

Economic Research Forum

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH  
FORUM



منتدى  
البحوث  
الاقتصادية

Economic Research Forum

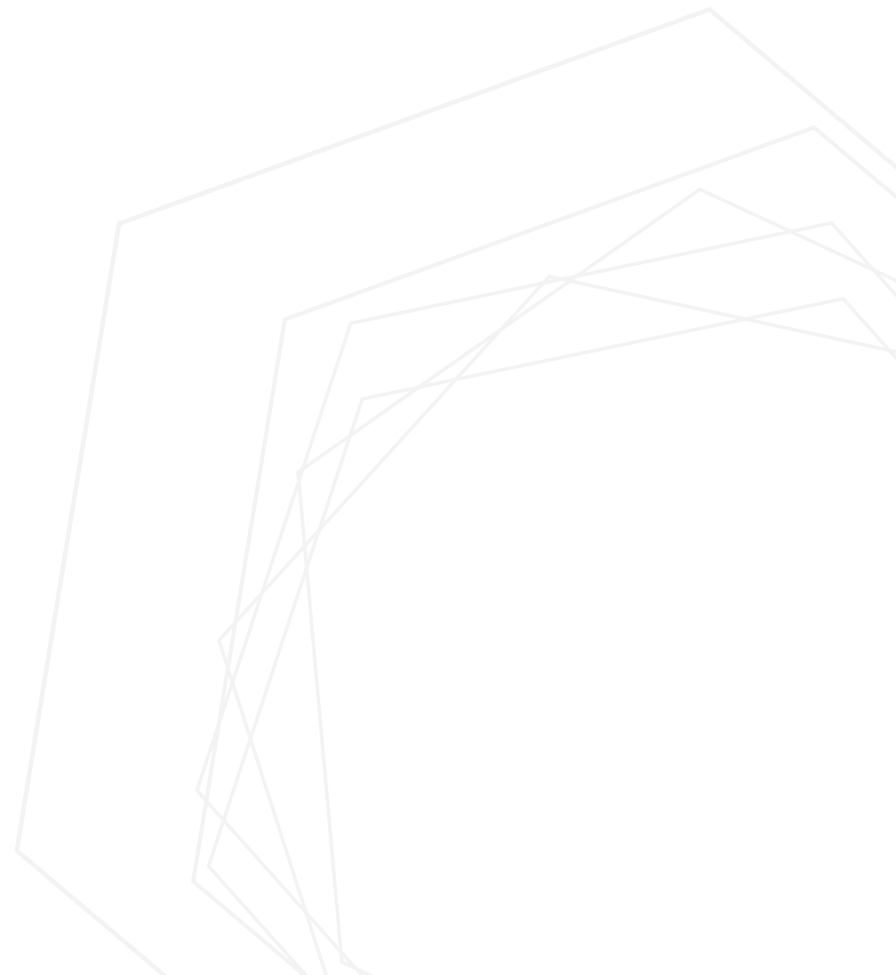
# ANNUAL REPORT

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# About

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## The Economic Research Forum

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# About **ERF**

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## Our Mission

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) is a regional network dedicated to promoting high quality economic research to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

## Our Objectives

Established in 1993, ERF's core objectives are to build strong research capacity in the ERF region, to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

## Our Activities

To achieve these objectives, ERF carries out a portfolio of activities. These include mobilizing funds for well conceived proposals; managing carefully selected regional research initiatives, collecting and sharing micro data and providing training and mentoring programs to junior researchers. It also includes organizing seminars and conferences based on research outcomes; and publishing research output through multiple channels including working papers, books, policy briefs and perspectives, Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) and the ERF Policy Portal - *The Forum*.

## Our Network

The ERF network comprises a distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT), accomplished researchers from the region and highly dedicated head-office staff. A not-for-profit organization, the ERF is supported by multiple donors, both regional and international.

## Contact Information

### ERF Office

**Address:** 21 Al-Sad Al-Aaly St. Dokki, Giza, Egypt

PO Box 12311

**Tel:** 00 202 333 18 600 - 603

**Fax:** 00 202 333 18 604

**Email:** erf@erf.org.eg

**Website:** <http://www.erf.org.eg>

### ERF Dubai

Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)

**Premises:** GV-00-1003-BC-42-0

Gate Village Building 10 - Dubai, UAE

PO Box 125115

**Tel:** +971 4 4011980

## Follow us



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**ERF**

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# Network and Partnerships

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# Network & Capacity Building



**ERF network** continues to expand, attracting distinguished economists from across the region. These affiliates contribute a wealth of research and policy knowledge, fostering a vibrant environment for collaboration and mentorship, particularly in nurturing early-career researchers. ERF actively promotes the inclusion of affiliates from leading research and academic institutions, international organizations, and governmental bodies, both within and beyond the region.

## ERF AFFILIATES

Currently, the network comprises 455 affiliates, including:

- 300 Research Fellows with outstanding academic credentials
- 78 Research Associates, representing the next generation of promising scholars
- 45 Senior Associates, recognized for their significant contributions to the field
- 32 Policy Affiliates, bringing valuable policy expertise

Affiliation with ERF is highly selective, based on a rigorous review and evaluation process.

Figure 1. ERF Affiliates by Category, 2024

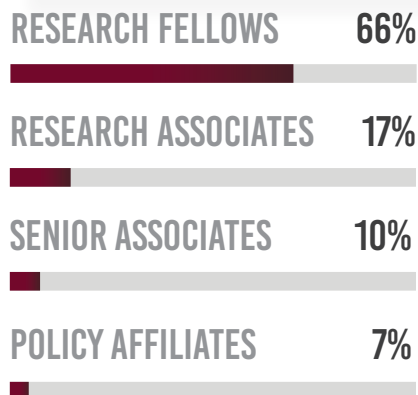


Table 1. ERF Affiliates by Residency

Affiliation	Inside	Outside	Total
Research Fellows	193	107	300
Research Associates	66	12	78
Senior Associates	30	15	45
Policy Affiliates	28	4	32
Total	317	138	455

In 2024, 29 new affiliates joined the network:

- 18 Research Fellows
- 9 Research Associates
- 2 Senior Associates

This new cohort brings a rich diversity of thematic expertise and regional representation, further enhancing ERF's reach, inclusivity, and impact.

**29** NEW AFFILIATES  
by the end of **2024**

## CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2024, ERF organized two specialized workshops, designed to enhance participants' technical capacity in applying cutting-edge analytical methods in economic research. A total of 41 participants benefited from these training sessions.

### *Machine Learning for Economic Analysis*

May 20–21 & 27–28  
and October 23–24 & 30–31  
Instructor:  
Prof. Christophe Hurlin,  
University of Orléans

These intermediate-level workshops introduced participants to key machine learning (ML) methodologies, tailored specifically for economic analysis. Emphasis was placed on supervised and semi-supervised classification techniques, with a critical discussion around the trade-offs between model interpretability and predictive performance in ML applications. The program targeted researchers with foundational knowledge in statistical learning and basic programming skills, providing hands-on training within an applied economic context.

## New ERF Affiliates in 2024



				<h3>New ERF Affiliates in 2024</h3>		
				<h3>Research Fellows</h3>		
				<h3>Research Associates</h3>		
				<p>Aymen Belgacem, Belgi Turan, Essahbi Essaadi, Gamze Danisman, Ibtisam H. Al Abri, Jamel Saadaoui, Kowsar Yousefi, Nader Habibi, Nadia Ben Sedrine Goucha, Nurcan Kilinc, Omrane Guedhami, Oznur Ozdamar, Seref Bozoklu, Yassine Bakkar, Youssef Saidi, Mo Alloush, Zied Saadaoui, Mohamed Benbouziane, Lylia Sami, Samir Djelti, Ahmad Shareef Alawadhi, Abdelhalem Shahen, Hajer Habib, Rashed Ashqar, Ahmed Kchikeche, Rasha Hassan, Ghada Tabbah, Dorothee Boccanfuso, Mohamed El Moctar Mohamed El Hacene</p>		
<h3>Senior Associates</h3>						

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### *ERF-FEMISE Collaboration*

In 2024, ERF continued its leadership role as President and Sole Coordinator of the Forum Euroméditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Économiques (FEMISE).

Supported by the Spanish Development Agency, and in partnership with IE Med and The American University in Cairo, FEMISE successfully held its Annual Conference: The EUROMED Partnership as a Catalyst for SDGs: Advancing Value Chains, Climate Action, Digital Transformation and

Youth Empowerment, in Cairo, Egypt 10 – 12 December, 2024.

This collaboration reinforces ERF's commitment to fostering regional dialogue and advancing socioeconomic research across the Euro-Mediterranean region.

**ERF**

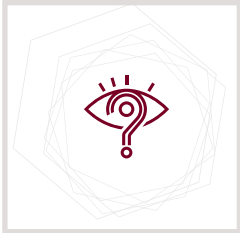
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# Research Activities

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# Research Activities



**Throughout** 2024, ERF coordinated a robust portfolio of 55 research projects, directly engaging 76 researchers across the region, addressing a range of timely and policy relevant topics vital to the region's development. The selection process was guided by clear criteria, peer review and the scrutiny of the Project Principal Investigator.

A defining feature of the year was an ambitious expansion in primary data collection efforts, strategically aimed at addressing persistent data gaps. Notably, ERF completed the fifth round of the Egyptian Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS); launched the third round of the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) and conducted a firm-level survey on energy transition and SMEs in five countries.

## Thematic Tracks

Thematic highlights and progress made are outlined below:

- *Social protection issues* remained prominent on the ERF research agenda. Work on social protection addressed: the role of NGOs in social protection; multidisciplinary research on social protection for non-nationals including refugees and asylum seekers; the impact of the Ukraine crisis on children in Egypt and the micro impact of the crisis on households and child labor.
- *On regional integration*, ERF continued to work on mapping and assessing the performance of clusters in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. Additionally, research covered issues of food security and supply chain in the context of the euro Mediterranean integration.
- *On labor markets*, ERF conducted research on the Egyptian labor market covering social protection, wages, time use and care work, migration and school-to-work transition as well as employment and unemployment trends. ERF also worked on the future of work in Arab countries from a gender perspective.
- *On the environment and climate issues*, ERF worked on energy transition in six countries in the region, addressing potential for employment generation through SMEs, and the challenges faced in each national context. The work on this area also addressed cross-cutting issues such as the outlook for energy demand in the region, gender equality in the context of green transition, the energy transition in the context of Crises, and the political economy of energy transition in the MENA region. ERF also worked on climate change and macro policy in support of a green transition and mapping MENA's Renewable Energy Supply Chains.

Full project details can be found in Annex B.

## RESEARCH PROFILE

Research projects directly engaged 76 researchers, 50 of whom were women, 23 of whom were ERF affiliates (30 percent), and 49 of whom resided in the region (64.5 percent). As of the end of 2024, ERF had completed 30 projects, continued to manage 20 ongoing projects, and initiated 5 new ones. Table 1 provides details of the completed, ongoing and new projects in 2024.

Research Projects by Residency

ERF REGION **64.5%**



NON ERF REGION **35.5%**



Research Projects by Gender

MALES **34.2%**



FEMALES **65.8%**



Research Projects by Affiliates

NON-AFFILIATES **69.7%**



AFFILIATES **30.3%**



Table 1. ERF Research Activities by Processing Stage & Lead Researchers, 2024

Project	Team Leaders
<b>Completed Projects</b>	
01 Introducing The Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023	Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft
02 The Evolution of Labor Supply in Egypt through 2023	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft and Zoe McKillip
03 Evolution of the Structure and Quality of Employment in Egypt, 2012-2023	Ragui Assaad and Esraa Mahmoud
04 Trends in Income and Wage Inequality in Egypt (1988-2023)	May Gadallah, Mona Elsayed and Mariam Hagag
05 Education-Occupation Mismatch Among Vocational Secondary and University Graduates in Egypt	Rania Roushdy and Nouran El-khouly
06 The Evolution of Social Protection in Egypt, 2006-2023	Irene Selwaness and Hania Sholkamy
07 The Impact of Early Childhood Care and Education on Maternal Time Use in Egypt	Caroline Krafft and Ruotong Li
08 Unpaid Care Work in Egypt: Gender Gaps in Time Use	Marian Atallah and Marina Hesham
09 The Use of Information and Communication Technology in the Workplace in Egypt	Rawane Yasser, Irene Selwaness and Cecilia Poggi
10 Migration during Economic Crisis: The Case of Egypt	Anda David, Jackline Wahba and Rawane Yasser
11 Analyzing Labor Market Shifts in the Transition to Green Jobs: Mapping Egypt's Green Jobs	Hala Abou-Ali and Mona Amer
12 From Vulnerability to Resilience: Households' Exposure to Shocks and Coping Mechanisms in Egypt	Imane Helmy and Alanoud Ehab
13 Gender, Work, and Time Use in the Context of a Low-Income Agrarian Economy: The Case of Sudan	Ragui Assaad, Vishal Jamkar, and Caroline Krafft
14 The Lives and Livelihoods of the Displaced in Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and Jackline Wahba

# Research Activities

Table 1. ERF Research Activities by Processing Stage & Lead Researchers, 2024

Project	Team Leaders
15 Education in Sudan: Disparities in Enrollment, Attainment and Quality	Ebaidalla Mahjoub and Tarig Alhaj Rakhy
16 Determinants of Persistently High Fertility in Sudan	Maia Sieverding
17 Perspectives of refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt on integration into national social protection systems	Maia Sieverding and Salma Abou Hussein
18 The cost of including refugees and asylum seekers within the national cash assistance system	Heba Al Laithy and Dina Armanious
19 Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers within Egypt's National Social Assistance Program: Promoting Long-Term Financial Sustainability	Sherine Al-Shawarby, Noha Samy Omar, and Nour Khaled Abou-Ismael
20 Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers within Universal Health Insurance Program: Promoting Long-Term Financial Sustainability	Sherine Al-Shawarby, Dina A. Fattah, and Nour Abou-Ismael
21 The Legal And Policy Frameworks For An Inclusive Social Protection System In Egypt	Ghada Barsoum, and Alaa Al Barrawi
22 Informality among Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Egyptian Labor Market: Towards an Inclusive Social Insurance Coverage	Rania Roushdy
23 Report: The 2023 National Child Labour Survey in Egypt: A Child Lost in Work	Rania Roushdy and Ali Rashed
24 Food Insecurity and Gender in Turbulent Times: Evidence from New Data for Egypt	Chahir Zaki
25 Effects of Russian-Ukraine War (RUW) on Gender and Food Security in Kenya	Philliph Musyoka
26 National Child Labor Survey 2022	Ragui Assaad, Zakaria Othman, and Ali Rashed
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>	
1 EuroMed Cluster Forward (ECF)	Chahir Zaki, Maryse Louis, Yasmeen Oraby, and Passainte Atef
2 The main features of Sudan's income and wages structure	May Gadallah, Nesma Mamdouh, Sara Ragab, and Dalia Hany
3 In the Context of the Renewable Energy: Transition in MENA – The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive, Equitable, and Sustainable Economic Growth – Jordan Case Study	Ahmad Awad and Ibrahim Saif
4 Gender Equality, Climate Change, and Clean Energy in the Middle East and North Africa	Nada Mustafa Ali and Racha Ramadan
5 Potential Employment Generation Capacity of Renewable Energy in MENA	Atif Kubursi and Hala Abou-Ali
6 Drivers of Renewable Energy Adoption by SMEs in Egypt	Abeer Elshennawy and Mohammed Bouaddi
7 The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Development Within the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in the MENA Region: Sudan Case Study Report	Muez Ali, Mayada Hassanain, and Alzaki Alhelo
8 Under Which Conditions Can Tunisian MSMEs Shift to A Successful Energy Transition?	Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani, and Walid Hadhri

Table 1. ERF Research Activities by Processing Stage & Lead Researchers, 2024

Project	Team Leaders
9 The political economy of energy transition in MENA	Ali Al-Saffar, Abeer El-Shennawy, and Adeel Malik
10 Transition to Renewable Energy in the Middle East and North Africa Region: The Imperatives, Benefits, Drivers, Barriers and the Role of MSMEs	Atif Kubursi
11 The role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth within the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in the MENA Region: Sudan Case Study	Muez Ali, Mayada Hassanain, and Alzaki Alhelo
12 Accelerating the Energy Transition in Egypt	Rasha Hassan
13 Perceptions of energy transition by Tunisian MSMEs: What is Going Wrong?	Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani and Walid Hadhri
14 The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Renewable Energy Transition in MENA: Jordan Case Study	Ibrahim Saif and Ahmad Awad
15 Gender Equality and Inclusion in MENA: Bridging Gender Gaps in Energy and MSMEs	Sara Ragab and Esraa Medhat
16 Empowering the Future of MENA: Energy Transition Country Profiles	Sara Ragab and Esraa Medhat
17 Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to Shocks (STAPLES)	Chahir Zaki, Amr Khafagy, and Fida Karam
18 Research on Gender and the Future of Work in the Arab States Region	Amira El Shal, Adelina Zeqiri, Burim Prenaj, Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani, Belal Fallah, Vladimir Hlasny, and Irene Selwaness
19 Making Macroeconomic Policies More Environment Friendly: A CGE Analysis for Egypt	Chahir Zaki, City Eldeep, and Abeer Elshinnawy
20 Shifting Sands: Gender and Employment in Post-COVID-19 Egypt	Rana Hendy, and Amira ElShall
<b>Initiated Projects</b>	
1 Household Micro and Small Enterprises in Egypt: Overview and Developments through 2023	Amirah El-Haddad and Chahir Zaki
2 Occupational Segregation and the Gender Wage Gap in Egypt, 1998–2023	Shireen Alazzawi and Vladimir Hlasny
3 Household appliances, infrastructural services, and married women’s unpaid care work in Egypt	Ragui Assaad and Sara Ragab
4 NGOs Panel Survey in Egypt	Ghada Barsoum, Christine Valente, Muhamed Haseeb, May Gadallah, and Nesma Mahgoub

# Research Activities

Table 1. ERF Research Activities by Processing Stage & Lead Researchers, 2024

Project	Team Leaders
<b>Micro Datasets</b>	
1 Sudan Labor Market Panel Survey (SLMPS) 2022	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft and May Gadallah
2 Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2023	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft and May Gadallah
3 Clean Energy Transition MENA Countries	May Gadallah and Mahmoud Al Kassabi
4 National Child Labor Survey 2023	May Gadallah and Ali Rashed
5 Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS 2023)	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft and May Gadallah

## THE OPEN ACCESS MICRO DATA INITIATIVE AND THE ERF DATA PORTAL

In 2024, ERF data efforts continued to focus on: (i) Data Collection, Harmonization and Dissemination, (ii) Primary Data Collection and Surveys, (iii) Capacity-building activities and collaboration with NSOs and (iv) Provision of access to users of the data portal.

