From Data to Policy:
Evidence and Insights from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023

Cairo | 24-25 November 2024

Background

In recent years, Egypt's labor market has faced substantial challenges amid a dynamic socio-economic landscape. The availability of robust data is crucial for understanding these challenges and formulating effective policies. The Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) has emerged as a cornerstone of labor market research and human development in Egypt, providing essential insights into the socio-economic conditions of its population.

Over the past 25 years, the ELMPS has established itself as a vital resource, complementing similar surveys in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The region faces a shortage of economic research, making the availability of rich and detailed panel data documenting the socio-economic and labor market characteristics of individuals living in Egypt a valuable public good.

Since its inception in 1998, the ELMPS has documented labor market activities through nationally representative panel data collected in 1998, 2006, 2012, and 2018. The survey began with approximately 5,000 households and has expanded to include 15,746 households by 2018, including both panel and refresher households. This longitudinal dataset has become the backbone of research on critical topics such as labor markets, human development, migration, family dynamics, and social protection in Egypt.

In 2023, the Economic Research Forum (ERF) collaborated with the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, along with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, to conduct the fifth round of the ELMPS. This new wave was supported by esteemed organizations, including the International Labour Organization, Agence Française de Développement, World Bank, UNICEF, and UN Women Egypt.

The ELMPS 2023 captured 70,636 individuals and 17,784 households. Of these, 50,268 individuals and 13,565 households were tracked from 2018 to 2023.

Drawing on the recent wave of the ELMPS, the Economic Research Forum is producing new research that will eventually be turned into a new book for the Labor Market Panel Survey series. In this regard, the ERF research team has undertaken comprehensive analyses of the latest ELMPS data, producing descriptive papers that explore a wide array of critical topics, including but not limited to employment and labor supply, trends in income and wage inequality, social protection mechanisms, migration patterns, the green economy, and occupational segregation. Additionally, the research addresses the gender wage gap from 1998 to 2023 and examines female care work and other timely issues, utilizing the newly integrated time-use module.

Objective

This conference will take place over two days to celebrate the launch of the ELMPS 2023 data and to disseminate the key findings derived from this extensive research. With a diverse audience of policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders, the conference aims to facilitate constructive dialogue around the findings and their implications for policy formulation. Participants will engage in discussions designed to translate data insights into actionable policy recommendations, addressing critical labor market challenges and promoting sustainable development in Egypt.

Access the full conference webpage, related working papers and the ELMPS dataset

Conference Agenda

Day 1: Sunday, November 24

9:30 – 10:00 | Registration and welcome coffee break

10:00 – 11:00 | **Opening session and overview of the ELMPS 2023**

Welcome remarks:	**Ibrahim Elbadawi,** *Economic Research Forum (ERF)*
Opening statement:	**H.E. Rania Al-Mashat**, *Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation of Egypt*
	H.E. Khairat Barakat, *Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)*

Project overview by:	**Ragui Assaad:** Introducing the ELMPS 2023
	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS): Methodology and main indicators overview

11:00 – 12:15 | **Panel 2:
Evolution of labor supply and employment in Egypt**

Chairperson:	**Hassan Aly,** *Nile University*
Speakers:	The evolution of labor supply in Egypt through 2023
	Caroline Krafft, Ragui Assaad, and Zoe McKillip
	Evolution of the structure of employment and job creation in Egypt, 2012-2023
	Ragui Assaad and Esraa Mahmoud
Lead commentators:	**Roland Sarton,** *International Labour Organization*
	Shimaa Mahgoub, *Federation of Egyptian Industries*
	Open Discussion

12:15 – 12:30 | **Coffee break**

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Day 1: Sunday, November 24

12:30 – 13:45 | **Panel 3:**

Wages, inequality, and gender occupational segregation

Chairperson:	**Valentine Offenloch,** *International Labour Organization*
Speakers:	**Trends in income and wage inequality in Egypt** May Gadallah, Mariam Hagag, Mona Elsayed
	Occupational Segregation and the Gender Wage Gap in Egypt, 1998–2023 Shireen Alazzawi and Vladimir Hlasny
Lead commentators:	**Sherine Al-Shawarby,** *Cairo University and Nile University* **Mirey Ovadiya,** *The World Bank*
	Open Discussion

