

**WEBINAR SERIES ON  
DISSEMINATION OF THE SECOND REGIONAL REPORT ON JOBS AND GROWTH IN  
NORTH AFRICA (2018 -21):  
DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH THE COVID-19 ERA**

October 24 and 25, 2022

**Context**

The relationship between economic growth and job creation has long been a key focus of economic research. The experience in North African countries over the last generation confirms evidence from elsewhere: growth does linearly deliver jobs. Yet, a decade of high growth in the 2000s had not addressed imbalances in labour markets. After a deep slump in the first part of the 2010s, growth bounced back in the second part of the decade only to witness the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020.

Policies for job-rich growth need to be informed by an understanding of labour market dynamics that goes beyond looking at just unemployment rates. The ILO/ERF first Report on Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2021) presented two decades of harmonised labour force survey data computed across a broad series of key indicators to capture job quantity and quality trends for women and men across age groups and educational attainments. These cross-country time series were considered in conjunction with aggregate and sectoral GDP trends in the region. The report highlighted how market liberalisation and sharp reductions in public-sector employment in the 2010s have not resulted in significant private sector formal employment growth. Output and employment growth concentrated in non-tradeable sectors with low productivity and precarious working conditions, mostly in construction, trade and accommodation and restaurants. The output and employment shares of manufacturing and high-end services have not expanded, indicating countries in the region are not set on sustained structural transformation path.

The Second Regional Report on Jobs and Growth in North Africa, work that's produced by ERF and ILO (ADWA' project) in collaboration with NSOs, updates the time-series data from official sources to track jobs and growth dynamics. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these long-standing challenges have been further accentuated, with those most vulnerable more exposed to job and income losses. Survey data from the region collected by ERF and ILO in 2020 and 2021, allows to provide a detailed account of the complex labour market dynamics the pandemic has affected in the region. The report includes a regional overview and four country chapters covering Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Sudan. The combination of a macroeconomic and labour market perspectives shed light on a range of policy dimensions, including countercyclical management, the public investment mix, boosting private investment, structural transformation, human capital and education, and social protection.

## Webinar Objectives & Setting

The event will take place online over two days to present the key findings of the “Second Regional Report on Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -2021): Developments through the COVID-19 Era”. The webinar series will start off with the presentation of the key findings of the overview chapter of the report, presenting a comparative analysis of key indicators and labour market trends in the region. This will be followed by the first country-focused session presenting the results of the analysis in Tunisia. On the second day, country focused sessions continue with presentations of the chapters on Morocco, Egypt and Sudan taking place in three separate sessions.

*The webinars and reports are supported by the project “Advancing the Decent Work Agenda in North Africa (ADWA’), implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The project aims to promote job-rich growth, International Labour Standards (ILS) and their application at the enterprise level. It works at the policymaking level in order to support evidence-based decisions on key dimensions of the Decent Work Agenda.*

*\*The webinar will be held in English; Arabic and French simultaneous interpretations will be provided during the event.*

## AGENDA

**Day one: October 24, 2022 – 3 PM (Cairo time) (2h 25min)**

### **3:00-3:15 Introduction and Welcome Remarks**

- Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum (ERF).
- Dorothea Schmidt-Klau, Head of Department Management and Coordination Unit, Employment Policy Department, International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva.
- Maria Selin, Head of Regional Development Programme, Embassy of Sweden in Amman, Jordan.

### **3:15-4:20 Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -21): Developments through the COVID-19 Era – A Regional Overview (1h 5min)**

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, ERF.

#### **Speakers:**

- Ragui Assaad, Professor of Planning and Public Affairs at University of Minnesota and ERF Research Fellow.
- Caroline Krafft, Associate Professor of Economics at St. Catherine University.
- Mohamed Ali Marouani, Associate Professor of Economics at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, Representative in Tunisia, Institute of Research for Development and ERF Research Fellow.

#### **Lead Commentators (20 min):**

- Nader Kabbani, Director of Research and Director of the Governance and Development Program, Middle East Council on Global Affairs.
- Luca Fedi, Technical Specialist of Employment and Productivity, ILO Employment Policies Department, Geneva.
- David Robalino, Senior Advisor for McKinsey's Development Economics Practice.

#### **Q&A (15 min)**

### **4:20-5:25 Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -21): Developments through the COVID-19 Era - Tunisia Country Section (1h 5min)**

**Moderator:** Mongi Boughzala, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Tunis El Manar.

#### **Speakers:**

- Passainte Atef, Program Officer at ERF.
- Khaled Nasri, Researcher, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Management of Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar.

#### **Lead Commentators (25 min):**

- Sami Silini, Director of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA).



International  
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**ADWA'**  
Advancing the Decent Work  
Agenda in North Africa 1998

ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH  
FORUM



منتدى  
البحوث  
الاقتصادية

- Asma Ben Hassen, Founder and President, Tunisia Inclusive Labor Institute (TILI).
- Chafik Ben Rouine, President of the Tunisian Observatory of Economy
- Rym Ben Slimane, Director and Representative of the National Observatory of Employment and Qualifications.

**Q&A (15 min)**



## AGENDA

**Day two: October 25, 2022 – 2 PM (Cairo time) (3h 10 min)**

**2:00-3:05 Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -21): Developments through the COVID-19 Era - Morocco Country Section (1h)**

**Moderator:** Abdelaaziz Ait Ali, Principal Economist and Head of the Research Department at the Policy Center for the New South.

**Speakers:**

- Fouzia Ejjanou, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah, Fez, Morocco.
- Saad Belghazi, Economist-Consultant, Specialist in Employment and Environment.

**Lead Commentators (20 min):**

- Mohamed Hazim, Director of the National Labor Market observatory, Ministry of Economic Inclusion, Small Business, Employment and Skills.
- Bahija Nali, Head of Department for Studies on Social Accounting Matrices and Labor Matrices, High Commission for Planning.
- Assouli Mohamed, Head of Projections and Prospective Division, High Commission for Planning.

**Q&A (15 min)**

**5 min break**

**3:10-04:10 Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -21): Developments through the COVID-19 Era - Egypt Country Section (1h)**

**Moderator:** Valentine Offenloch, Chief Technical Advisor, ADWA' Project, ILO Cairo.

**Speaker:** Chahir Zaki, Professor of Economics at Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, and Director of EU-Mediterranean and African Network for Economic Studies (EMANES) - Egypt's pole and Lead Economist at ERF.

**Lead Commentators (20 min):**

- Hanan Nazir, Head of Labour Market Policies Unit, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.
- Ahmed Fikry Abdel Wahab, Managing Director of East Port Said Development Co. (EP), the National Egyptian Railway Industries Co. (NERIC), and the Egyptian German Automotive Co. (EGA).

**Q&A (15 min)**

**5 mins break**

**4:15-05:10 Jobs and Growth in North Africa (2018 -21): Developments through the COVID-19 Era - Sudan Country Section (55 min)**

**Moderator:** Ibrahim Elbadawi, Managing Director, ERF.

**Speakers:** Samia Satti, Full Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, Khartoum University and ERF Affiliated Research Fellow.

**Lead Commentators (20 min):**

- Thoraya Hamad Farah, Head of labour statistics and labour market information, Ministry of Labor and Administrative Reform, Sudan.
- Kabbashi Suliman, Associate professor at the Department of Economics, University of Khartoum.

**Q&A (15 min)**