### Data Collection, Harmonization and Dissemination

Data cleaning, harmonization and dissemination efforts by the ERF data team of statisticians continued steadily.

In 2024, 11 new datasets were made publicly accessible bringing the total number of online datasets to 183 including::

- **30** Harmonized Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HHIES) from seven Arab countries (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Somalia, and Tunisia);
- **56** Harmonized Labor Force Surveys (HLFS) from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, and Yemen;;
- **18** COVID 19 MENA Monitor Household Survey (CMMHH) for Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and Sudan;
- **13** COVID 19 MENA Monitor Enterprise Survey (CMMENT) for Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco;
- **4** Harmonized Health Surveys (HHHS) from Iraq and Sudan;
- **2** Health Surveys from Egypt;
- **2** Socio-economic Survey from Palestine;
- **4** Census Data from Egypt;
- **10** Labor Market Panel Surveys (LMPS) from Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, and Tunisia;
- **2** Higher Education Graduates Surveys (HEGS) in two Arab countries (Egypt and Jordan);
- **6** Surveys of Young People from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia;
- **3** Harmonized Surveys of Young People in Egypt (HSYPE);
- **1** Survey of Young People in Informal Urban Areas of Greater Cairo (SYPE-IGC);
- **2** Child Labor Surveys from Jordan and Egypt;
- **7** Datasets on Micro and Small Enterprises from four countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Turkey);

- **2** Datasets on exports and imports from Egypt;
- **1** Dataset on the constraints facing the development of Micro and Small Enterprises from two governorates in Egypt;
- **5** UNIDO databases on Industrial Statistics and Industrial Demand-Supply Balance;
- **4** Datasets on enterprises' digitization from three countries (Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, and a combined data version);
- **2** Datasets on Time Use from Egypt and Palestine;
- **1** Dataset on Labor Market Discrimination Audit Study (RCT) from Egypt;
- **1** Survey of Industrial Firm Behavior from Egypt;
- **5** Datasets on Transition to Clean Energy for Enterprises from four countries (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and a combined data version).
- **2** Datasets on the Impact of Russian Ukrainian War on Households in Egypt and Kenya.

## Primary Data Collection and Surveys

During 2024 ERF carried out five major data collection endeavors:

### Completing the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS)

The 2023 Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS), conducted in collaboration with CAPMAS and the

Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, was successfully completed in 2024. This latest wave captured detailed data from 70,636 individuals across 17,784 households.

Spanning over two decades, the ELMPS has become a cornerstone of empirical research on labor markets, human development, migration, family formation, and social protection in Egypt. This wave builds on the longitudinal panel to assess the evolving dynamics of Egypt's labor market, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its far-reaching economic implications.

ELMPS 2023 marks a significant milestone in series of Labor Market Surveys that began with the ELMPS 1998 and continued in 2006, 2012, and 2018, and finally 2023 survey, the Jordan Labor Market Survey (JLMPS 2010 and 2016), the Tunisia (TLMPS 2014) and Sudan (SLMPS 2022). The ELMPS 2023 dataset is made publicly available on the ERF Data Portal.

### Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) 2025

In cooperation with the Department of Statistics (DOS) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, ERF has advanced preparations for the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) 2025. Programming and development of the

household and individual questionnaires initiated, alongside the completion of the Training of Trainers (ToT) and the commencement of enumerator training. Data collection is scheduled for early 2025.

This upcoming wave marks the third round in the JLMPS series, following previous surveys conducted in 2010 and 2016. By tracking a panel of households and individuals over more than a decade, the JLMPS has become a vital resource for understanding labor market dynamics, human development, migration, family formation, and social protection in Jordan.

The 2025 wave leverages the JLMPS panel to examine how Jordan's labor market has been affected by Covid-19 pandemic, while placing the pandemic's impact and subsequent recovery within a broader historical context.

The survey will generate critical insights into the impact of the growing refugee population from Syria and Palestine on the structure and dynamics of Jordan's labor market. As a longstanding host country for displaced populations, the Hashemite Kingdom continues to grapple with the socioeconomic implications of large-scale migration.

In addition, the JLMPS 2025 will offer an in-depth analysis of the barriers and opportunities facing women and youth in the labor force—two groups disproportionately affected by unemployment and informality. By shedding light on gender and

# Research Activities

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generational disparities, the survey will inform targeted policies aimed at reducing inequality, addressing informality, and expanding access to decent work as Jordan continues its post-COVID recovery.

## The Firms Surveys on Clean Energy Transition in MENA

As the MENA region confronts mounting climate and energy challenges, transitioning to clean energy has become an urgent development priority. In 2024, ERF conducted phone-based firm surveys across Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia, later expanding to include Lebanon. These surveys focused on understanding the barriers and opportunities facing Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as they navigate the shift toward clean energy.

The data collection covered a single round and included a range of company specific details, such as sector categorization, employee count, regulatory compliance, experiences with grid-based electricity, and the extent of potential use of clean energy. These surveys are part of the ERF project on The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA.

By capturing country-specific insights, this initiative aims to

strengthen the evidence base needed to inform strategic policy frameworks that promote sustainable, inclusive, and efficient energy transitions. In doing so, it supports regional goals for emissions reduction, energy security, and social equity, with MSMEs positioned as pivotal actors in shaping a resilient and low-carbon economic future. The data collection phase was successfully completed in February 2024.

## Impact of Russian Ukrainian War on Households

The war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, has deepened global economic instability, amplifying inflation, worsening food insecurity, and pushing millions further into poverty. The disruption of grain and oilseed exports has been particularly severe for vulnerable regions such as the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Sub-Saharan Africa, where access to affordable, nutritious food has been significantly compromised.

In response, the ERF conducted a phone-based household survey targeting 2,000 households in Egypt and Kenya. The survey sought to:

- Identify factors driving food insecurity, particularly in female-headed households.
- Explore coping strategies adopted to address inflation and food shortages.

The findings aim to inform evidence-based policy responses that support social protection, food access, and resilience in times of global crisis.

## The Capacity-Building Activities and Collaborations with NSOs

In close partnership with national statistical offices, ERF organized five targeted training workshops in 2024 to strengthen technical capacity in data management, survey design, and analysis. These workshops supported both ongoing labor market panel surveys and broader statistical initiatives across the region:

1. CSPro Programming for Questionnaires (January 2024). Held for the JLMPS Data Team, this training focused on programming the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) questionnaire using CSPro, with a view to applying these skills in future survey rounds.
2. Survey Sampling and Weighting Procedures (February 2024, Cairo). A three-day regional workshop for staff from the national statistical agencies of Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia, providing foundational and applied training in sampling design and weighting techniques.
3. Reporting Main Indicators of the ELMPS 2023 using Stata (March 2024, ERF Headquarters, Cairo). Conducted for

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technical staff from CAPMAS and the Ministry of Planning, this workshop focused on the analysis and reporting of headline labor market indicators using the newly released ELMPS 2023 data.

4. Weight Calculations for Panel Data: Application to ELMPS 2023 (June 2024). This advanced technical session—organized for CAPMAS and Ministry of Planning staff—provided in-depth training on computing and applying weights for longitudinal panel datasets.
5. Introduction to Stata (September 2024, Jordan). A hands-on introductory course delivered to staff from Jordan’s Department of Statistics (DOS), aimed at strengthening statistical analysis skills using Stata software.

## Access to OAMDI

OAMDI is a pioneering initiative that grants researchers free, registered access to diverse microdata sources. Designed as a secure, web-based portal, OAMDI enables responsible analysis while rigorously upholding the confidentiality and copyrights of National Statistical Offices and the ERF. Launched in April 2013, it continues to serve an expanding global community of scholars and practitioners.

To introduce OAMDI to new users in 2024, ERF delivered two targeted online seminars, one in January for Earthna (a Qatar Foundation member), and another in November for Lebanese American University, alongside an in-person demonstration during the Survey Sampling and Weighting Procedures workshop.

User uptake has continued to grow steadily: OAMDI had 5,300 subscribers by end 2024, compared to 4,716 at end 2023, 4,144 at end 2022, and 3,778 at end 2021 (Figure 3).

Based on an ERF user survey, OAMDI is predominantly used for publishing research, academic degree work, and developing tools such as the Poverty Probability Index.

Data accessibility through OAMDI is fully open and inclusive, extending well beyond ERF’s regional and institutional network. Notably, less than half (44%) of registered users are based in the ERF region, reflecting the platform’s broad international reach. Moreover, only 3% of users are directly affiliated with ERF, underscoring the initiative’s role as a global public good serving a diverse and expanding community of independent researchers, academics, and policy professionals.

To date, ERF has facilitated access to approximately 11,763 micro-level datasets through OAMDI. In 2024 alone, the number of datasets accessed rose by 1,547 compared to the previous year (up from 10,216 in 2023), reflecting the growing trust and confidence of the research community in the quality, reliability, and relevance of OAMDI’s data resources.

Figure 4 highlights the increasing and diversified demand for the various types of datasets offered through OAMDI. In 2024, approximately 62% of all accessed datasets were related to harmonized household surveys, underscoring their central role in empirical research. Of these: 37% were Harmonized Labor Force Surveys (HLFS), 23% were Harmonized Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HHIES), 2% covered other harmonized sources, including the Survey of Young People in Egypt (HSYPE), Household Health Survey (HHHS), and Time Use Survey (TUS).

An additional 24% of accessed datasets were Labor Market Panel Surveys (LMPS), reflecting continued interest in longitudinal labor market analysis.

Furthermore, 9% of data downloads were for firm- and sector-level data-

# Research Activities

sets and other specialized surveys, while 5% focused on the COVID-19 MENA Monitor surveys, both household (CMMHH) and enterprise (CMMENT) components, indicating sustained research attention to pandemic-related socioeconomic impacts.

**11,700 +**

TOTAL NUMBER OF DOWNLOADS OF ONLINE DATASETS

**183**

TOTAL NUMBER OF ONLINE DATASETS

**5300 +**

TOTAL NUMBERS OF OAMDI SUBSCRIBERS

Figure3: Number of OAMDI Users Since Launch by Region

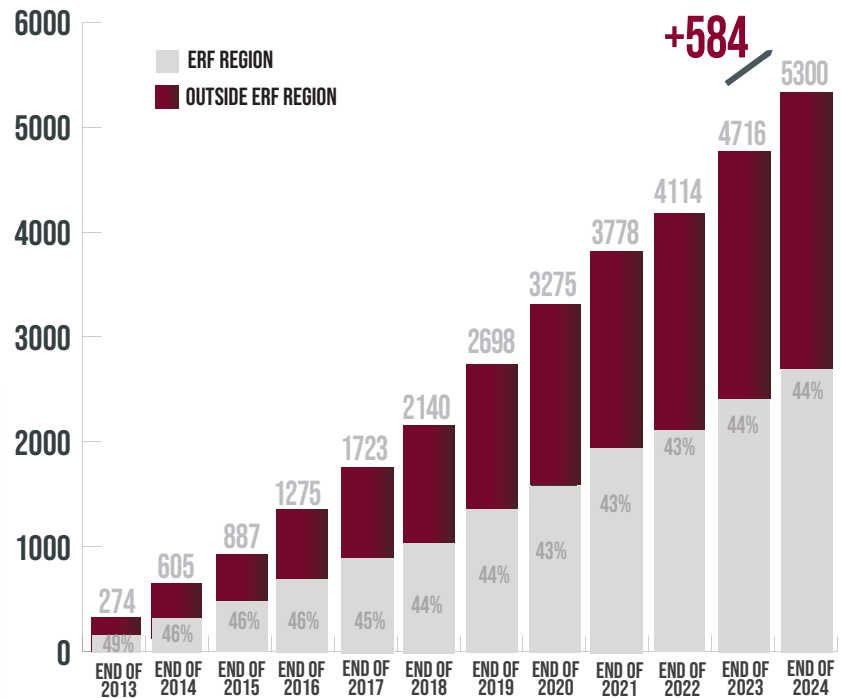
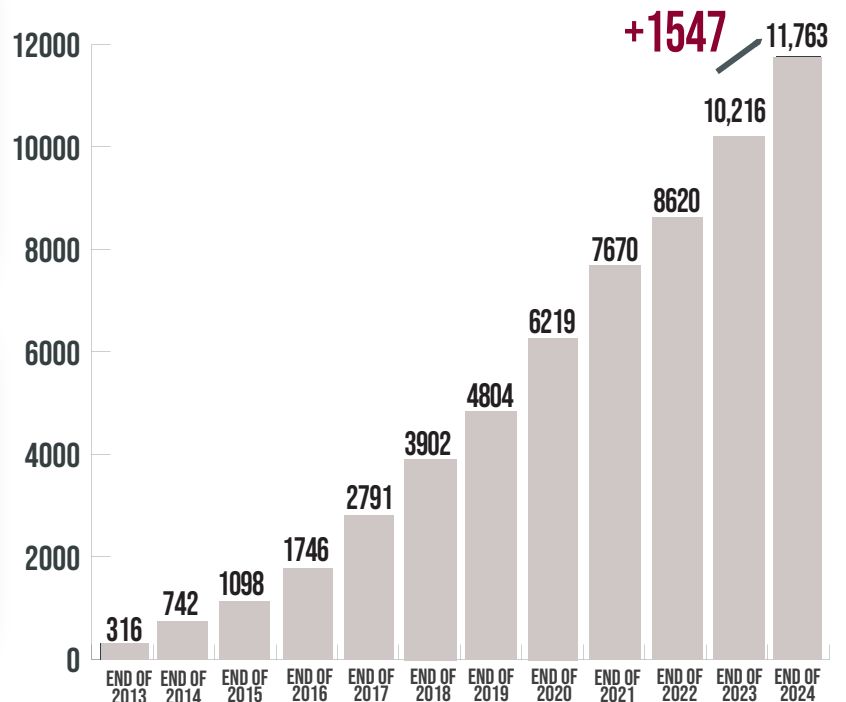


Figure 4: Number of Accessed/ Downloaded Surveys since Launch



**ERF**

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# Communications and Outreach

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# Communications & Outreach



## 2024 Highlights

ERF Communications and Policy Outreach Portfolio is structured around five strategic pillars: (i) Visibility, Networking, and Capacity Building; (ii) Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Platforms; (iii) Regional Voice and Engagement; (iv) Publications; (v) Knowledge Platforms and Networks.

In 2024, ERF delivered a dynamic calendar of communications activities to amplify ERF's research voice and policy impact. The centerpiece was the ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, which convened 500+ leading researchers, policymakers, and development partners, fostering critical exchange and showcasing new knowledge.

Complementary program-related events engaged diverse stakeholders in consultative discussions, provided feedback on early research drafts, and facilitated the final dissemination of key findings.

Throughout 2024, ERF leveraged a series of strategic events to amplify its regional voice and expand outreach through collaborations with international organizations. These efforts significantly enhanced the visibility, credibility, and influence of ERF's expert network across policy and academic communities. International organizations, further enhancing the visibility and credibility of its expert network.

On the knowledge dissemination front, ERF maintained a strong balance between academic rigor and policy relevance. The 2024 publications portfolio included: 70 working

papers; 16 peer-reviewed journal articles, published across two volumes of the Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ); approximately 80 policy publications, including ar-

ticles, policy briefs, and research-based reports.

To further strengthen outreach, ERF managed a robust newsletter system with over 12,000 active subscribers, delivering nearly 900,000 emails over the year to share research findings, event updates, and policy insights.

A comprehensive record of these activities is detailed in the following section.

## VISIBILITY, NETWORKING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

### Tragedies of Regional Conflicts and Promises of Peacebuilding

### ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

April 21 – 23 | Rabat, Morocco  
| Hybrid

The MENA region continues to grapple with entrenched conflicts that have profoundly shaped its trajectory—undermining human development, regional cooperation, and long-term stability. At the heart of

ERF 30<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Conference  
in numbers

# 27

PLENARY  
& PARALLEL  
SESSIONS

# 120+

AUTHORS  
OF PAPERS

# 501

PARTICIPANTS  
FOR BOTH ONLINE  
& IN-PERSON

this is the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict, a decades-long geopolitical crisis that has triggered multiple wars and continues to thwart prospects for peace. The ongoing humanitarian tragedy in Gaza is a stark reminder of the costs of protracted inaction and the international community's failure to deliver a just and durable two-state solution.

Beyond this, the aftermath of the Arab Spring exposed the region's deep social fragmentation. Rather than ushering in an era of democratic renewal and economic revitalization, the uprisings often gave way to political instability, civil conflict, and fragile governance—setting back developmental gains and compromising state capacity across both the Asian and African wings of the Arab world.

