

POLICY DIALOGUE ON
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN JORDAN

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Crowne Plaza Hotel (Nabatean room)
and on Zoom (registration Link [here](#))
09:00-18:15 Amman time

CONTEXT

Social protection can be broadly defined as the policies and programs concerned with “preventing, managing, and overcoming situations which adversely affect people’s wellbeing” (UN Research Institute for Social Development). It includes such policies as social assistance and social insurance, health care access, and labor market interventions, among others. These policies and programs are essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goal #1: “No Poverty”, and as such have become a central point of focus in both international and national policy agendas. In Jordan specifically, there has been an increased focus on establishing a social protection floor through the expansion and improvement of social protection programs, as outlined within the National Social Protection Strategy of 2019. However, in order to achieve the goal of breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty as outlined within the strategy, considerable challenges must be addressed and adjustments must be made to existing systems.

This dialogue session will present and discuss the findings of six papers created as part of the Economic Research Forum’s “Reimagining Social Protection in Jordan and Tunisia” series, conducted in partnership with the Ford Foundation. These papers cover a variety of social protection topics, including the current landscape of social protection in Jordan, expansion of social insurance, minimum and living wages, provision of cash assistance and wellbeing, targeting of assistance for Jordan’s refugee population, and the enabling environment for social dialogue in generating social protection reforms.

DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the dialogue session is to explore the current landscape and situation of social protection in Jordan, including specific challenges, strengths, and areas for improvement. The dialogue will provide space to discuss these various topics with relevant policymakers, civil society organizations, and experts in order to generate both improved understanding of social protection as well as wide-reaching solutions for policy challenges.

DIALOGUE ORGANIZATION

The dialogue will convene for one day. Participants can attend the session virtually, through the following link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tekA8fd2Q5Sm_lpzgNNTIA. The time allocated for each speaker is 30 minutes and the feedback from a dedicated discussant will be 15 minutes, and 15 minutes for questions from the floor.

AGENDA
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09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
09:30 – 09:45	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Ahmad Awad; <i>Phenix Center</i> Ibrahim Elbadawi; <i>Economic Research Forum</i> Ragui Assaad; <i>University of Minnesota and ERF</i></p>
09:45 – 10:45	<p>Session 1: Landscape of Social Protection in Jordan Mary Kawar, Zina Nimeh and Tamara Kool</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Abeer Mdanat (<i>Rasheed for Integrity and Transparency – Transparency International, Jordan</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Jullnar Kurdi (<i>Specialist on Social Protection- ILO</i>)</p>
10:50 - 11:50	<p>Session 2: Expanding Social Insurance in Jordan Irene Selwaness and Susan Razzaz</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Hadeel AbdelAziz (<i>Executive Director of Justice Center for Legal Aid; Member of Board of Trustees of the National Center for Human Rights – Jordan</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Hazim Rahahleh (<i>General Director of Social Security Corporation of Jordan</i>)</p>
11:55 – 12:55	<p>Session 3: Minimum and Living Wages in Jordan and Tunisia Caroline Krafft and Cyrine Hannafi</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Awad (<i>Director, Phenix Center for Economics and Informatics Studies</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Mr. Hamada AbuNijmeh (<i>Expert on Labor Policies; ex-Secretary General of Jordanian Ministry of Labor</i>)</p>

01:00 – 02:00	Lunch
02:00 – 03:00	<p>Session 4: Cash Transfers and Food Vouchers for Syrian Refugees in Jordan Ragui Assaad, Alma Boustati and Vishal Jamkar</p> <p>Moderator: Asma Ben Hassen (<i>Founder and President, Tunisia Inclusive Labor Institute</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Veena Krishnamoorthy (<i>Cash-based Interventions Officer, UNHCR</i>)</p>
03:05 – 04:05	<p>Session 5: Political Economy of Reform in Jordan and Tunisia Courtney Geary, Asma Ben Hassen, and Arbia Saleh</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Anna Sting (<i>Project Coordinator and Researcher at the Phenix Center</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Ms. Mary Kawar (<i>Former Minister for Planning and International Cooperation</i>)</p>
04:10 – 04:30	Break
04:30 – 05:30	<p>Session 6: Cash Assistance, Food Security, and Health in Jordan Maia Sieverding and Zeina Jamaluddine</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nadine Nemri (<i>Journalist at Alghad Newspaper, Expert on social protection and children’s affairs</i>)</p> <p>Discussant: Nesreen Barakat (<i>Jordan Strategy forum</i>)</p>
5:30- 6:00	<p>Session 7: Policy Panel</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ahmad Awad</p> <p>Panelists: Omar Razzaz, <i>Ex-Prime Minister, Jordan</i> Nisreen Barakat (<i>Jordan Strategy Forum</i>)</p>
6:00 – 6:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ahmad Awad; <i>Phenix Center</i> Ragui Assaad; <i>University of Minnesota and ERF</i></p>