13:45 – 15:00 | **Lunch break**

15:00 – 16:45 | **Panel 4:**

Gender and unpaid care work

Chairperson:	**Heba Nassar**, *Cairo University*
Speakers:	**Unpaid care work in Egypt: Gender gaps in time use** Marian Attallah and Marina Hesham
	Durable goods, local services, and unpaid care work in Egypt Ragui Assaad and Sara Ragab
	The impact of early childhood care and education **on maternal time use in Egypt** Caroline Krafft and Ruotong Li
Lead commentators:	**Marwa Alameldeen,** *UN Women Egypt* **Maia Sieverding,** *The American University of Beirut* **Abdelrahman Nagy,** *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)*
	Open Discussion

Day 2: Monday, November 25

9:30 – 10:00 | Registration and welcome coffee break

10:00 – 11:15 | **Panel 1:
Social protection and economic vulnerability**

Chairperson:	Lina Nabarawy, *UNICEF*
Speakers:	Evolution of social protection in Egypt, 2012-2023 Irene Selwaness and Hania Sholkamy
	From Vulnerability to Resilience: Households' exposure to shocks and coping mechanisms in Egypt Imane Helmy and Alanoud Ehab
Lead commentators:	**Souraya El-Assiouty,** *The World Bank* **Sikandra Kurdi,** *IFPRI*
	Open Discussion

11:15 – 12:00 | **Panel 2:
Micro and small enterprises in Egypt**

Chairperson:	**Elsa Faivre,** *Agence Française De Développement (AFD)*
Speakers:	Micro and Small Enterprises in Egypt: Overview, challenges and the way forward Amirah El Haddad and Chahir Zaki
Lead commentators:	**Alia El Mahdi,** *Cairo University*
	Open Discussion

12:00 – 12:15 | **Coffee break**

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Day 2: Monday, November 25

12:15 – 13:00 | Panel 3:
Evolution of international migration

Chairperson:	**Ibrahim Awad,** *The American University in Cairo (AUC)*
Speakers:	**Evolution of international migration (2012-2023)** Jackline Wahba, Rawane Yasser and Anda David
Lead commentators:	**Ayman Zohry,** *The Egyptian Society for Migration Studies*
	Open Discussion

13:00 – 14:45 | Panel 4:
Technology, education-occupation mismatch and green jobs

Chairperson:	**Heba Handoussa,** *Egypt Network for Integrated Development*
Speakers:	**The use of information and communication technology in the workplace in Egypt** Irene Selwaness, Rawane Yasser and Cecilia Poggi
	Analyzing Labor Market Shifts in the Transition to Green Jobs Mona Amer and Hala Abou Ali
	Education-occupation mismatch among vocational and university graduates in Egypt Rania Roushdy and Nouran Elkhouly
Lead commentators:	**Sherif Kamel,** *The American University in Cairo* **Ghada Barsoum,** *The American University in Cairo* **Ahmed Fikry Abdel Wahab,** *East Port Said Development Co. (EP), the National Egyptian Railway Industries Co. (NERIC), and the Egyptian German Automotive Co. (EGA)*
	Open Discussion

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14:45 – 16:00 | **Lunch break**

16:00 – 17:00 | **Policy roundtable:
The importance of labor market data for policy making**

Chairperson: **Ragui Assaad,** *University of Minnesota*

Speakers: **Hanan Nazier**, *Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
and International Cooperation representative*
Hend Mohamed Safa'a El Din, *Ministry of Labor, Egypt*
Imane Helmy, *The World Bank*
Eric Oechslin, *International Labor Organization*

17:00 – 17:15 | **Closing remarks:**

Speakers: **May Gadallah**, *Economic Research Forum (ERF)*
Ragui Assaad, *University of Minnesota*

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