Amid this landscape of persistent volatility, the MENA region has been particularly vulnerable to global shocks—from the 2008–09 financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, to shifting geopolitical alignments and the economic fallout of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. These overlapping crises have exacerbated debt burdens, widened macroeconomic imbalances, and hindered inclusive growth.

Against this backdrop, the ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, titled “Tragedies of Regional Conflicts and Promises of Peacebuilding: Responding to Disruptors and Enablers of MENA's Development Pathway”, provided a timely platform to reframe the re-

gion's challenges through the lens of resilience, recovery, and cooperation. Convened at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in partnership with the Africa Institute for Research in Economics and Social Sciences (AIRESS), the conference underscored ERF's commitment to policy-relevant research, inclusive dialogue, and capacity building.

The conference featured seven plenary sessions and 20 parallel sessions, providing a platform for 56 papers, spanning cross-cutting themes, selected on the basis of a rigorous refereeing process in response to an open call for papers. All sessions, including conference papers, briefs, and recordings, are fully accessible online.

ERF gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P), through AIRESS, in making this landmark event possible.

*Plenary 1 – Panoramic  
Political Economy  
Perspective of MENA*

To frame the overarching analytical narrative of the conference, this opening plenary drew on insights from three landmark publications, *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, *Why Nations Fail*, and *The Narrow Corridor*, to explore the historical roots of politi-

**75,000+**

CONFERENCE WEB  
PAGE VIEWS (JUNE 2024)



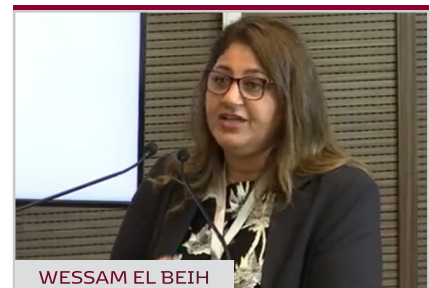
JAMES ROBINSON



NOHA EL-MIKAWY



JEFFREY SACHS



WESSAM EL BEIH

# Communications & Outreach

cal regimes, economic divergence, and the intricate balance between state capacity and societal empowerment. These works collectively offer a prism through which to examine the enduring institutional and political economy challenges facing the MENA region.

*Plenary 2 – Prospects in the Middle East for Peaceful Resolution of Conflict: the Generational Disruptor and Impediment to Development in the Region*

This session addressed conflict in the Middle East as a persistent obstacle to regional development and prosperity. Discussions centered on the socio-economic cost of protracted conflicts and the transformative potential of a just and lasting peace, with a special focus on the two-state solution.

*Plenary 3 – SDG Stimulus to Deliver Agenda 2030*

With global development progress under threat from compounding crises, this session unpacked the SDG Stimulus proposal, an urgent call for global action across three fronts: alleviating debt distress, scaling long-term affordable development finance, and enhancing contingency financing for vulnerable countries.

*Plenary 4 – Artificial Intelligence and Future of Work*

This plenary examined how generative AI and other disruptive

technologies are transforming labor markets. Emphasis was placed on the critical role of policy in guiding technological adoption to ensure that AI enhances productivity, expands employment opportunities, and reduces inequality rather than exacerbating it.

*Plenary 5 – Re-localization and Regional Cooperation in an Increasingly Shock Prone Global Economy*

Against a backdrop of growing global instability, this session explored the strategic imperative for Arab economic integration and diversification. Discussions highlighted opportunities in intra-regional value chains, digital markets, energy, and food security, while examining potential synergies with Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Europe.

*Policy Panel – Morocco’s Quest for Stronger Inclusive Growth*

This high-level panel spotlighted Morocco’s new development model, emphasizing structural reforms aimed at boosting human capital, expanding social protection, and upgrading the country’s position in global value chains. The discussion offered reflections on lessons learned and the road ahead for inclusive growth.

*Celebrating Excellence – ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Best Papers Award*

In line with ERF’s longstanding tradition of recognizing emerging talent, elevating the profiles of young researchers, and promoting innovative approaches to pressing regional challenges, six research teams were honored with the Best Paper Award during the Closing Plenary of the ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

ERF extends its warmest congratulations to all award recipients and offers its best wishes as they continue to advance their careers and contribute to impactful research across the region. Congratulations to all!

Best Paper are:

- [The Role of Institutional Factors in Shaping the Relationship between Economic Policy Uncertainty and Energy Consumption in Gulf Countries: An Empirical Analysis](#), Hadil Hnainia and Sami Mensi
- [The Impacts of Matching Contributions on Retirement Savings: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment](#), Sadettin Haluk Citci and Halit Yanıkkaya
- [Stages of Diversification Redux](#), Hoda Assem, Roberta Gatti and Daniel Lederman
- [Beyond the Norms: Innovation, Productivity, and Gender in Egyptian Firms](#), Amira El-Shal and Eman Moustafa
- [The Interplay of Political Turbulence and Investor-State Dispute: Insights from Africa and the MENA Region](#), Dina Kassab

- Income Shocks, Bride Price and Child Marriage in Turkey, *Isabelle Chort, Rozenn Hotte and Karine Marazyan*
- Traders' War Against Trade Walls: Evidence from Import Prohibition in Iran, *Kowsar Yousefi and Samad Alaamati*

## MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM

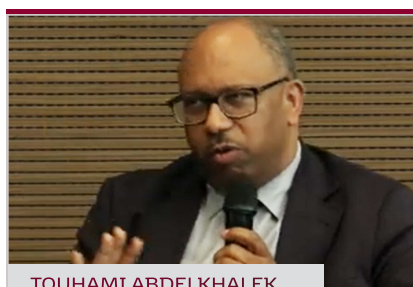
ERF's Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Platform serves as a dynamic and inclusive forum that brings together civil society representatives, researchers, and policymakers to engage in evidence-based dialogue. The platform fosters constructive debate, the exchange of diverse perspectives, and the co-creation of informed policy solutions grounded in research findings.

In 2024, the platform prioritized engagement around four key themes: Social Protection, Regional Integration, Labor Markets and Development, and Climate Change.

Through a series of policy dialogues, roundtables, and collaborative consultations, ERF facilitated cross-sectoral discussions that helped bridge the gap between research and policymaking, ensuring that evidence plays a central role in addressing the region's most pressing socio-economic and environmental challenges.



DARON ACEMOGLU



TOUHAMI ABDELKHALEK



HAFEZ GHANEM



KARIM EL AYNAOUI

ERF 30<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Conference  
Video Recordings



WATCH THE  
PLENARY SESSIONS

## Social Protection

### Review Workshop:

*Inclusive Social Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers*

February 14 | Cairo

In partnership with UNICEF, ERF convened a dedicated workshop that brought together the authors of six commissioned papers to present and critically discuss their draft research. The session provided a structured platform for peer review, constructive dialogue, and expert feedback, all aimed at enhancing the analytical rigor and policy relevance of the papers ahead of finalization.

### Consultation Meeting:

*Migration: Africa's Untapped Potential - A Companion Piece of the World Development Report (WDR) 2023: Migrant, Refugees, and Societies*

May 29 | Webinar

In collaboration with the World Bank, the Economic Research Forum (ERF) co-organized an online consultation on the World Bank's companion report, "Migration: Africa's Untapped Potential." This report complements the Bank's flagship World Development Report 2023, titled "Migrants, Refugees, and Societies."

The objective of the session was to share preliminary key messages and emerging findings from the report, while providing a platform for open dialogue and feedback, particularly

# Communications & Outreach

from civil society organizations. The consultation aimed to enrich the report by incorporating diverse regional perspectives and ensuring that its recommendations reflect practical realities and stakeholder insights from across the African continent.

## **Consultation Meeting:**

*Energizing Social Protection: Opportunities and Challenges with Reforming Energy Subsidies in MENA*

June 11 | Hybrid, Cairo

ERF, in partnership with the World Bank, convened a hybrid consultation (in-person and online) on the theme “Energizing Social Protection: Opportunities and Challenges with Reforming Energy Subsidies in MENA.” The event served as a platform for the World Bank research team to present and seek feedback on preliminary plans for a forthcoming regional analytical study on energy subsidy reform.

This initiative, titled Energizing Social Protection, aims to systematically document and assess the design, persistence, and reform options of energy subsidies across the MENA region. The analysis acknowledges the region’s distinct political, institutional, and socio-economic characteristics, which help explain the entrenched nature of energy subsidies. At the same time, it draws on the region’s rich but under-documented history of country-level reform efforts, complemented by select global reform experiences. Notably, the initiative integrates insights from multiple disciplines—fis-

cal policy, poverty alleviation, energy systems, political economy, social protection, and strategic communications—to develop a coherent, regionally grounded knowledge product. The objective is to deliver practical, context-specific lessons for policymakers navigating the complex terrain of subsidy reform while safeguarding social welfare.

## **Workshop:**

*Impacts of the War in Ukraine on Food Security in Egypt and Kenya*

July 18 | Webinar

The webinar was organized as part of a collaborative research project funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), titled “The Impact of the War in Ukraine on Food Security in Lower-Income Countries.” This project is implemented in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) and the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP).

The project seeks to assess the immediate impacts of the war in Ukraine on food security in low-income countries and to inform strategies that strengthen the long-term resilience of vulnerable populations in Africa and the Middle East against future shocks. The webinar served as a platform to present and discuss the preliminary findings from two draft case studies, Egypt and Kenya, and to solicit feedback from stakeholders and experts to further enrich the analysis.

## **Regional Integration**

As part of the Euro-Med Cluster Forward (ECF) project funded by the European Union (EU), two webinars were coordinated to highlight the potential of creative industries and agri-food clusters in the South Med region, focusing on key opportunities, challenges, and bottlenecks in the value chains. The webinars fostered dialogue among stakeholders and presented policy toolkits, recommendations, and ongoing twinning projects to promote innovation and sustainable development within the sector.

## **Workshop:**

*Creative Horizons: Policy, Innovation, and Twinning in the Mediterranean*

November 14 | Online

[Details on ERF website](#)

## **Workshop:**

*Harvesting Opportunities: Policy, Twinning, and Agri-Food Value Chains Across the Mediterranean*

December 16 | Online

[Details on ERF website](#)

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## Labor Markets and Development

In 2024, ERF hosted a series of high-level technical workshops under the umbrella of its flagship Labor Market Panel Survey projects in Egypt and Jordan, ELMPS 2023 and JLMPS 2025, led by Dr. Ragui Assaad, Professor at the University of Minnesota, ERF Research Fellow, and Principal Investigator of both surveys.

### Training Workshop:

#### *Creating Labor Market Indicators Report from ELMPS 2023*

March 3 – 5 & 7 | Cairo, Egypt

As part of its ongoing efforts to build national statistical capacity, ERF conducted a specialized training workshop titled “Creating Labor Market Indicators from ELMPS 2023.” The session was led by Dr. Niveen Elzayat and brought together technical staff from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPEDIC).

The workshop focused on enhancing participants’ abilities to analyze and interpret ELMPS data, generate core labor market indicators, and deepen their understanding of Egypt’s evolving labor market dynamics. The training emphasized practical, data-driven approaches to support evidence-based policy formulation.

### Training Workshop:

#### *Creation of Weights for the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023*

June 5 | Cairo, Egypt

As part of ERF capacity-building efforts under the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2023, ERF organized a specialized technical training workshop on the “Creation of Weights for ELMPS 2023.” The workshop was led by Dr. Ragui Assaad, Principal Investigator of the ELMPS, and brought together technical staff from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MOPEDIC).

The session provided an in-depth overview of key methodologies for generating robust sampling weights, with a focus on: (i) Creation of sampling weights using a stratified cluster design in cross-sectional surveys; (ii) Weight construction in panel surveys, accounting for attrition and non-response at both the household and individual levels; (iii) Hands-on implementation of weight calculations using STATA.

The training aimed to strengthen participants’ capacity to produce high-quality, representative labor market data, thereby enhancing the analytical value and policy relevance of the ELMPS dataset.

### Training Workshop:

#### *Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey 2024 - Questionnaire Review Workshop*

June 10 | Amman, Jordan

In preparation for the upcoming Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) 2024, ERF convened a focused Questionnaire Review Workshop. The objective of the workshop was to systematically review and update the JLMPS questionnaire to reflect evolving labor market dynamics and respond to the policy and research priorities of national and regional stakeholders.

Participants examined the revisions made since the 2016 survey round, ensuring that the instrument remains aligned with contemporary analytical needs, emerging socioeconomic challenges, and the data requirements of both policymakers and researchers.

### Review Workshop:

#### *Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023*

July 30-31 and August 1 | Online

This virtual workshop was convened to provide a platform for the presentation and peer review of preliminary research papers based on initial analysis of data from the ELMPS 2023. The objective was to foster constructive dialogue and feedback among authors, reviewers, and stakeholders, aimed at strengthening the analytical rigor and policy relevance of the studies in preparation for their finalization.

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Table 4. ERF Calendar of Events in 2024

	Event	Date
Feb.	Inclusive Social Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers - Review Workshop	14 Feb.
Mar.	Generating Labor Market Indicators Report from ELMPS 2023 - Technical Training	3-5, 7 Mar.
Apr.	Tragedies of Regional Conflicts and Promises of Peacebuilding - 30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	21-23 Apr.
	Regional Workshop: The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA	24 Apr.
May	Migration: Africa's Untapped Potential - A Companion Piece of the World Development Report (WDR) 2023: Migrant, Refugees, and Societies - Consultation Meeting	29 May
Jun.	The Creation of Weights for the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023 - Technical Training	5 Jun.
	Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey 2024: Questionnaire Review - Technical Workshop	10 Jun.
	The Case Studies of Egypt and Sudan - Consultation Workshop	10 Jun.
	Energizing Social Protection: Opportunities and Challenges with Reforming Energy Subsidies in MENA - Consultation Meeting	11 Jun.
	Conflict and Debt in the Middle East and North Africa – Seminar on The World Bank's MENA Economic Update - ERF Webinar Series	26 Jun.
Jul.	The Case Study of Tunisia - Technical Workshop	10 Jul.
	Impacts of The War in Ukraine On Food Security in Egypt and Kenya - Webinar	18 Jul.
	Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023 - Review Workshop	30-31 Jul.
Aug.	National Child Labour Survey Results - Review Workshop	14 Aug.
Sep.	The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in Egypt and Sudan- Conference	25 Sep.
Oct.	The Potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on The Economic Transformation of GCC Countries - GCC High Level Policy Seminar	15-16 Oct.
Nov.	The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition - Conference	8 Nov.
	Creative Horizons: Policy, Innovation, and Twinning in the Mediterranean - Webinar	14 Nov.
	From Data to Policy: Evidence and Insights from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023 - Policy Conference	24-25 Nov.
	MSMEs and Clean Energy Transition in MENA - Review Workshop	27 Nov.
Dec.	Growth in the Middle East and North Africa – Seminar on The World Bank's MENA Economic Update - ERF Webinar Series	4 Dec.
	Harvesting Opportunities: Policy, Twinning, and Agri-Food Value Chains Across the Mediterranean - Webinar	16 Dec.

## Review Workshop:

### *National Child Labor Survey Results*

August 14 | Cairo, Egypt

Organized in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), this validation workshop provided a platform for reviewing and affirming the findings of the National Child Labour Survey. The session brought together key stakeholders to discuss the survey results, assess their implications, and validate the report's core messages. The workshop aimed to ensure that the final outputs are accurate, policy-relevant, and grounded in national priorities for addressing child labor.

## Policy Conference on:

### *From Data to Policy: Evidence and Insights from The Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023*

November 24 – 25 | Hybrid | Cairo, Egypt

This two-day policy conference marked the official launch of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2023 dataset and served as a high-level platform for the dissemination of its key findings. Convening a diverse audience of policy-makers, researchers, development partners, and civil society actors, the conference aimed to foster evidence-based dialogue around Egypt's most pressing labor market challenges.

Through a series of focused sessions, participants explored how in-

sights from ELMPS 2023 can inform strategic policy design, translating rigorous data analysis into practical, actionable recommendations. Discussions centered on emerging trends in employment, demographic change, informality, labor force participation, and socio-economic mobility, contributing to a shared vision for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Egypt.

The conference brought together 150 participants in person and 320 online. The agenda featured eight thematic research panels, showcasing 12 original research papers, and concluded with a high-level policy roundtable, providing multi-stakeholder perspectives and reflections from senior government representatives and key development partners.

All conference papers, policy briefs, and session recordings are publicly accessible via the ERF website.



RAGUI ASSAAD



VALENTINE OFFENLOCH

## Climate Change

### *The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA*

This project explores how Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the MENA region can drive inclusive and equitable economic growth through the clean energy transition. Funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-Canada and implemented by ERF, Middle East Institute (MEI), and Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS), the project paves the way to sustainable employment opportunities and promote energy efficiency and equity.

Focusing on six MENA countries, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, and Tunisia, the research evaluates:



HANAN NAZIER



ERIC OECHSLIN

# Communications & Outreach

- Existing policy frameworks and institutional barriers to renewable energy adoption
- Behavioral and economic drivers of clean energy investment at the enterprise level
- The role of MSMEs in advancing just energy transitions and achieving climate and development goals

The project also pays particular attention to the implications of clean energy policies for women and youth employment, ensuring that the energy transition delivers equitable outcomes across different social groups. By producing country-level insights and regional synthesis, the initiative aims to inform evidence-based policymaking, enrich public discourse, and support the MENA region's commitment to environmental justice and sustainable development.

As part of the project “The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA”, a series of national and regional events were held throughout 2024 to present findings, gather stakeholder input, and refine policy recommendations. These events served as key milestones in shaping and disseminating research outcomes across participating countries.

