

POLICY CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN JORDAN

Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

Grand Hyatt Hotel Amman, 10:30 am – 6:00 pm

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 conference will serve as a platform to present the findings of seven papers produced in the context of the Economic Research Forum’s project on “Reimagining Social Protection in Jordan and Tunisia”, funded by the Ford Foundation. These papers cover a variety of social protection topics, including transformative social protection approaches, national social dialogue and social protection, protection for vulnerable groups such as youth, refugees, and people with disabilities, and minimum and living wages. Findings will be discussed with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, governmental representatives, and intergovernmental organizations such as UNICEF and UNHCR.

OBJECTIVES

The conference will encourage discussion of the current state of social protection in Jordan, as well as the key challenges that remain in implementing the social protection floor. Most notably, the conference will provide space for multiple stakeholders to promote civic engagement, and discuss policy solutions.

ORGANIZATION

This dialogue will center on providing space for various stakeholders to discuss policy implications of research findings. Three thematic sessions will take place in which the policy implications of each paper within this series will be presented and discussed by a panel of experts. Panel discussion will be followed by open discussion:

- Presentation of Policy Findings – 10 minutes per paper (2-3 papers per session).
- Discussants – 20 minutes.
- Open discussion – 20 minutes.

AGENDA

POLICY CONFERENCE (HYBRID)

SOCIAL PROTECTION IN JORDAN

Sunday, October 2nd, 2022

10:30 am – 6:00 pm (GMT+3)

10:30 – 11:00	Registration and coffee for in Person attendants in Amman – Grand Hyatt Hotel – Iris room – B level Registration online by virtual attendants
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome Remarks Mr. Ahmad Awad; <i>Phenix Center</i> Dr. Ragui Assaad; <i>University of Minnesota and ERF</i> Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi; <i>Economic Research Forum</i>
11:15- 11:45	Keynote Speaker Dr. Jawad Anani, former Deputy Prime Minister and Expert in Economic and Social Affairs Open Discussion
11:45 – 12:45	Session 1 : Social Dialogue and Transformative Social Protection This session will discuss the current state of Jordanian social protection, the importance of the transformative angle for advancing social protection, and the role of national social dialogue in guiding transformative processes. Moderator: Ms Areej Al Qasem (News Anchor, Al Mamlaka TV) Presenters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mary Kawar, Dr. Zina Nimeh, and Ms. Tamara Kool, <i>The importance of the transformative angle for advancing the social protection agenda in Jordan</i> • Ms. Courtney Geary and Dr. Asma Ben Hassen, Ms. Arbia Saleh, and Mr. Ahmad Awad, <i>National Social Dialogue on Social Protection Reform in Jordan and Tunisia</i> Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Baptiste Hanquart (Jordan INGO Forum) • Dr. Rula Alhroub (Secretary-General of the Jordan Labour Party)

	Open Discussion
12:45 – 01:00	Coffee Break
01:00– 02:00	<p>Session 2: Is Jordan Achieving Social Protection Floors and Social Insurance Goals?</p> <p>This session will explore minimum and living wages in Jordan, and their implications for the establishment of a social protection floor. It will also examine if Jordan is achieving its goals of providing social insurance to its population.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Hala Ahed (Lawyer, Jordan Women’s Union)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Suzan Razzaz and Dr. Irene Selwaness, <i>Is Jordan Achieving the Social Insurance Goals of its New Social Contract?</i> • Dr. Caroline Krafft and Dr. Cyrine Hannafi, <i>Minimum and living wages in Jordan and Tunisia: Implications for social protection floors</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jamil Nimri (Member of Senate House) • Dr. Mitri Mdanat (Secretary-General of the Economic and Social Council Jordan) <p style="text-align: center;">Open Discussion</p>
02:00- 03:00	Lunch
03:00– 04:30	<p>Session 3: Social Protections for Vulnerable Groups</p> <p>This session will explore mechanisms for providing social protections for Jordan’s most vulnerable, with particular attention paid to the role of cash transfers in ensuring protections. Policy topics will include protections for youth, refugees, and people with disabilities.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ammar Abu-Zayyad (Country Director of CARE International)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maia Sieverding, <i>Achieving health insurance coverage for persons with disabilities in Jordan, with a focus on youth</i> • Ms. Zeina Jamaluddine and Dr. Maia Sieverding, <i>Cash transfers during the transition to adulthood in Jordan: Associations with household food insecurity and the subjective wellbeing of youth</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ragui Assaad, Alma Boustati, and Vishal Jamkar, <i>Social Protection for Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Do transfers reach the multi-dimensionally poor?</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lara Yassin (Director of Legal Department, Higher Council of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) • Dr. Deena Dajani (International Institute for Environment and Development) <p>Open Discussion</p>
04:30 – 04:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>
04:45- 05:45	<p>Session 4: Policy Dialogue Panel</p> <p>This policy dialogue panel will bring together experts and high-level stakeholders from various areas, including civil society, government, and international organizations. Dialogue will center on future policy actions needed to achieve broad-reaching social protection in Jordan, considering the findings of the papers within the series. The second half of the panel discussion will be open to questions from the audience. The dialogue will conclude with a discussion of actionable next steps for all actors within the social protection arena.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Hadeel Abdelaziz (Executive Director of Justice Center for Legal Aid)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Markku Malkamaki (Social Protection Specialist, ILO Jordan) • Ms. Diala Khamra (Executive Director, Save the Children, Jordan) • Dr. Shaman A-Majali (Director of Legal Affairs and Spokesperson of the Social Security Cooperation) • Ms. Randa Naffa (Co-Founder and Manager at SADAQA) <p>Open Discussion</p>
05:45 – 06:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Ahmad Awad; <i>Phenix Center</i> Dr. Ibrahim Elbadawi; <i>Economic Research Forum</i> Dr. Ragui Assaad; <i>University of Minnesota and ERF</i></p>