ali Abdel Gader).
28. 'Yemen: facing a price scissors'. (2008) (School of Oriental and African Studies) (with Terry McKinley)
29. 'Poverty, growth and inequality in Arab countries'. (2008) (League of Arab States) (with Heba El Laithy)
30. 'Macroeconomic impact of Iraqi refugees in Syria'. (2008) (UNDP) (with Shaza Al Joundi, Thouka El Khalidi and Heba El Laithy)
31. 'Trade and industrial policies in Syria' (2004) (UNDP) (with Matias Vernengo and Ahmad Mustafa)
32. 'Investment requirements and macroeconomic framework for halving poverty by 2015 in Yemen', (2005) (UNDP) (with Nanak Kakwani, Hyun Son and John Roberts).
33. 'Macroeconomic framework for halving poverty by 2015 in Syria', (UNDP) (2006)
34. 'Is privatization the preferred option for advancing public interest?' (2005) (UNDP) (with Terry McKinley)
35. 'Understanding and responding to the Arab Spring' (2013) (African Development Perspectives Yearbook) (with Mohammad Pournik)
36. 'Fiscal space in Arab countries: a human development perspective' (2010) (Journal of Development and Economic Policies, Arab Planning Institute) (with Rathin Roy)
37. 'Poverty, Growth and Income Distribution in Lebanon' (2007) (International Poverty Center, Brasilia) (with Heba El Laithy and Kamal Hemdan).

38. 'The myth of export-led growth' (2006) (Economic Research Forum)
39. 'Financial sector and poverty in Sudan'. (2005) (Economic Research Forum) (with Adam El-Hiraika).
40. 'Rethinking the measurement of the middle class: The case of Egypt'. (2014) (UN-ESCWA and UNU-Wider) (with Niranjana Sarangi)
41. 'Rethinking global poverty measurement' (2011) (International Poverty Center) (with Gihane Ahmed and Racha Ramadan)

## **EDUCATION**

- May 06                    **DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS**  
 NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH; NEW YORK  
 Dissertation: Essays in Development Economics                    (Adviser: Lance Taylor)
- May 02                    **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY, ECONOMICS (Honors)**  
 NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, NEW YORK  
 Concentration: Development Economics
- October 95              **MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT (GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT)**  
 UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE; DUNDEE, SCOTLAND  
 Dissertation: Socioeconomic Impact of Egyptian Labor Migration    (Adviser: Allan Findlay)
- May 92                    **BACHELOR OF ARTS, ECONOMICS**  
 AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO; EGYPT

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

- Trainer on human development and poverty measurement (ESCWA, UNDP and LAS).
- Reviewer for several academic Journals on Development and Economic Policy in the Arab region.
- Member of the Executive Board of the Graduate Faculty's Center for Economic Policy Analysis (CEPA) at the New School for Social Research: 2000-2001.
- Spokesperson and media focal point for UNDP and ESCWA on wide range of economic and social development issues (covering regional and global media): 2009-present.

## **LANGUAGES**

- Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English. Basic French.