## **Regional Workshop:**

*The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA*

April 24 | Hybrid | Rabat, Morocco

Held on the sidelines of the ERF 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, this regional workshop brought together experts, researchers, and stakeholders to review preliminary findings from thematic papers and country case studies. The event served as an initial forum for gathering regional insights and feedback to strengthen the research's policy relevance.

## **Review Workshop:**

*The Case Studies of Egypt and Sudan*

June 10 | Cairo, Egypt

This technical meeting featured the presentation of initial drafts and key findings from the Egypt and Sudan case studies. Stakeholders from government, academia, and civil society contributed feedback to enhance the rigor and policy utility of the research.

## **Review Workshop:**

*The Case Study of Tunisia*

July 10 | Tunis, Tunisia

A special meeting was convened to present the draft Tunisia case study, focusing on identifying country-specific opportunities, challenges,

and policy priorities related to the clean energy transition and the role of MSMEs.

## **Conference:**

*The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in Egypt and Sudan*

September 25 | Hybrid |  
Cairo, Egypt

This event marked a major dissemination milestone, showcasing the final findings from the Egypt and Sudan case studies. Discussions highlighted the policy implications of the research and explored pathways for integrating the findings into national strategies and regional dialogues.

## **Conference:**

*The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in Tunisia*

November 8 | Hybrid |  
Tunis, Tunisia

This national event presented the key findings and policy recommendations emerging from the Tunisia case study, offering a platform for dialogue among stakeholders to inform future actions and policy responses in support of a just and inclusive energy transition.

## Review Workshop:

### *MSMEs and Clean Energy Transition in MENA*

November 27 | Webinar

A closed workshop was held to review the first draft of the regional synthesis report. The session convened a select group of interdisciplinary experts and researchers to discuss the main findings, refine the analytical framework, and shape the final submission of the regional output.

## REGIONAL VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT

ERF continues to amplify its regional and global presence by expanding the engagement of its Research Fellows and Affiliates beyond the MENA region to Africa, Europe, and key international platforms. This modality strengthens partnerships with international organizations, reinforces ERF's leadership on development discourse, and promotes cross-regional learning.

## Seminar:

### *The Potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on The Economic Transformation of GCC Countries – ERF – GCC High Level Policy Seminar*

October 15 – 16 | Hybrid | Dubai, UAE

As part of the ERF-GCC Initiative, this high-level policy seminar explored the transformative potential of Industry 4.0 technologies in ad-

vancing the economic diversification agendas of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The event brought together policy leaders, researchers, and industry experts to examine how digital innovation can accelerate structural transformation across key sectors.

The seminar focused on:

- Smart manufacturing and factory automation
- The emergence of smart cities and digital infrastructure
- Entrepreneurship, employment, and skills development in the digital age
- Customizing national strategies to harness the full potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Sessions were enriched with regional case studies, showcasing successful models of digital transformation, and offering insights into the practical implementation of Industry 4.0 solutions across the GCC.

Full agenda and proceedings are available on the ERF website.



## EXTENDING THE PLATFORM TO GLOBAL POLICY DEBATES

ERF continues to play a pivotal role in amplifying the regional voice within global policy circles by engaging with international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Through collaborative events and expert commentary, ERF helps to contextualize global economic insights within the realities of the MENA region, contributing nuanced analysis to international discourse.

In 2024, in collaboration with the World Bank Chief Economist's Office for the Middle East and North Africa, ERF co-hosted two high-level webinars to discuss the World Bank's MENA Economic Update reports. These events provided timely forums for evidence-based dialogue, bringing together policymakers, academics, and regional experts to assess critical economic trends and policy responses.

## Seminar:

### *Conflict and Debt in the Middle East and North Africa – The World Bank's MENA Economic Update*

June 26 | Webinar

This session examined the macroeconomic consequences of regional conflict, focusing on its impact on Palestinian livelihoods, tourism, trade disruptions in the Red Sea, and

# Communications & Outreach

broader regional instability. The update also shed light on the region's growing debt vulnerabilities, particularly in developing oil-importing countries.

Key insights from the report included:

- Rising debt burdens over the past decade and limited fiscal space
- The critical need for debt transparency, particularly around extrabudgetary spending
- Fiscal sustainability as a cornerstone of credible macroeconomic policy
- Recommendations to enhance financial reporting and governance

## Seminar:

*Growth in the Middle East and North Africa – The World Bank's MENA Economic Update*

December 4 | Webinar

The webinar explored the World Bank's latest projections, which forecast 2.2% growth for the MENA region in 2024, noting stark disparities between high-income oil exporters and developing economies in the region. The discussion highlighted persistent macroeconomic vulnerabilities amid geopolitical uncertainty.

This edition of the update included a focused analysis on:

- The economic toll of ongoing conflict in the Middle East, particularly on the Palestinian economy

- Long-term effects of protracted conflict on regional development trajectories
- Strategic levers for accelerating growth, including:
  - Enhancing labor market efficiency
  - Reducing the gender employment gap
  - Restructuring the public sector footprint
  - Boosting technology transfer and innovation
  - Ensuring data transparency and institutional reform

## PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, ERF maintained its commitment to high-quality research and policy outreach, producing a robust portfolio of academic and policy publications, including:

- 70 Working Papers
- 16 peer-reviewed journal articles published across two volumes of the Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ)
- Over 80 policy outputs, including briefs, reports, and articles

ERF's website and integrated knowledge portal continued to serve as a central hub for its growing community of users, offering seamless access to the ERF network, research publications, events, data portal, and The Forum, ERF's dedicated policy knowledge platform.

In 2024, the platform engaged over 110,000 users, reflecting ERF's expanding regional and global reach.

To further enhance visibility and accessibility, ERF managed a newsletter subscriber base of approximately 12,000 recipients, issuing over 900,000 targeted emails throughout the year. A full breakdown of publication and outreach metrics is detailed in this section.

## POLICY PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, ERF significantly expanded its policy outreach, producing a total of 82 policy publications aimed at informing public debate and supporting evidence-based policymaking across the region.

These included:

- 6 in-depth policy reports offering comprehensive analysis and strategic recommendations
- 26 policy briefs distilling key research findings into accessible, actionable insights for decision-makers
- 50 policy articles engaging a wider audience on timely economic and social development issues

This diverse portfolio reflects ERF's ongoing commitment to bridging the gap between research and policy, while amplifying regional voices in global development conversations.

Check All ERF publications online



## ERF Policy Portal

*The Forum: improving the economic policy debate in the MENA region*

Launched in October 2017, The Forum is a dedicated policy portal for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Its mission is to serve as a leading platform for evidence-based, accessible, and timely analysis of economic, social, and political developments shaping the region.

With a strong editorial vision, The Forum bridges the gap between rigorous academic research and real-time policy debates. Most contributions are commissioned by the co-managing editors, though unsolicited submissions are also welcomed. Economists and policy experts are encouraged to submit research-based commentary or summaries of recent findings tailored for a broader, policy-engaged audience.

The Forum offers a unique space for contributors to publish articles that are longer and more nuanced than standard op-eds (up to 1,500 words), yet more accessible than academic journal articles. The content often

draws on original research or offers expert insights into emerging regional events and challenges.

- On the supply side, it provides an outlet for economists to contribute their expertise to critical policy issues.
- On the demand side, it makes this expertise accessible to policymakers, development practitioners, journalists, academics, and other users of policy research.

### *Impact and Reach*

Since its launch, The Forum has published over 520 articles. In 2024 alone, it featured 50 new columns, continuing its momentum as a key outlet for policy discourse in the region.

Its content spans 34 core policy themes, with strong coverage in:

- Political economy (105 columns)
- Labor markets & human resources (101)
- Growth & development (101)
- Inequality & poverty (72)
- Business & productivity (68)
- Conflict & instability (60)
- International trade (59)
- Gender (47)
- Education (46)
- Fiscal policy (42)
- Natural resources & oil (42)



ROMESH VAITILINGAM

### **Co-Managing Editors:**

*Romesh Vaitilingam,  
Ibrahim Elbadawi  
and Sherine Ghoneim*

### **Editorial Board:**

*Hala Abou-Ali, Ragui Assaad, Ishac  
Diwan, Abda El-Mahdi, Ibrahim  
Elbadawi, Jamal Haidar, Samir Makdisi,  
Kamiar Mohaddes, Sherine Ghoneim  
(ex-officio)*

- Healthcare (39)
- Institutions (35)
- Structural transformation (32)
- Climate change (32)
- Financial markets (28)
- Migration & remittances (27)
- Public spending (23)

The Forum features analysis focused on individual countries, regional groupings (such as the GCC), and cross-regional/global policy issues. Countries with the highest coverage include:

- Egypt (77 columns)
- Turkey (43)
- Lebanon (28)
- Tunisia (22)
- Jordan (20)
- Iran (24)
- Syria (16)
- Sudan (8)

### Featured Forum Article

**SOCIAL INSURANCE IN  
EGYPT: BETWEEN COSTLY  
FORMALITY  
AND LEGAL INFORMALITY,**  
*IRÈNE SELWANESS AND GHADA BARSOUM*



# Communications & Outreach

The Forum continues to enrich regional policy conversations and inform global development narratives by ensuring that the voices of MENA researchers and thought leaders are both visible and impactful.

## Policy Briefs

ERF's Policy Briefs distill complex research into clear, concise, and solution-oriented insights for policymakers and stakeholders. Grounded in ERF's original research and supported by relevant external evidence, these briefs are designed to contribute meaningfully to ongoing policy debates by offering practical recommendations to pressing economic and social challenges.

In 2024, ERF published 26 new Policy Briefs, each focused on advancing actionable ideas across a range of thematic areas—from labor markets and inequality to energy transition and social protection. All briefs are publicly accessible via the ERF website. A full list is provided in Annex C.

## Policy Research Reports

In addition to briefs, ERF published several comprehensive policy reports offering deeper analysis and strategic frameworks tailored to country and regional priorities. Key reports released in 2024 include:

### Selected Working Papers related to Policy Conference



#### THE EVOLUTION OF LABOR SUPPLY IN EGYPT THROUGH 2023



#### MIGRATION DURING ECONOMIC CRISIS: THE CASE OF EGYPT

- Six reports under the flagship project: The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in MENA
- One report drawing on data and analysis from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2023
- Three contributions to the Arab Development Portal, enhancing regional data accessibility and policy understanding

- One joint report with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on Green Occupations, promoting sustainable job creation and green transition strategies

Together, these publications reflect ERF's enduring commitment to bridging research and policy, providing thought leadership on inclusive development, green economy, and labor market transformation in MENA.

## Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ)

The Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) is a peer-reviewed academic journal dedicated to enhancing understanding of the economic, social, and political dynamics shaping the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Its mission is twofold: to strengthen the regional social science research community and to contribute to effective policymaking through rigorous, world-class scholarship.

While the journal places emphasis on applied economics, it also welcomes theoretical contributions and interdisciplinary research from political science, sociology, and related fields. The scope is broad, encompassing:

- Analyses of key development challenges confronting MENA countries



RAIMUNDO SOTO

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*François Bourguignon, Mustapha Nabli, Jeffery Nugent, Jean-Philippe Platteau, James Robinson, Dani Rodrik, Raed Safadi, Insan Tunali and Tarik Yousef*

- Evaluations of economic and social policies or programs
- Country-specific and comparative studies
- Assessments of external shocks and global trends affecting the region
- Explorations of inequality, gender, labor markets, and institutional reform

MEDJ actively encourages submissions from scholars both within and outside the region, aiming to foster diverse perspectives and promote inclusive academic dialogue.

#### *Editorial Process and Impact*

Submissions undergo a rigorous double-anonymous peer review, with an average turnaround of 14 weeks from submission to first decision. All manuscripts are initially screened by the editorial team to ensure alignment with the journal's standards and the

matic focus before being sent to two external referees for review.

#### *Growing Reach and Contribution*

Since its launch in 2019, MEDJ has published 16 volumes, featuring a total of 235 peer-reviewed articles—including 16 new articles in 2024. The journal has emerged as a valuable platform for regional and global scholars, offering insights that inform academic debate and guide evidence-based policy across MENA.

#### *Letter from the Managing Editor*

The Middle East Development Journal performed satisfactorily during 2024. As discussed below, the overall assessment indicates that submissions have remained strong, the quality of published papers has raised, the reputation of the journal improved, and the editorial team has been able to manage the workload reasonably well.

Since its inception in 2009, MEDJ has received slightly above 1,000 submissions, of which around 235 papers have been submitted. Annual submissions have not been smooth: between 2009 and 2020, we received around 40 submissions per year while in the past 5 years submissions have been over 110 per year. Acceptance has remained at around 16 per year, indicating that acceptance rates have dropped from 40% to 15%. On average, the managing editor desk-rejects around 80 manuscripts after an initial evaluation deems the pa-

pers to be unsuitable for the scope of the journal, scientifically unsound, or because contributions are negligible. The remaining 30 manuscripts are passed on to the associated editors for the handling of the peer-reviewing process. On average 80% were rejected or withdrawn by authors after receiving the referee reports. As of December 31, 2024, there were 17 papers under review and 15 papers in revise and resubmit status.

The readability and citation of MEDJ continues to improve steadily. According to our editorial house—Taylor and Francis—downloads in 2024 reached almost 11,000 (up from 5,200 in 2019). MEDJ was downloaded most in United Kingdom, followed by United States and then Turkey. This is significant, because MEDJ is not a full open-access journal and, therefore, despite the cost of subscription the increase in downloads is a sign of increasing reputation of the journal.

Measuring the impact of MEDJ is more convoluted, as there are several institutions ranking journals. Clarivate Analytics indicate that the 2024 Journal Impact Factor of MEDJ is 0.9 for first-year papers and 0.8 for 5-year papers, up from 0.5 in 2022 (Journal Citation Reports). Citec reports a steady upward trend in the Article Impact Factor, which increased to 1.05 in 2024, around twice as high as the average in the period 2009-2019 (0.53). Finally, Scimago rankings indicate that in 2023 (latest) citations per document published improved to around 1.1 in 2023, up from 0.5 in 2019, with self-citations remaining

# Communications & Outreach

negligible. MEDJ was ranked in Q3 in Development, as well as in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance and in Sociology and Political Science, which is not a bad ranking for an interdisciplinary journal. In addition, for the second year MEDJ is being ranked in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Web of Science, meaning it is considered a recognized academic journal indexed by the database, allowing researchers to access and cite articles published within it. The Journal Impact Factor in this ranking is 0.9.

The journal has achieved wide and representative regional coverage, as well as a balanced mix of topics and themes that are at the core of development in the Middle East. The coverage of authors publishing in the journal has changed markedly over the years. In the 2009-2020 period, 56% of published papers were submitted by researchers located in MENA countries, while 40% were in developed economies (mainly the US and Western Europe). In the past 5 years, published papers by researchers in the region increased to 70%. Geographical coverage is also interesting: of the papers published between 2021 and 2024, around 20% were devoted to regional MENA issues, 10% dealt with GCC countries, and the rest focused on individual countries (Egypt, Tunisia, and Iran, 10% each). In terms of topics, 18% of articles in MEDJ were on labor markets (micro and macro); 15% were related to macroeconomics issues (fiscal and monetary policies, growth); 30% on social policies (health, education, poverty,

and inequality); 16% in finance (banking, insurance); 10% in trade and productivity; and 7% in natural resources.

Looking forward to 2025, three issues arise. First, MEDJ's high rejection rate. While this ensures higher quality of published papers, it may discourage MENA researchers to submit their work. Given that MEDJ only publishes 16 articles per year, accepted papers wait for a rather long time to get published thus reducing their novelty and potential impact. The solution is to increase the number of papers published, either by increasing the number of articles per issue or increasing the frequency of MEDJ by publishing a third issue. The latter is a cumbersome editorial process and more expensive and, therefore, MEDJ will expand the number of papers per issue. Second, while time between acceptance and online publication is less than 19 days, time between submission to first decision has been on the rise (70 days on average) due to excess burden. This needs management improvements and, perhaps, hiring a fourth associate editor.

*Raimundo Soto*

**1,770 +**

**ERF WORKING PAPERS  
PRODUCED TO DATE**

## Working Papers

*Accelerating Knowledge Exchange Across the ERF Network*

The ERF Working Paper Series serves as a vital platform for the early dissemination of research findings, offering scholars a timely way to share their work, receive constructive feedback, and gain preliminary recognition ahead of journal publication.

This series provides a flexible and accessible channel for research produced through:

- Papers presented at the ERF Annual Conference
- Contributions from ERF research programs
- Independent submissions by ERF Research Fellows and Affiliates

Each working paper undergoes editorial review overseen by Dr. Bernard Hoekman, ERF's Managing Editor, to ensure relevance, quality, and alignment with ERF's publications standards.

In 2024, the Working Paper Series expanded further, with the publication of 70 new papers. These contributions reflect the breadth and depth of ERF's research agenda, covering a wide range of economic and policy challenges in the MENA region.

All working papers are open access and distributed widely through

ERF's digital platforms and master mailing list, reaching thousands of academics, policymakers, and development practitioners worldwide.

## ERF Website and Knowledge Portal

The ERF Website and Knowledge Portal serves as a comprehensive digital hub for accessing the Forum's vast body of knowledge and facilitating meaningful engagement across the region and beyond. It offers users seamless access to:

- Profiles of over 2,200 distinguished members of the ERF research network
- A searchable database of more than 1,700 working papers
- An extensive archive of ERF Annual and Policy Conferences, including speakers, session materials, agendas, and recordings
- The ERF Data Portal, hosting microdata for research and policy use
- The ERF Policy Portal – The Forum, offering timely, research-based commentary on critical regional issues

This integrated platform not only showcases ERF's intellectual capital but also functions as a dynamic networking and outreach tool, supporting event management, regional visibility, and stakeholder engagement. Strategic and Targeted Outreach

In response to the increasingly targeted behavior of online users, ERF has adopted a data-driven approach to outreach and stakeholder engagement. In 2024, the Forum managed a newsletter subscription base of approximately 12,000 subscribers, issuing nearly 900,000 personalized email communications to share new research, events, and policy outputs. In addition, targeted campaigns across social media platforms—including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter—played a key role in extending ERF's reach to new audiences at national, regional, and global levels.

### *Amplifying Impact Through Integration*

ERF's outreach strategy in 2024 was strengthened by an integrated approach that connected its various platforms and products. Key elements included:

- Strategic partnerships to expand thematic relevance and audience reach

- Timely alignment of research publication, policy dialogue, and event planning
- Curated content informed by evolving regional priorities and audience needs
- Multi-stakeholder forums that enabled diverse perspectives and cross-sectoral dialogue

Together, these efforts significantly enhanced ERF's role as a trusted regional voice and knowledge broker in development policy and research.



### Featured MEDJ Paper

**FIRM HETEROGENEITY AND EXPORT BEHAVIOR: EVIDENCE FROM TUNISIA,**

LEILA BAGHDADI & PETER GLICK



**ERF**

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# Annexes

2024  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# Annex A: ERF Network and Partners

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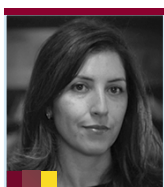
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<i>Aymen Belgacem</i> International Monetary Fund	<i>Jamel Boukhatem</i> University of Tunis El Manar		

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## ERF Affiliates: **Research Fellows**

*AbdelRahman El Lahga*  
University of Tunis

*Essahbi Essaadi*  
University of Manouba

*Yousuf Garashi*  
Kuwait University

*Brahim Guizani*  
University of Tunis

*Heba El-Laithy*  
Cairo University

*Ali Fakih*  
Lebanese American University

*Hafez Ghanem*  
Paris School of Economics

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International Consultant Middle  
Eastern Economies

*Ahmed Ghoneim*  
Cairo University

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Hankuk University of Foreign  
Studies (HUFS)

*Kamal Hamdan*  
Consultation & Research  
Institute

*Hasan Ersel*  
Sabanci University

*Jasmin Fouad*  
The American University in  
Cairo

*Wafik Grais*  
Freelance Senior Economic  
Advisor

*Manel Hamdi*  
University of Tunis ElManar

*Hasan Murat Ertugrul*  
Turkish Embassy, Rome

*May Gadallah*  
Cairo University

*Rihab Grassa*  
Higher College of Technology,  
Dubai

*Bachir Hamdouch*  
University of Mohamed V

*Refik Erzan*  
Bogazici University

*Ahmed Galal*  
MENA Health Policy Forum

*Imene Guetat*  
Centre d'Economie de  
l'Université Paris Nord (CEPN)

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Drexel University

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University of Illinois

*Rami Galal*  
The World Bank

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<i>Hela Miniaoui</i> ILO	<i>George Naufal</i> Texas A&M University	<i>Sevket Pamuk</i> Bogaziçi University	<i>Raed Safadi</i> Department of Economic Development, UAE
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<i>El Mouhoub Mouhoud</i> Paris Dauphine University	<i>Fatih Ozatay</i> TOBB University	<i>Dani Rodrik</i> Harvard University	<i>Anis Samet</i> American University of Sharjah
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<i>Seyit Mumin Cilasun</i> TED University	<i>Durmus Ozdemir</i> Yasar University	<i>Jamel Saadaoui</i> University Paris 8	<i>Serdar Sayan</i> TOBB University
<i>Mohamedou Nasser Dine</i> UNDP Mauritania	<i>Zeynel Abidin Ozdemir</i> Gazi University	<i>Zied Saadaoui</i> University of Carthage	<i>Khalid Sekkat</i> University of Brussels
<i>Hanan Nazier</i> Cairo University	<i>Suleyman Ozmucur</i> University of Pennsylvania	<i>Javad Sadeghi</i> Islamic Azad University	<i>Hoda Selim</i> International Monetary Fund

---

*Tarek Selim*  
The American University in  
Cairo

*Subidey Togan*  
Bilkent University

*Fatih Yilmaz*  
King Abdullah Petroleum Studies  
and Research Center

*Irène Selwaness*  
Cairo University

*Mehmet Tosun*  
University of Nevada

*Kamil Yilmaz*  
Koc University

*Unal Seven*  
Central Bank of the Republic of  
Turkey

*Semih Tumen*  
TED University

*Tarik Yousef*  
Brookings Doha Center

*Radwan Shaban*  
Arab Bank

*Insan Tunali*  
Koc University

*Kowsar Yousefi*  
Sharif University

*Nemat Shafik*  
Columbia University

*Belgi Turan*  
TOBB University of Economics  
and Technology

*Bassam Yousif*  
Indiana State University

*Mesbah Sharaf*  
University of Alberta

*Ercan Uygur*  
Turkish Economic Association

*Chahir Zaki*  
University of Orléans

*Manal Shehabi*  
University of Oxford

*Mohammad Vesal*  
Sharif University of Technology

*Omid Zamani*  
Thünen Federal Institute

*Linda Smail*  
Zayed University

*Ebru Voyvoda*  
Middle East Technical University

*Alireza Zarei*  
Sunway University

*Mehmet Ali Soytas*  
King Fahd University  
of Petroleum and Minerals

*Jackline Wahba*  
University of Southampton

*Hajer Zarrouk*  
Higher College of Technology

*Aysit Tansel*  
Middle East Technical University

*Abdullah Talha Yalta*  
TOBB University of Economics  
and Technology

*Jamel Zarrouk*  
Islamic Development Bank

*Amine Tarazi*  
University of Limoges

*Ayse Yasemin Yalta*  
Hacettepe University

*Abdallah Zouache*  
Sciences Po Lille

*Erol Taymaz*  
Middle East Technical University  
*Ayca Tekin-Koru*  
TED University

*Myra Yazbeck*  
University of Ottawa

*Huda Zurayk*  
American University of Beirut

*A. Erinc Yeldan*  
Bilkent university

# Annex A: ERF Network and Partners

## ERF Affiliates: **Research Associates**

*Islam Abdelbary*  
Arab Academy for Science and  
Technology

*Sufian Abdel-Gadir*  
Sultan Qaboos University

*Redouan Abdenour*  
Mohammed V University

*Mohamed Abu Amsha*  
Palestine Technical University

*Basem Abudawoud*  
Economist

*Badreldin Abdulrahman*  
Jouf University

*Nora Aboushady*  
Cairo University

*Wifag Adnan*  
Zayed University

*Obbey Ahmed Elamin*  
The King Faisal University

*Mohammad Alasaadi*  
Syrian Center for Policy Research

*Ahmad Shareef Alawadhi*  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific  
Research (KISR)

*Nesma Ali*  
The World Bank

*Ryadh M. Alkhareif*  
Ministry of Finance, Saudi Arabia

*Alanoud Ali S A Al-Maadid*  
Qatar University

*Sara Alnashar*  
The World Bank

*Salim Araji*  
United Nations-Economic and  
Social Commission for Western  
Asia

*Gunes Asik*  
TOBB Economics and Technol-  
ogy University

*Rashed Ashqar*  
Al Zaytona University of Science  
& Technology

*Hebatalla Atef Emam*  
Cairo University

*May Attallah*  
ESLSCA University

*Ibrahim Awad*  
Al-Quds University

*Ahmed Badreldin*  
University of Marburg

*Nidhal Ben Cheikh*  
Dalail for Development

*Abdelhadi Benghalem*  
Tlemcen University

*Naima Bentouir*  
Ain Témouchent University

*Mazen Diwani*  
De Montfort University

*Samir Djelti*  
Mustapha Stambouli University

*Burcu Duzgun-Öncel*  
Marmara University

*Fouzia Ejjanoui*  
Mohamed V University

*Sarah El Khishin*  
British University in Egypt

*Nelly EL-Mallakh*  
The World Bank

*Suzanna Elmassah*  
Zayed University

*Yagoub Elryah*  
Ministry of Industry, Sudan

*Amira El-Shal*  
The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty  
Action Lab (J-PAL)

*Bilge Eris-Dereli*  
Marmara University

*Riham Ahmed Ezzat*  
Cairo University

*Ahmed Alaa Fayed*  
Nile University

*Maleke Fourati*  
University of Geneva

*Olfa Frini*  
Manouba University

*Hassan Geon*  
Hankuk University of Foreign  
Studies

*Hajer Habib*  
El Manar University

*Cyrine Hannafi*  
University Paris-Est Créteil

*Rasha Hassan*  
The National Council for Women,  
Egypt

*Sherif Maher Hassan*  
M&S Research Hub Limited  
Company

*Imane Helmy*  
Ministry of Social Solidarity  
(MOSS), Egypt

*Adil Idris*  
University of Kassala

*Anas Iqtait*  
Australian National University

*Yasmine Kamal Hassan*  
Cairo University

*Behrang Kamali*  
Khatam University

*Ahmed Kchikeche*  
Economist and Independent  
Consultant

---

*Dina Kassab*  
Cairo University

*Jalal Qanas*  
Qatar University

*Josephine Kass-Hanna*  
Saint Joseph University of Beirut

*Myriam Ramzy*  
Cairo University

*Aysegul Kayaoglu*  
Istanbul Technical University

*Reham Rizk*  
University of London -European  
Universities in Egypt

*Müserref Küçükbayrak*  
Central Bank of the Republic of  
Turkey

*Ahmed Rostom*  
The World Bank

*Lylia Sami*  
Higher School of Management  
and Digital Economy, Algeria

*Bashar Malkawi*  
University of Sharjah

*Shaker Sarsour*  
Palestine Monetary Authority

*Nadia Mansour*  
University of Sousse

*Laura Sayah*  
Lebanese University

*Siham Matallah*  
University of Oran

*Behrang Kamali Shahdadi*  
Khatam University

*Elwasila Saeed Elamin Mohamed*  
University of Khartoum

*Abdelhalem Mahmoud Shahan*  
Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud  
University

*Eman Moustafa*  
African Development Bank

*Yacoub Sleibi*  
Bethlehem University

*Mohammad H. Mostafavi-  
Dehzoeei*  
Georgia Southwestern State  
University

*Ghada Tabbah*  
United Nations Economic and  
Social Commission for Western  
Asia (UNESCWA)

*Nohade Nasrallah*  
EM Strasbourg

*Khaled Nasri*  
Faculty of Economic Sciences  
and Management of Tunis



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## ERF Affiliates: **Policy Affiliates**

*Khalid Abu Ismail*  
United Nations Economic and  
Social Commission for Western  
Asia (ESCWA)

*Ahmed Al-Kawaz*  
Ministry of Finance, Kuwait

*Mohammed Al-Maitami*  
Ambassador of the Republic of  
Yemen to the People's Republic  
of China

*Savas Alpay*  
Consultant

*Nourah Al-Yousef*  
Investcorp Private Wealth, Saudi  
Arabia

*Marwan Alzoubi*  
Alzaytoonah University of  
Jordan

*Mohammad Bakshoodeh*  
Shiraz University

*Abdel-Hameed Bashir*  
Islamic Development Bank

*Hakim Ben Hammouda*  
Former Minister of Economy  
and Finance, Tunisia

*Ralph Chami*  
Williams College

*Rola Dashti*  
Economic and Social Commis-  
sion for Western Asia (ESCWA)

*Ashraf El Araby*  
Institute of National Planning,  
Egypt

*Laila El Khawaga*  
Cairo University  
*Alia El Mahdi*  
Cairo University

*Nihal El Megharbel*  
Egyptian Senate House

*Adam Elhiraiika*  
United Nations Economic Com-  
mission for Africa

*Mahmoud Elkhafif*  
UNCTAD

*Safaa El-Kogali*  
The World Bank

*Samiha Fawzy*  
Cairo University

*Sofiane Ghali*  
University of Tunis

*Omneia Helmy*  
Cairo University

*Faten Jabsheh*  
Kuwait Institute for Scientific  
Research

*Zohour Karray*  
World Bank, Tunisia

*Mary Kawar*  
Former Minister for Planning,  
Jordan

*Imed Limam*  
Arab Fund for Economic and  
Social Development

*Hanan Morsy*  
United Nations Economic Com-  
mission for Africa (UN ECA)

*Sahar Nasr*  
Former Minister of Interna-  
tional Cooperation, Egypt

*Heba Nassar*  
Cairo University

*Mohammed Omran*  
Financial Regulatory Authority

*Ibrahim Saif*  
Jordan Strategy Forum

*Wassim Shahin*  
Lebanese American University

*Sahar Tohamy*  
Emory University

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## ERF Affiliates: Senior Associates

<i>Sayed Abbas</i> Ajman University	Resident Representative in Afghanistan at UNDP	<i>Michel Marto</i> Housing Bank for Trade & Finance	<i>Rusdu Saracoglu</i> Allianz Sigorta A.S.
<i>Samir Abdullah</i> Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute	<i>Hazem El-Beblawi</i> International Monetary Fund	<i>Ali Naghi Mashyayekhi</i> Sharif University of Technology	<i>Paul Schultz</i> Yale University
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<i>Hasan Abu-Libdeh</i> Former Minister of National Economy	<i>Abda El-Mahdi</i> UNICONS Consultancy Ltd	<i>Hicham Mutwally</i> Economic Consultant	<i>Raimundo Soto</i> Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
<i>Asad Alam</i> The World Bank	<i>Habib El-Malki</i> Former Minister of Education, Morocco	<i>Mustapha Nabli</i> North Africa Bureau of Eco- nomic Studies (NABES)	<i>Lyn Squire</i> Economic Research Forum
<i>Jawad Al Anani</i> Amman Stock Exchange	<i>Faika El-Refaei</i> Former Governor, Central Bank of Egypt	<i>Masoud Nili</i> Sharif University of Technology	<i>Nabil Sukkar</i> The Syrian Consulting Bureau for Development and Investment
<i>Jassim Al Mannai</i> Independent Director, Blom Bank	<i>Shahrokh Fardoust</i> The College of William and Mary	<i>Jeffrey Nugent</i> University of South California	<i>Ahmed Zakane</i> National Higher School of Statis- tics and Applied Economics
<i>Mutahar Al-Saidi</i> Sana'a University	<i>Bernard Hoekman</i> European University Institute	<i>Othman Othman</i> Former Minister of Economic Development, Egypt	
<i>Ali Attiga</i> The Arab Petroleum Invest- ments Corporation (APICORP)	<i>Jalaleddin Jalali</i> Institute for Management and Planning Studies	<i>John Page</i> Brookings Institution	
<i>Ziad Bahaa-Eldin</i> Thebes Consultancy	<i>Taher Kanaan</i> Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies	<i>Christopher Pissarides</i> London School of Economics	
<i>Adel Beshai</i> The American University in Cairo	<i>Samir Makdisi</i> American University of Beirut	<i>Samir Radwan</i> Former Minister of Finance, Egypt	
<i>Dorothee Boccanfuso</i> Mohammed VI Polytechnic University	<i>Adeel Malik</i> University of Oxford	<i>James Robinson</i> University of Chicago	
<i>Abdullah Dardari</i>		<i>Güven Sak</i> The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, TEPAV	

# Annex A: ERF Network and Partners

## ERF Management & Staff

### Office of the Managing Director

*Ibrahim Elbadawi*  
Managing Director

*Marwa Afifi*  
Senior Executive Assistant  
to the Managing Director

### Research, Data and Programs

*Yasmine Fahim*  
Director of Research and Programs

*Nesma Amer*  
Senior Statistician

*Passainte Atef*  
Programs Officer

*Neamatallah Elsayed*  
Senior Program Officer  
(Till August 2023)

*May Gadallah*  
Statistics Manager

*Mariam Haggag*  
Statistician  
(Starting October 2023)

*Dalia Hany*  
Statistician

*Ramage Nada*  
Programs Manager

*Yasmeen Oraby*  
Senior Program Officer

*Sara Ragab*  
Researcher  
(Starting April 2023)

*Chahir Zaki*  
Lead Economist (Part-time)

### Conferences, Communications and Policy Outreach

*Sherine Ghoneim*  
Director of Communications  
and Policy Outreach

*Hoda Azmi*  
Conferences Manager

*Mohga Barrada*  
Communications Officer

*Namees Nabeel*  
Senior Manager of Communications and IT

*Boules Youssef*  
IT Specialist

### Finance

*Sherif Osama*  
Director of Finance

*Mohamed Aladdine*  
Senior Accountant

*Ali Hashem*  
Accountant

### Administration and HR

*Anais Hagopian*  
Acting Administration Director

*Fawkia Rizk*  
Administration Officer

### ERF Dubai

*Faiza Jafar*  
Director of ERF Dubai

### FEMISE Network

*Maryse Louis*  
FEMISE General Manager

*Sally Aldahaby*  
FEMISE Communications Officer

*Sophie Dahdouh*  
FEMISE Program Assistant

# Annex A: ERF Network and Partners

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UNITED NATIONS  
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# Annex B: Research Projects

## Completed Projects

### Introducing The Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023

*Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft*

This paper introduces the 2023 wave of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS). This is the fifth wave of the ELMPS, following a panel of households and individuals from 1998, 2006, 2012, and 2018 into 2023. The ELMPS tracks individuals even as they form new households and includes these households in the sample. Waves since 2006 have also added refresher samples to the panel. In this paper, we describe the questionnaires, sample, fielding, and weighting of the 2023 wave. We assess and model attrition on the household and individual levels and discuss how we account for this attrition in the calculation of weights. The paper also validates the ELMPS data against other sources, such as Egypt's Labor Force Survey.

### The Evolution of Labor Supply in Egypt through 2023

*Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft and Zoe McKillip*

Using data from the 2023 and earlier waves of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey, this paper investigates trends in labor supply in Egypt, with a particular focus on declines in participation and employment rates among both men and women over time. The paper explores the demographic drivers of labor supply, including fertility and population growth, as well as trends in educational attainment. Analyses of labor supply focus on labor force participation, employment, and unemployment by key demographic characteristics: sex, age, and education. A particular focus of the paper is understanding the evolution of the share of youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET). The findings indicate that falling unemployment rates in Egypt are not the result of improved employment prospects, but due instead to temporarily reduced demographic pressures in the labor market and falling labor force participation among both men and women. Men are taking longer to transition to employment after school as indicated by increasing NEET and joblessness rates. Educated women are increasingly withdrawing from the labor force.

### Evolution of the Structure and Quality of Employment in Egypt, 2012-2023

*Ragui Assaad and Esraa Mahmoud*

This paper examines the evolution of employment in Egypt over the 2012-2023 period. We start by examining employment growth, the structure of employment and its evolution across various types of employment and workplaces. We investigate the extent of employment underutilization as measured by time-related underemployment and educational over-qualification. We also assess the evolution of employment quality in the Egyptian labor market by examining how employment regularity, coverage by social insurance, access to paid leaves and health insurance and job satisfaction have changed over time across different groups of workers. We find that there are signs of improvement in employment outcomes in the 2018 to 2023 period, but that these improvements are mostly limited to male workers and, often only to more educated and privileged workers. We partly attribute these improvements to the emergence of the "missing middle" in the Egyptian economy.

### Trends in Income and Wage Inequality in Egypt (1988-2023)

*May Gadallah, Mona Elsayed and Mariam Hagag*

This paper examines the dynamics of income, wage levels, and distribution in Egypt, particularly emphasizing income inequality and diversification. This analysis is particularly crucial in light of the numerous shocks that hit the Egyptian economy in recent years. Drawing upon data from the 1988, 1998, 2006, 2012, 2018, and 2023 waves of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS), this paper studies the evolution of income and wage levels and distributions over time, including the trend in the shares of income sources and real wages. Additionally, we examine trends in income diversification, given that it is considered an integral tool for coping with economic shocks and reducing vulnerability. Finally, we explore trends in income and wage inequality relying on different inequality measures such as the Gini index, the general entropy at (1) and (-1), and different percentile ratios (e.g., 10/50, 90/50, and 90/10). We also conduct an inequality decomposition by income source to identify the key factors contributing to income disparities and changes in their contribution over time.

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## Education-Occupation Mismatch Among Vocational Secondary and University Graduates in Egypt

*Rania Roushdy and Nouran El-Khouly*

There is a vast literature on conceptually formulating education-occupation mismatch and on measuring over- and under-education as compared to the job skills required. Fewer studies are focused on identifying the correlates and consequences of such a mismatch, particularly in the developing world. Accordingly, the main objective of this paper is to contribute to the limited literature on education-occupation mismatch in Egypt and compare the extent of the mismatch using two different approaches: (1) the self-reported and (2) the statistical/realized match approaches. Using data from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey 2023, this paper sheds light on the nature of the education-occupation mismatch phenomena in the Egyptian labor market. The paper compares the characteristics of the overeducated, undereducated, and well-matched workers, wage penalties for over- or under-education, and their sense of job satisfaction. Analyses are focused on vocational secondary and university education graduates as these are the two terminal educational tracks in Egypt. The results show that undereducation is not prevalent in the Egyptian labor market, while overeducation is very common among both vocational secondary and university graduates. Job satisfaction was least prevalent among the overeducated. As compared to the well-matched group, overeducation was generally associated with a wage penalty, but undereducation was associated with a wage premium among vocational secondary graduates and with a wage penalty among university graduates. Mismatch was also associated with skills acquisition and job-skill requirements. The results of the skills analysis confirm the previous literature highlighting the importance of acquiring skills over credentials to effectively address the existing education-occupation mismatch in the Egyptian labor market.

## The Evolution of Social Protection in Egypt, 2006-2023

*Irene Selwaness and Hania Sholkamy*

This paper examines the trends in social protection coverage in Egypt over the 2006-2023 period. The different forms of protection that we analyze include contributory social insurance schemes, employment-related pensions, non-contributory social-assistance cash transfers including temporary cash transfers due to COVID-19, and food ration cards. In addition to examining patterns of coverage, the paper considers the value of transfers and benefits, in as much as possible, to assess the importance of coverage in terms of how much beneficiaries of different programs receive. We examine coverage rates by different household characteristics such as

household wealth quintile, head of household sex, household composition in terms of presence of children and elderly, head of household labor market status, and region. The paper frames these findings in terms of the overall approach to social protection and presents a commentary on the implications of these observed trends.

## The Impact of Early Childhood Care and Education on Maternal Time Use in Egypt

*Caroline Krafft and Ruotong Li*

Women spend a disproportionate amount of time in unpaid care work compared to men. There are particularly large gender disparities in care work in countries in the Middle East and North Africa, such as Egypt. This paper explores how policies might help shift care work into the market, specifically through the education system. The research examines the impact of early childhood care and education (ECCE) on mother's time use. The paper uses the school age cutoff (in a regression discontinuity design framework) for enrollment in primary school to assess the impact of children starting primary school on mother's time use. Primary school enrollment does not significantly change the time mothers spend in care work or employment. There is some evidence that children's primary school enrollment shifts when and possibly what types of care work mothers engage in. Policies increasing access to ECCE are not guaranteed to shift care work or employment for mothers.

## Unpaid Care Work in Egypt: Gender Gaps in Time Use

*Marian Atallah and Marina Hesham*

Using the most recent wave of Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey data from 2023, this paper provides an overview of the gender gap in unpaid care work and how it relates to labor market outcomes. With the inclusion of a 24-hour time use module in ELMPS 2023, we are able to examine women's time use in terms of unpaid care work and paid employment activities relative to their male counterparts, taking into account their socioeconomic profiles. The paper concludes by delving into perceptions and attitudes regarding gender norms, and how they correlate with women's time use patterns in Egypt. Results show that compared with men, women spent a disproportionate amount of time on unpaid care work in Egyptian households. Marriage and childbearing were associated with longer hours dedicated to unpaid care work activities. Employed women faced a double burden of having to balance their paid and unpaid work commitments, with married women who were

# Annex B: Research Projects

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wage employed being the most heavily penalized. Finally, our analysis of the correlation between gender norms and time use patterns shows that more egalitarian gender norms did not necessarily translate into a lower gender gap in the actual time spent on unpaid care work.

## The Use of Information and Communication Technology in the Workplace in Egypt

*Rawane Yasser, Irene Selwaness and Cecilia Poggi*

The dynamic intersection between technology and labor constitutes the focal point of labor market policies designed to align with technological transitions. In this context, studying the characteristics of digitized work content and work relations is crucial for comprehending the evolving landscape of the Egyptian labor market and accompanying policymaking. This paper investigates the evolution of the use of technology in the workplace in Egypt; we begin by exploring changes in computer and internet use, with particular attention to potential firms' responses to COVID-19 (e.g., remote working...etc.). Further, we also assess the types and prevalence of digital/computer skills across the whole population, in the labor force, and by type of jobs. Finally, the paper examines employment through digital platforms in Egypt.

## Migration during Economic Crisis: The Case of Egypt

*Anda David, Jackline Wahba and Rawane Yasser*

Egypt has experienced a major economic crisis since March 2022, which has had substantial impacts on food inflation and standards of living. This crisis was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, its global implications, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. For many Egyptians, international temporary migration and remittances have been coping mechanisms, allowing them to diversify their income. This paper investigates the role played by international migration as a livelihood strategy during the recent economic crisis. It highlights the trends and patterns of current overseas migration, return migration, remittances and migration intentions for the period covering the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis. The findings show that while the international emigration rate has increased, the return migration rate has substantially declined. In addition, the profile of migrants has changed as the share of low educated migrants increased, as well as the share of those holding precarious jobs prior to migrating. There results suggest that recent economic conditions in Egypt may be reshaping the patterns of Egyptian migration.

## Analyzing Labor Market Shifts in the Transition to Green Jobs: Mapping Egypt's Green Jobs

*Hala Abou-Ali and Mona Amer*

The global shift toward green economies underscores the need to better understand and measure the labor market changes driven by the low-carbon transition. This paper explores the characteristics of Egypt's labor market in light of the escalating importance of sustainable development, focusing on the composition and differentiation of green jobs compared to non-green jobs. It addresses the scarcity of studies on green jobs in Egypt by leveraging Egyptian Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) data and applying the International Labour Organization's (ILO) definition to identify and categorize these jobs. Using newly incorporated ELMPS 2023 questions on job characteristics tied to environmentally friendly practices, this analysis differentiates jobs based on their degree of greenness, i.e., whether they focus on eco-friendly processes, both processes and output, or output alone. It also assesses the extent of greenness by examining the number of environmental aspects associated with each job. The paper further explores the distribution of green jobs across economic activity, occupation, employment status, gender, education, and age groups while comparing the attractiveness of green and non-green jobs in terms of wages, social benefits, and job stability. Finally, it analyzes the potential for expanding green jobs by examining skill requirements and educational trends.

## From Vulnerability to Resilience: Households' Exposure to Shocks and Coping Mechanisms in Egypt

*Imane Helmy and Alanoud Ehab*

Managing risks and reducing vulnerability to shocks affect the welfare of households and resilience of economies. Using two rounds of Egypt's Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS), 2018 and 2023, this paper examines different types of shocks experienced by households over the few past years as well as vulnerability to food insecurity. It highlights important factors that contribute to resilience and identifies opportunities for strengthening effective risk management strategies. The findings highlight a remarkable increase in household exposure to shocks, rising from 16 percent in 2018 to 49 percent in 2023. Households who reported exposure to shocks in 2018 and 2023 are primarily from poorer and larger households, indicating a potential chronic vulnerability. Urban households have experienced more shocks compared to rural counterparts in 2023, highlighting the need for strategies that address the

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specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Higher resilience to shocks and food insecurity was reported by households pertaining to high wealth quintiles and whose heads are more educated or employed in the formal sector. This emphasizes the crucial role of social protection measures and economic opportunities in building resilience. Coping mechanisms primarily included consumption rationing, with a notable decline in reliance on social capital compared to 2018. Around 40 percent of households faced food insecurity in 2023, with those experiencing economic shocks being more susceptible to higher rates of moderate and severe food insecurity. A higher share of female headed households reported severe food insecurity. Expanding access to social insurance programs and ensuring they cover irregular/informal workers can better mitigate the impacts of economic and health-related shocks, ensuring less persistent effect on food insecurity.

### **Gender, Work, and Time Use in the Context of a Low-Income Agrarian Economy: The Case of Sudan**

*Ragui Assaad, Vishal Jamkar, and Caroline Krafft*

Sudan is a primarily agrarian economy. Formal employment or even wage employment comprises a relatively small proportion of the productive activities in which individuals engage. In this paper we examine the broad spectrum of involvement in economic work activities by gender, including wage employment, self-employment and unpaid family labor, both in activities for the purpose of pay or profit (employment) as well as in subsistence activities. Along with gender, we assess the variation in work patterns by urban/rural location, education, and marital status. Given the agrarian nature of Sudan's economy, we delve in more detail into the gender division of labor in agriculture, including participation in crop production, animal rearing, and other agricultural activities, distinguishing between primary roles and support roles in these activities. We end the paper by looking at the interplay between work and other time uses such as paid and unpaid care work and the gender division of labor in time use.

### **The Lives and Livelihoods of the Displaced in Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees**

*Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, and Jackline Wahba*

As of 2022, Sudan was home to 1.1 million refugees and 3.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), along with a substantial population that had previously experienced displacement. The Sudan Labor Market Panel Survey (SLMPS) 2022 over-sampled locations hosting the displaced in order to facilitate research on refugees and IDPs. This paper investigates the geographic distribution of the displaced, their demographics, their labor market and socioeconomic status and outcomes, and their

education, health, food security outcomes. It also reviews their experiences of shocks, their coping strategies, and the types of social assistance they receive. Important distinctions are made between current and returned IDPs and refugees and their outcomes are compared to those of Sudanese who were never displaced. Analyses also explore differences by location of residence (in host communities and camps), by sex, and across different age groups.

### **Education in Sudan: Disparities in Enrollment, Attainment and Quality**

*Ebaidalla Mahjoub and Tarig Alhaj Rakhy*

This paper examines the state of education in Sudan, utilizing data from the Sudan Labor Market Panel Survey (SLMPS, 2022). It focuses on various education performance indicators, including enrollment rates, school progression and barriers to education. The paper highlights the disparities in educational enrollment, attainment and performance, across gender, geographic regions and family socioeconomic backgrounds. The analysis indicates remarkable progress in preschool education in Sudan in recent years, although notable disparities persist across different regions, locations and socioeconomic statuses. The results show that those residing in urban areas are more likely to enroll in education compared to their rural counterparts. Moreover, individuals belonging to affluent households with educated parents have a higher likelihood to enroll and complete higher education levels. The results also reveal noticeable disparities in enrollment and attainment across regions. Individuals residing in Darfur, Kordufan and Eastern regions exhibit lower levels of educational enrollment and attainment, compared to those living in Central region and Khartoum. The illiteracy rate in Sudan remains alarmingly high, especially among rural females living in poor households. Furthermore, the study indicates multiple barriers to accessing education, including the lack of schools, poverty, customs and traditions. Female students predominantly discontinued their education due to marriage, parental preferences, school fees and cultural norms. Male students dropped out of school primarily because they needed to support their families. Finally, the paper ends with some policy recommendations aimed at enhancing access to education and reducing educational disparities in Sudan.

### **Determinants of Persistently High Fertility in Sudan**

*Maia Sieverding*

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in Sudan has fluctuated around five births per woman since the early 1990s. New data from the Sudan Labor Market Panel Survey (SLMPS) 2022 demonstrate

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that this trend has continued, with TFR in 2022 at 4.9 births per woman. Using the SLMPS data, this paper provides a descriptive update, after nearly two decades, to previous literature on the determinants of persistently high fertility in Sudan. The analysis addresses both selected proximate and background determinants of fertility. In addition to rural/urban differentials, there is a strong negative educational gradient in fertility. The TFR is 3.2 births lower among women with some secondary education than those with no schooling. The difference in Children Ever Born among women aged 40-49 is 1.6 births between the same two educational groups. Age at marriage and contraceptive use, two key proximate determinants of fertility, are likewise strongly associated with women's education. Attending at least some secondary school is a particularly important factor in marriage delay. Internally Displaced Persons generally follow the fertility and marriage patterns of Darfur, the region from which most of this population originates and is hosted. Overall, contraceptive prevalence remains low and fertility desires high. There is thus little to suggest that fertility rates in Sudan are likely to decline in the near future. However, the impacts of the conflict that began in mid-2023 on fertility can be unpredictable.

## Perspectives of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Egypt on integration into national social protection systems

*Maia Sieverding and Salma Abou Hussein*

This paper aims to understand refugees' and asylum seekers' experiences with and perspectives on existing cash assistance and in-kind benefits that they receive from UN agencies and NGOs, as well as their perspectives on the potential for incorporation into Egypt's national social protection systems. Understanding refugees' and asylum seekers' social protection needs and how they view different systems' ability to meet those needs can contribute to designing policy interventions that have greater potential for efficacy and uptake. This paper addresses the following research questions: (1) What is refugees' and asylum seekers' knowledge of i) existing humanitarian cash and in-kind benefits for refugees and asylum seekers provided by UN agencies and the NGO sector?; and ii) benefits provided by national social protection systems?; (2) What challenges do refugees and asylum seekers experience in accessing cash and in-kind benefits from UN agencies and/or the NGO sector?; (3) In times of economic shocks or income loss, what are the coping mechanisms of refugees and asylum seekers? How do these coping mechanisms affect children?; (4) What are the social protection needs of different groups of

refugees and asylum seekers?; (5) How do refugees and asylum seekers perceive the benefits and disadvantages of integration in national social protection systems?; and (6) How does the above differ by the nationality and other sociodemographic characteristics of refugees and asylum seekers?

## The Cost of Including Refugees and Asylum Seekers within the National Cash Assistance System

*Heba Al Laithy and Dina Armanious*

The overall goal of this paper is to assess the scale of the costs for potential inclusion of refugees within the Takaful and Karama or similar national social assistance program on equal footing as nationals and the associated benefits or risks. The inclusion of refugees into the national Takaful and Karama social protection program or similar national social assistance programs can provide sustainable and cost-effective solutions to moving away from external humanitarian assistance, particularly in protracted situations. By addressing the following specific objectives, the paper aims to demonstrate the potential benefits as well as challenges and limitations of such inclusiveness, not only for the refugees themselves but also for the broader Egyptian society on multiple levels. Accordingly, the paper builds a strong case for the inclusion of refugees in a tailored social assistance program under the umbrella of Takaful and Karama/ program/national social assistance, to benefit from MOSS system, utilizing all administrative procedures provided by MOSS, with costing scenarios based on vulnerability, in addition to the impact of the inclusion on their welfare levels.

## Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers within Egypt's National Social Assistance Program: Promoting Long-Term Financial Sustainability

*Sherine Al-Shawarby, Noha Samy Omar, and Nour Khaled Abou-Ismael*

This paper, part of the Economic Research Forum (ERF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNHCR and World Food Program (WFP) Partnership on Inclusive Social Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers focuses on integrating RAS into Egypt's national social assistance program. The objective is to advocate for the alignment of RAS with Egyptian nationals in their entitlement to social assistance programs, in compliance with international legal obligations. Importantly, the paper does not provide detailed solutions but rather aims to initiate discussions

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and explore feasible options. Specifically, it presents potential sustainable funding sources for the integration of RAS into Egypt's national social assistance program, with the objective of opening a well-informed discussion on their feasibility and soundness in broadening the pool of available resources while increasing the efficiency of their use.

### **Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers within Universal Health Insurance Program: Promoting Long-Term Financial Sustainability**

*Sherine Al-Shawarby, Dina A. Fattah, and Nour Abou-Ismael*

This paper, a collaboration between the Economic Research Forum (ERF), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNHCR, and the World Food Program (WFP), is part of the Partnership on Inclusive Social Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers; It focuses on financing the integration of RAS into Egypt's UHIS on equal footing with Egyptians, advocating for their basic rights in alignment with international legal obligations. Rather than offering detailed solutions, the paper aims to spark discussions and explore feasible options. It presents potential sustainable funding sources for RAS integration into Egypt's UHIS, initiating informed discussions on their feasibility and effectiveness in expanding available resources and improving their utilization efficiency.

### **The Legal and Policy Frameworks for an Inclusive Social Protection System in Egypt**

*Ghada Barsoum and Alaa Al Barrawi*

This paper seeks to assess policy and legislative frameworks governing social protection for refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt. The assessment focuses on: (1) the interaction between the national social protection policy and legal frameworks and the wider framework governing refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt such as policies and laws on migration, residence and employment; (2) identifying discrepancies between national policies and laws on social protection and international obligations; (3) examining conflict among national policy and legislative frameworks on social protection for refugees and asylum seekers; and finally (4) assessing the extent to which there are gaps between these laws and policies and actual practice during service delivery. Accordingly, and building on international best practice, the paper provides policy makers with practical adjustments to policy and legal frameworks to address barriers to the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in national systems.

### **Informality among Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Egyptian Labor Market: Towards an Inclusive Social Insurance Coverage**

*Rania Roushdy*

The main objective of this paper is to build a case for the extension of social insurance benefits to refugees and asylum seekers, who are working in the informal economy, under a contributory scheme, parallel to that governing national workers. Accordingly, the paper seeks to present policy makers with practical solutions for the adoption of a clear set of national procedures that regulate refugees and asylum seekers' work in the informal sector of the Egyptian labor market.

### **Report: The 2023 National Child Labour Survey in Egypt: A Child Lost in Work**

*Rania Roushdy and Ali Rashedi*

This report aims to update the state of knowledge on the disturbing phenomenon of child labour in Egypt using novel data from the National Child Labour Survey (NCLS) of 2023. This survey is a follow up to its predecessor, the NCLS 2010, which highlighted an alarming rate of child labour in Egypt, with one in each 10 children being engaged in child labour. Since the NCLS of 2010, no other surveys in Egypt focused on conducting a situation analysis of children below age 18. Responding to this dearth of data on children, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF in partnership with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) and the Economic Research Forum embarked on this second round of the NCLS in order to assess how Egyptian children have fared following the many unforeseen political transitions and economic shocks, including those related to the COVID pandemic, that Egypt experienced over the last thirteen years.

### **Food Insecurity and Gender in Turbulent Times: Evidence from New Data for Egypt**

*Chahir Zaki*

The Russian war in Ukraine led to significant disruptions in trade in cereals, especially wheat and other products that are key for food security. This paper investigates the impact of the war in Ukraine on food security in Egypt through a gender lens using a newly collected dataset. The case of Egypt is of particular interest as it is a large importer of wheat; experienced other concurrent economic crises; and is among the largest economies in the Middle East and North Africa. The analysis distinguishes the impact of the war in Ukraine

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from other factors resulting in more fragile food security. Results indicate that the way domestic economic policies were implemented increased food insecurity caused by the war. Female headed-households and women in female-headed households were more strongly impacted by increasing food insecurity. Government support measures did not significantly reduce the negative implications of the war on food insecurity.

## Effects of Russian-Ukraine War (RUW) on Gender and Food Security in Kenya

*Philliph Musyoka*

The Russia and Ukraine crisis escalated into a war in February 2022, with devastating economic consequences. However, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine War (RUW) on gender dynamics remains largely unexplored, particularly at the microeconomic, household, and individual levels. This study considers Russian Ukraine war as an exogenous shock with gender and food security effects at household level. Data were collected from a random sample of 2,030 respondents through phone interviews conducted in April and May 2024. In this paper, RUW is considered akin to a foreign policy and effects on food security and on gender are determined using a 2-Stage Least Squares (2SLS). The dependent variable, Food Insecurity Experience Index (FIEI) was computed using principal component analysis. The results show that food security condition at household level is driven by wages received, domestic and exogenous trade policy perceptions in addition to the education levels of the respondents. Domestic policy led to worsening of food security position in general. On further disaggregation, the results reveal that while the domestic policies worked to the advantage of male-headed households' food security, both domestic and exogenous (RUW) worsened women's food security position. This study recommends social safety nets deliberately targeted towards women, especially women-headed households, building the resilience of women in business and in waged employment, enhancing the financial position of women during crisis through informal financial institutions such as the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), and capacity building to buttress the skills of women in business and income generating startups.

## National Child Labor Survey 2022

*Ragui Assaad, Zakaria Othman and Ali Rashed*

In partnership with the ILO, the ERF completed the implementation of the 2023 National Child Labor Survey conducted by CAPMAS. This involvement encompassed tasks such as formulating the questionnaire, structuring the

sample, and providing assistance in conducting routine data consistency checks, cleaning the data as well as providing initial results and key findings from the data.

## Ongoing Projects

### EuroMed Cluster Forward (ECF)

EuroMED Cluster Forward (ECF) is a four-year EU-funded project. Led by ANIMA Investment Network, ECF brings together a rich consortium with the Economic Research Forum (ERF), Berytech and Leaders International (Qeiatat) as lead partners and more than 8 affiliates (e.g., FEMISE, Malta Enterprise, etc.) from the Mediterranean region. ECF aims to empower clusters in promoting inclusive innovation and competitiveness in the Euro med region with a view to enhancing growth, economic diversification, sustainable development, and employment.

Under ECF project, ERF, in cooperation with FEMISE, is leading several activities including mapping and assessing the performance of clusters in Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. Additionally, ERF conducted a benchmark study on South Neighbourhood policies and frameworks for cluster creation and development based upon relevant best practices at European and global levels. Besides, ERF & FEMISE have initiated EuroMed Cluster Innovate Webinar Series; a dynamic platform designed to address the evolving needs and challenges of various sectors in the Mediterranean region. This series will cover both sectoral webinars, focusing on specific industries, and thematic webinars, addressing cross-cutting issues and trends.

### The Main Features of Sudan's Income and Wages Structure

*May Gadallah, Nesma Mamdouh, Sara Ragab, and Dalia Hany*

For years, the Sudanese economy has been grappling, even prior to the recent conflict. The escalation of the recent events in Sudan has aggravated matters resulting in devastating impacts on the country's economy. The rise of the civil war has been associated with the disruption of global and local trade and transportation and has also led to a decline in foreign investment. The aforementioned factors have been detrimental to the country's economy; hence we seek to examine the economic shifts manifested in income and wages in line with the current circumstances. Accordingly, this paper aims to investigate income including wage levels

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as well as inequality in the country. This research starts off by setting the lay of the land in Sudan by describing its pre-conflict status in terms of poverty and development measures. Given the current instability in the country, and its need for income diversification as a resilience strategy, we analyze the intensity of income diversification and the contribution to the total income. We seek to analyze income distribution in Sudan across different variables including sex, sector, educational level of the household head, as well as location. Additionally, we seek to identify the factors which determine the level of income diversification in the country where the capability to pursue various sources of income may represent a strategy for mitigating risks during the ongoing conflict. Finally, we aim to explore income and wage inequality using main factors and to be able to identify the main sources that mostly contribute to inequality.

### **In the Context of the Renewable Energy: Transition in MENA – The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive, Equitable, and Sustainable Economic Growth – Jordan Case Study**

*Ahmad Awad and Ibrahim Saif*

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) form over 99% of Jordan's businesses and employ around 60% of the workforce across sectors like manufacturing, services, and trade. Despite their significant contribution to GDP and employment, these firms face persistent challenges, including limited access to finance, regulatory complexities, and market competition. Jordan's heavy reliance on energy imports and grid limitations underscores the importance of integrating MSMEs into the country's renewable energy (RE) transition. Decentralized energy production and smart-grid technology offer tailored solutions that align with Jordan's needs.

This report examines the role of MSMEs in Jordan's clean energy initiatives, identifying challenges, opportunities, and policy implications. Using a mixed-methods approach, it includes surveys of 400 MSMEs, interviews, and focus groups to analyze their engagement with RE technologies. Key findings highlight bureaucratic, financial, and infrastructural barriers, alongside growing awareness and adoption of RE for cost savings and competitiveness. Recommendations emphasize improving RE financing, refining regulations, building capacity, and enhancing infrastructure to ensure MSMEs thrive in Jordan's sustainable energy transition.

### **Gender Equality, Climate Change, and Clean Energy in the Middle East and North Africa**

*Nada Mustafa Ali and Racha Ramadan*

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, heavily impacted by climate change, possesses abundant renewable energy (RE) resources. While the literature on gender, climate change, and clean energy in the region is limited, it is expanding, with evidence showing women's significant roles in addressing climate challenges and supporting the transition to clean energy. This policy research investigates the relationship between gender, climate change, and clean energy transition in MENA, emphasizing the interdependence of gender equality, social justice, and sustainable energy. Using data from the Economic Research Forum's Renewable Energy Firm Surveys in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, the report finds that firm size, managerial age, sector, and national context influence clean energy adoption. Firms in Jordan and Morocco are likelier to adopt clean energy than those in Egypt. However, cultural norms and unpaid domestic work limit women's representation in high-paying technical jobs within MSMEs. The report calls for integrating climate change efforts with broader regional issues such as gender equality, democracy, and human rights to ensure a just energy transition.

### **Potential Employment Generation Capacity of Renewable Energy in MENA**

*Atif Kubursi and Hala Abou-Ali*

The MENA region, historically reliant on fossil fuels, is transitioning towards renewable energy (RE) to address environmental challenges and unlock economic opportunities. With abundant solar and wind resources, the region is poised to embrace technologies like solar power, wind energy, and green hydrogen, fostering industries and creating jobs in sectors such as engineering, manufacturing, and project management. Investments in RE projects support local production of components, reducing import dependence, stimulating innovation, and positioning the region as a hub for green energy advancements. The structure of the report offers a comprehensive analysis of the potential employment impacts of RE in six countries—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia. It begins with an introduction outlining the objectives and scope, followed by an in-depth analysis of energy dynamics in these countries, highlighting past trends and future projections. The report explores the

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relationship between RE adoption, job creation, and economic diversification while addressing challenges like unemployment and skills gaps. Its recommendations emphasize training, infrastructure development, and inclusive policies to harness the transformative potential of renewable energy.

## Drivers of Renewable Energy Adoption by SMEs in Egypt

*Abeer Elshennawy and Mohammed Bouaddi*

Increasing the adoption of renewable energy (RE) is crucial for reducing greenhouse gases and combating climate change. This paper uses a sample of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Egypt and quantile regression to identify key drivers of RE adoption. The findings show that firms owned by women are more likely to adopt RE. Additionally, a higher share of youth in a firm's workforce increases the likelihood of RE deployment. Factors such as the use of information and communication technology (ICT), awareness of RE, and access to information on backup generation technology strongly influence RE adoption. These results highlight important policy implications. Policymakers should prioritize removing barriers for women entrepreneurs, as they are more likely to embrace RE. Since youth are significant drivers of RE adoption, providing them with the necessary skills through education would enhance their role. Raising awareness of RE benefits and improving access to backup generation information can reduce intermittency risks, promoting RE adoption in Egypt.

## The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Development Within the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in the MENA Region: Sudan Case Study Report

*Muez Ali, Mayada Hassanain, and Alzaki Alhelo*

The post-conflict adoption of renewable energy in Sudan hinges on political stability, economic conditions, long-term development plans, external support, and political commitments. Although Sudan's renewable energy growth lags behind regional counterparts, its potential is well-documented. The country faces low electricity access with regional inequalities, as the grid mainly serves central areas. Efforts to boost private sector participation through regulatory amendments in 2013 and investment legislations in 2015 and 2021 have not yielded significant results. The residential sector remains the largest electricity consumer, reflecting the decline in industrial output since 2011. This study examines

renewable energy's potential for supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) using focus groups and expert interviews. MSME owners highlighted the benefits of renewable energy in mitigating fuel price volatility and supply chain disruptions, particularly in agriculture and urban enterprises. In mining, renewable energy usage is limited. Experts cited structural challenges, such as high finance costs, regulatory complexities, and lack of clear regulations for decentralized energy. Policy recommendations include a long-term energy strategy, a comprehensive regulatory framework, and initiatives to promote affordable renewable energy adoption among MSMEs.

## Under Which Conditions Can Tunisian MSMEs Shift to A Successful Energy Transition?

*Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani, and Walid Hadhri*

This case study focuses on Tunisia's energy transition, a key element in achieving sustainability and climate goals. Tunisia aims to reduce primary energy demand by 30% and generate 35% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, with the long-term goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The transition involves balancing green extractivism with a community-centered, just energy approach. The study examines the challenges and opportunities for Tunisia's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are crucial for job creation. Using a mixed-methods approach, the research gathered quantitative data from 300 MSMEs and conducted 34 interviews with stakeholders. Findings show that MSMEs recognize the importance of the energy transition but face significant barriers, such as high initial costs, limited financial resources, and regulatory complexities. Despite policy reforms, bureaucratic inertia hampers progress. The study recommends enhancing government policies, providing financial incentives, streamlining procedures, and promoting awareness. It calls for a collaborative effort involving government, businesses, and international partners to ensure an inclusive and equitable transition.

## The Political Economy of Energy Transition in MENA

*Ali Al-Saffar, Abeer El-Shennawy, and Adeel Malik*

This report outlines the unique potential economic impacts of energy transitions on the producers of the MENA region, and outline the policy options available to governments looking to mitigate risks, taking into account the profound political-economy implications and considerations that they will need to navigate in the process.

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## Transition to Renewable Energy in the Middle East and North Africa Region: The Imperatives, Benefits, Drivers, Barriers and the Role of MSMEs

*Atif Kubursi*

This report presents a policy roadmap for the energy transition in the MENA and Central Asia regions, emphasizing the involvement of the informal sector, MSMEs, public and private sectors, and youth and women. The roadmap aims to reduce regulatory and financial barriers for MSMEs, support informal businesses, and foster public-private partnerships to promote renewable energy adoption. It also focuses on improving energy literacy, training, and building a supportive ecosystem for transitioning to clean energy. The region faces significant climate risks, including rising temperatures and sea levels, exacerbated by fossil fuel emissions. However, the MENA region's natural endowments—abundant solar radiation, deserts, and wind resources—position it well for a profitable transition to renewable energy. This transition offers benefits, including economic diversification and job creation. To succeed, the region must overcome challenges like financing, infrastructure, and skills development, while aligning public policy and governance to support this shift. Morocco and the UAE are leading the way in green energy investments, particularly in green hydrogen.

## The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth within the Context of the Clean Energy Transition in the MENA Region: Sudan Case Study

*Muez Ali, Mayada Hassanain, and Alzaki Alhelo*

The report on Sudan's energy transition highlights the challenges and opportunities faced by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The focus of the data collection was on the feasibility of energy transition and its potential benefits for economic growth. Climate change was central to most discussions, though participants were not always familiar with the term, despite recognizing weather pattern changes impacting operations. This gap in understanding signals a need for better awareness and education about climate change. Environmental degradation, especially desertification, groundwater depletion, and changing weather patterns, was identified as a significant challenge for agriculture and infrastructure. Health risks, such as cholera outbreaks linked to heavy rains, also highlighted the urgency for sustainable energy solutions. Participants emphasized the importance of sustainable land management practices to address

environmental degradation. Overall, the report underscores the necessity for a comprehensive approach to energy transition, combining education, awareness, and sustainable practices to support MSMEs and mitigate climate impacts in Sudan.

## Accelerating the Energy Transition in Egypt

*Rasha Hassan*

This study explores Egypt's energy transition, focusing on policy development, renewable energy (RE) adoption, and the role of MSMEs in driving the shift. While Egypt has made significant strides in promoting RE, challenges persist, such as high costs, limited financing, and bureaucratic hurdles. MSMEs are increasingly adopting RE, benefiting from job creation, cost savings, and energy security, especially in marginalized areas. However, barriers like high initial costs, lack of awareness, and inadequate infrastructure hinder wider adoption. The RE sector offers substantial employment opportunities, especially in installation, maintenance, and technical fields, requiring specialized skills. Yet, there is a gap between demand and the availability of RE-related education. Gender equity is a key issue, with women facing cultural barriers and limited access to information. The study recommends policies to incentivize RE adoption, improve education and skill development, streamline bureaucratic processes, and encourage gender inclusivity. These measures can help Egypt accelerate its transition to a sustainable and inclusive energy future.

## Perceptions of energy transition by Tunisian MSMEs: What is Going Wrong?

*Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani and Walid Hadhri*

This study examines the perspectives of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Tunisia regarding the country's energy transition. Tunisia aims to reduce primary energy consumption by 30% and generate 35% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. The research reveals a varying level of awareness and engagement with renewable energy sources among MSMEs, with key barriers identified, including bureaucratic complexity, financing limitations, and technological challenges. Government policy and strategic planning play a critical role in supporting this transition. The study stresses the need for refined administrative procedures, better education and awareness campaigns, and sector-specific strategies. It also highlights the importance of financial incentives to encourage MSMEs to adopt renewable energy. Policymakers are advised to take a tailored approach

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that addresses the unique challenges faced by MSMEs and facilitates their active involvement in the energy transition. The study provides actionable recommendations to create an enabling environment for MSMEs to drive Tunisia's sustainable energy future.

## **The Role of MSMEs in Fostering Inclusive and Equitable Sustainable Economic Growth in the Context of the Renewable Energy Transition in MENA: Jordan Case Study**

*Ibrahim Saif and Ahmad Awad*

In Jordan, MSMEs constitute over 99% of enterprises, employing around 60% of the workforce across sectors like manufacturing, services, and trade. These businesses face challenges such as limited access to finance, regulatory obstacles, and market competition, despite their significant contributions to GDP and employment. As Jordan transitions to renewable energy (RE), MSMEs play a key role, especially in the context of energy imports and grid limitations. Decentralized energy production and smart-grid technology offer promising solutions. This qualitative study explores the role of MSMEs in Jordan's RE transition, focusing on regulatory frameworks, current projects, and best practices. It aims to develop a framework to enhance MSME participation, addressing challenges, opportunities, and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. The study uses qualitative methods, including interviews and focus groups, to assess MSMEs' involvement in clean energy, identify gaps, and recommend strategies. Key challenges include bureaucratic, financial, and infrastructure constraints. Recommendations include improving RE financing, refining policies, enhancing capacity building, and upgrading infrastructure.

## **Gender Equality and Inclusion in MENA: Bridging Gender Gaps in Energy and MSMEs**

*Sara Ragab & Esraa Medhat*

This report explores the intersection of gender, energy, and MSMEs in the MENA region, focusing on the unique challenges women face in the energy sector and their critical role in the transition to renewable energy. Women in low- and middle-income countries are often portrayed as victims of energy poverty or beneficiaries of energy access, undermining their agency and potential as active drivers of change. Addressing these gendered barriers is essential for fostering women's leadership and engagement in clean energy transitions. The analysis examines six countries—Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, and Sudan—considering their distinct

cultural, historical, and socio-political contexts. It reviews the status of women-led MSMEs, labor force participation, inclusive policies, and gender-equitable development, while identifying knowledge gaps and opportunities. The report also highlights women's role as decision-makers and their contributions to climate resilience and energy transitions. By integrating a gender lens throughout the energy value chain, the findings aim to support gender-responsive clean energy and climate action initiatives across the region.

## **Empowering the Future of MENA: Energy Transition Country Profiles**

*Sara Ragab & Esraa Medhat*

Energy is a cornerstone of economic activity and individual well-being, and the shift to renewable green energy offers a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to fossil fuels. This transition is particularly relevant for the MENA region, where high unemployment, undiversified economies, and environmental challenges prevail. Despite an abundance of fossil energy resources, many MENA countries have yet to leverage these reserves effectively to build productive economies. Driven by population growth, urbanization, and socio-economic development, energy demand in the region has surged in recent years. However, renewable energy currently accounts for only 0.4% of the region's primary energy mix. Expanding renewable energy and improving energy efficiency can yield significant benefits, including environmental preservation, climate change mitigation, cost savings, and job creation. Strategic policies and investments are critical to unlocking these opportunities, aligning short-term actions with long-term goals like the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. By prioritizing renewable energy and inclusive development, the MENA region can achieve a sustainable and prosperous future.

## **Stable food Access and Prices and Lower Exposure to Shocks (STAPLES)**

*Chahir Zaki, Amr Khafagy, and Fida Karam*

Stability is a pillar of food security which does not only require food to be available, accessible, and well utilized, but also that these conditions are stable and predictable, stressing the centrality of information. Stability is put at risk by several domestic and external factors. Hence, policymakers, supported by researchers and international organizations, have made big efforts to understand and track the main factors of risk for the domestic production of food, like meteorology, water stress, local conflicts...etc. There is less understanding

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and systematized knowledge about which external shocks and stressors may derive from international markets, how they can be transmitted domestically to the cereal supply chains, and what solutions such actors have to deal with these shocks. MENA countries are particularly exposed to international shocks in cereals' markets because they largely rely on imports to feed their population and food self-sufficiency is not an option for them, due to water scarcity. A deep understanding of such external shocks and stressors and of coping strategies is fundamental. In this context, the project aims at informing private and public resilience strategies through new evidence-based knowledge that is created, systematized and spread on external stressors and shocks deriving from cereal global value chains (GVCs) on the MENA region and on the feasible local solutions to address them, with a specific focus on Morocco and Egypt. Led by Politecnico di Milano University (PoliMi), ERF joined 7 partners in the Mediterranean as the consortium leading the implementation of this project funded by the European Union.

### Research on Gender and the Future of Work in the Arab States Region

*Amira El Shal, Adelina Zeqiri, Adel Ben Youssef, Mounir Dahmani Belal Falla, Vladimir Hlasny, Irène Selwaness*

In line with the UNDP's overall work on women's economic empowerment and gender inclusive economies, ERF is joining forces with the UNDP for the purpose of informing policies towards creating new gender-inclusive opportunities in the green, blue, digital, and care sectors, as sectors of potential growth, by producing research papers on the "Future of Work" and gender equality in the Arab States region. The concept of the "Future of Work" has gained significant attention, particularly in light of the need to reassess work environments in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The digital and green/blue transitions in the Arab States region, together with the expansion of the care economy, offer a range of opportunities and challenges in the pursuit of gender equality and inclusivity. If managed effectively, these transitions can empower women by providing them with more productive and better-paying jobs, promoting work-life balance, and facilitating a reduction or redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work.

ERF & UNDP new collaboration seeks to provide a strong foundation for addressing the implications of growing and shrinking jobs on skills and training requirements as well as the re-skilling needs of the labor force in general. Understanding the intricacies of the megatrends in the digital, green/blue, and care sectors, is thus crucial to provide insights for policy-makers to foster gender-inclusive opportunities.

### Making Macroeconomic Policies More Environment Friendly: A CGE Analysis for Egypt

*Chahir Zaki, City Eldeep, and Abeer Elshinnawy*

Egypt is vulnerable to climate change, making adaptation and mitigation an imperative for long-term policy. Yet, there is scant quantitative evidence how macroeconomic policy, perhaps the most powerful policy lever, in Egypt could be used to influence and hasten green transition. This paper aims to fill that gap and simulate the impact of various macroeconomic, mainly fiscal policies on green transition. Using a single-country dynamic CGE model for Egypt, we aim to investigate the impact of fiscal policy instruments to foster green transition, including both carbon pricing and expenditure policy measures and, in a novel addition, we explore these climate effects taking into account the gender dimension. This is important because gender issues permeate long-term development issues Egypt is facing, from fertility and population growth to labor force participation, gender equity, household behavior, and labor market efficiency and equity outcomes that are critical for poverty reduction and shared prosperity. To do so, we calibrate the model using the 2018/2019 social accounting matrix for the Egyptian economy, which we disaggregate by gender. Our main findings show that while imposing a carbon tax is effective in reducing carbon emissions, potentially more than energy subsidies removal, they can be complementary tools to speed up this reduction and achieve the net zero carbon target. In addition, the energy pricing policies (carbon tax and energy subsidy removal) will create more fiscal space to support green development projects, despite some cost in terms of lower economic growth in the long run due to the adjustment cost resulting from such policies. However, at the macroeconomic level, economic growth might decline under the baseline or business as usual scenario as well, given that of the current structure of the economy that is dominated by polluting sectors and their impact on long-term growth. Thus, more investments to make polluting sectors cleaner should be a key priority. From a gender lens, supporting rural females who are among the most vulnerable segment of the population to climate change can help in mitigating these adverse effects, and increases consumption and welfare both in the short and long run, but also has a cost in terms of lower investment. However, these adverse growth and investment effects are small and may be viewed as a cost of achieving greater fiscal space, higher quality and more equitable growth and development over the long term.

# Annex B: Research Projects

## Shifting Sands: Gender and Employment in Post-COVID-19 Egypt

*Rana Hendy, and Amira ElShal*

Women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are struggling with various significant challenges in the labor markets. Research to date has focused on explaining women's persistently low labor force participation rate and high unemployment rate in some countries in MENA (e.g., Assaad, Hendy, Lassassi, and Yassin 2020; Hayo and Tobias 2013; Hendy 2015; Nazier and Ramadan 2018). Yet, there is limited evidence on the implications of (1) the recent trends in the performance and growing/shrinking sectors and economic activities and overall structural change, as well as (2) the recent trends in the performance and growing/shrinking firms and overall private sector development for the quantity and quality of work that women in MENA engage in or, generally, for gender-inclusive labor markets. This study contributes to the existing literature on gender and employment in Egypt by focusing on the unique dynamics and challenges arising in the post-COVID-19 pandemic context. We examine the gender-based sectoral and occupational segregation in the Egyptian economy and estimate how this segregation has contributed to the persistently low female labor force participation in Egypt. We also examine whether the Egyptian private sector has absorbed women as entrepreneurs and as employees, and how the growth pattern of firms has affected female labor force participation. We bridge the gap between micro and macro data analyses for a comprehensive and a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between economic growth, employment, and gender dynamics in Egypt in the post pandemic context. By analyzing data at both the sectoral and firm levels, we examine the intricacies of how economic growth impacts employment outcomes for men and women in the country, and what the future of work is for women. The findings of this study hold significant implications for policy discussions and interventions seeking to promote gender equality in the Egyptian labor market and foster inclusive economic growth in the post-pandemic period. We provide medium and long-term policy options that have to be implemented to promote female labor force participation and help women better manage the disruptions and megatrends impacting labor markets.

## Initiated Projects

### Household Micro and Small Enterprises in Egypt: Overview and Developments Through 2023

*Amirah El-Haddad and Chahir Zaki*

We use household enterprise data from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Surveys (ELMPS) in 1998, 2006, 2012, 2012 and 2023 to track the state of household micro and small enterprises (MSEs), particularly in light of the enactment of the new micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) law in 2020. In 2023, we find that the sector continues to be dominated by informal, male-owned microenterprises. It also exhibits limited diversification and sophistication. There has been a trend toward informalization. Despite numerous initiatives and reforms in the institutional and regulatory environment, MSEs remain heavily self-financed. These characteristics are consistent with the sector being a 'survival sector' or employer of last resort rather than a high-tech, high-value creating, competitive one. With the challenges facing the sector and barriers to entry into the formal sector, this sector is the only way to earning a living for many people.

### Occupational Segregation and the Gender Wage Gap in Egypt, 1998–2023

*Shireen Alazzawi and Vladimir Hlasny*

Female labor force participation in Egypt remains low, and wages consistently under-reward women compared to men. This disparity is partly driven by the systematic channeling of women into lower-paying sectors, occupations, and firms, which results in downward pressure on wages. This chapter examines the long-term relevance of the occupational segregation hypothesis in Egypt, utilizing labor market surveys from 1998 to 2023. Our findings reveal that women are predominantly concentrated in teaching, nursing, and clerical roles, despite increasing educational attainment in recent years. Occupational segregation significantly contributes to gender wage gaps, especially at the lower end and middle of the earnings distribution, where women face greater wage penalties. We conclude that addressing the gender pay gap in Egypt requires empowering women to access equal opportunities in diverse sectors, firms, and occupations, thus ensuring they can compete on equal terms with men in the labor market.

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## Household appliances, infrastructural services, and married women's unpaid care work in Egypt

*Ragui Assaad and Sara Ragab*

Women in Egypt do 6 hours of unpaid care work for every hour men do. What supports can help reduce this unequal burden of unpaid care work? This paper investigates how ownership of household appliances and access to local infrastructural services can help reduce women's unpaid care work. The 2023 wave of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS 2023) includes a new time-use module that measures direct and indirect unpaid care work among other activities, such as employment, subsistence work, and leisure activities. It also has a full roster of the durable household goods that households have access to, such as cooking stoves and washing machines, as well as information on access to infrastructural services, such as piped water in the home, connection to a public sewer network and waste collection. We find that access to appliances such as stoves and vacuum cleaners are associated with reduced time spent on indirect care work, although ownership of freezers can reduce time spent cooking and cleaning. The only type of service consistently associated with reductions in indirect care work is access to garbage collection, keeping in mind that we are unable to accurately detect the effects of some services such as water and electricity connections due to their virtual universality in Egypt.

## NGOs Panel Survey in Egypt

*Ghada Barsoum, Christine Valente, Muhamed Haseeb, May Gadallah, and Nesma Mahgoub*

Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) represent a key player in civil society through their significant contribution to development. They aim to provide vulnerable populations with health, nutrition, and educational services through the implementation of various development projects. Given their flexibility, accountability, and cost efficiency, NGOs actively seek to cater to the needs of the society, defend their rights, and generate knowledge to marginalized communities. In light of this, the role of NGOs in Egypt became even more prominent with the rise of the social and economic challenges experienced by Egyptians throughout the recent years. These challenges created a vacuum for NGOs to fill, where the government was in dire need of support to provide development programmes to assist vulnerable communities. In this context, the ERF in partnership with Sawiris Foundation for Social Development (SFSD), and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) are conducting this project to

comprehensively understand the landscape, challenges, and opportunities faced by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Egypt. To this end, CAPMAS will undertake the initiative on collecting baseline data from a random sample of Egyptian NGOs, working in the aforementioned areas. The objective of the survey is to assess the current state of CSOs and NGOs, to identify the major challenges faced by these organizations, to evaluate the effectiveness of CSOs and NGOs in achieving their stated goals and objectives, and to develop strategic recommendations for policymakers, donors, and NGO leaders to enhance the effectiveness, sustainability, and impact of CSOs and NGOs in Egypt.



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## Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ)

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*Ly Slesman*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2023.2275484

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*Sameh Hallaq & Ayman Khalifah*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2023.2275485

Capital flight and the real exchange rate: evidence from resource scarce MENA countries

*A. Yasemin Yalta & A. Talha Yalta*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2023.2282325

Do non-natives catch-up with the natives in terms of earnings in Jordan? New evidence from a distributional analysis

*Hatem Jemmali & Rabeh Morrar*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2310468

Are asset quality weaknesses holding back bank lending? Evidence from MENA region

*Saibal Ghosh*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2360848

Labor market transitions in Egypt post-Arab Spring

*Jingyuan Deng, Nelly Elmallakh, Luca Flabbi & Roberta Gatti*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2360849

How sanctions work. Iran and the impact of economic warfare by Narges Bajoghli, Vali Nasr, Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, and Ali Vaez

*José Díaz-Bahamonde*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2340412

### MEDJ, Vol. 16, No. 2, December 2024

Firm heterogeneity and export behavior: evidence from Tunisia

*Leila Baghdadi & Peter Glick*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2381167

Fuel and electricity pricing and subsidies in the GCC states: recent developments

*Jon Strand*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2415237

COVID-19 policy responses, social norms, and behavior change in MENA

*Amira El-Shal & Eman Moustafa*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2399482

Resistance is simple, resilience is complex: sanctions and the composition of Iranian trade

*Esfandyar Batmanghelidj*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2417624

Does less finance harm economic growth as well? A nonlinear smooth transition model (STAR) perspective

*Zakaria Elouaourti & Aomar Ibourk*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2429500

The determinants of excess liquidity in the Algerian banking system

*Amirouche Chelghoum, Lahlou Boukhari & Yahia Djafferi*

DOI: 10.1080/17938120.2024.2441620

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Technologies and Innovation in the GCC Energy Sector: Difference Between the Scope and the Direction of Technological Change

*Adel Ben Youssef*

**PB 126**

When Trade Agreements Matter for the Environment in the MENA Region

*Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso, Thais Núñez-Rocha, and Chahir Zaki*

**PB 127**

Toward Frontier Macroeconomic Institutions in Support of Green-Energy Transition in GCC Countries

*Klaus Schmidt-Hebbel*

**PB 128**

Aid for Trade and Exports in the MENA Region: When Institutions Matter

*Nora Aboushady, Georges Harb and Chahir Zaki*

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*Atif Kubursi and Hala Abou-Ali*

**PB 130**

Employment Generation Capacity of Renewable Energy in MENA

*Atif Kubursi and Hala Abou-Ali*

**PB 131**

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|Arabic Version

*Abeer Elshennawy and Mohammed Bouaddi*

**PB 132**

Empowering MSMEs in Jordan: Driving Sustainable Economic Growth through the Renewable Energy Transition

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*Ibrahim Saif and Ahmad Awad*

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*Zafiriz Tzannatos*

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*Abeer Elshennawy and Mohammed Bouaddi*

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*Nada Mustafa Ali and Racha Ramadan*

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*Hassan Gholipour, John Goodell, Iman Cheratian, Saleh Goltabar*

*and Oumaima Lahmar*

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*Ahmed Rashad*

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*Roberta Gatti, Federico Bennett, Gianluca Mele, Hoda Assem and Asif*

*M. Islam*

Published: June 11, 2024

# Annex C: Publications

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Making aid-for-trade more effective in the MENA region

*Nora Aboushady, Georges Harb and Chahir Zaki*

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*Mohammad Reza Farzanegan, Hamid Balali, Omid Zamani and Mostafa Baniasadi*

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*Ahmed Ghoneim*

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*Mohammad Reza Farzanegan, Mehdi Feizi, Hassan F Gholipour and Mozghan Asnaashary*

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*Houda Haffoudhi and Brahim Guizani*

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*Ahmed Ghoneim*

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*Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft*

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*Caroline Krafft, Ragui Assaad, Zoe McKillip and Esraa Mahmoud*

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*Paul Makdissi*

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*Erdal Özmen and Fatma Tasdemir*

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*Roberta V. Gatti, Jesica Torres, Nelly Elmallakh and Gianluca Mele*

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*Chahir Zaki*

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