

"NAVIGATING CHANGE IN JORDAN: POLICY INSIGHTS ON EMPLOYMENT, INCLUSION, AND RESILIENCE FROM THE JORDAN LABOR MARKET PANEL SURVEY 2025"

DATE: JUNE 29-30, 2026

ON ZOOM

BACKGROUND

Jordan's labor market has experienced profound economic and social changes over the past fifteen years amid demographic shifts, regional instability, the Syrian refugee crisis, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding how these changes have influenced employment opportunities, household wellbeing, gender relations, and social protection is essential for designing effective and inclusive policies. High-quality longitudinal data play a critical role in capturing these changes and informing evidence-based decision-making.

The Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS) has become a cornerstone of labor market and human development research in Jordan. As part of the Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Labor Market Panel Surveys (LMPSs), the JLMPS provides rich longitudinal data that enable researchers and policymakers to better understand labor market dynamics, demographic transitions, household formation, migration, entrepreneurship, social protection, and gender relations over time.

Implemented by the ERF in partnership with the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS), the JLMPS has collected nationally representative panel data since 2010, with subsequent waves conducted in 2016 and 2025. The 2025 wave follows households interviewed in previous rounds while incorporating a refresher sample that oversamples non-Jordanian populations, ensuring robust representation of Syrian refugees and migrant workers.

The JLMPS 2025 was implemented with the support and collaboration of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, UNICEF, UN Women, and the International Growth Centre (IGC). The dataset was made publicly available in April 2026 and represents one of the most comprehensive sources of evidence on labor market and social change in Jordan.

Drawing on the latest wave of the JLMPS, the ERF research team has undertaken comprehensive analyses, producing descriptive papers on labor supply and employment, youth transitions, earnings and inequality, social protection, entrepreneurship, gender norms and women's empowerment, unpaid care work and time use, refugee livelihoods, household resilience to shocks, and emerging sectors such as information and communications technology (ICT) and green jobs. These studies will contribute to a new volume in the Labor Market Panel Survey series and provide an important evidence base for policy dialogue in Jordan.

Findings from JLMPS 2025 reveal both persistent challenges and emerging opportunities. While labor market participation and employment remain below earlier levels, the pace of deterioration has slowed considerably compared to previous years. Educational attainment continues to improve, particularly among women, yet important gaps remain in translating educational gains into employment opportunities. At the same time, employment growth has increasingly shifted toward higher-value

sectors, particularly ICT and other knowledge-intensive activities, while formal employment and social protection coverage have expanded. The findings also highlight the continued challenges facing women's economic participation, particularly among married mothers, as well as the importance of strengthening household resilience and expanding opportunities for vulnerable populations, including refugees.

OBJECTIVE

Following the official launch of the JLMPS 2025 in June 2026 and the completion of the first set of analytical studies based on the survey, the ERF is organizing a two-day dissemination webinar series entitled: Navigating Change in Jordan: Policy Insights on Employment, Inclusion, and Resilience from the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey 2025.

The webinar series aims to disseminate key findings from the JLMPS 2025 research papers and foster dialogue on their implications for labor market, social, and development policies in Jordan. Bringing together policymakers, researchers, development partners, and practitioners, the webinars will provide a platform to discuss how new evidence from the survey can inform policy responses to Jordan's evolving labor market and social challenges.

The first day, *Labor Market Dynamics, Youth Transitions, Entrepreneurship, and Emerging Sectors*, focuses on labor market trends, youth transitions into employment, entrepreneurship, and opportunities in emerging sectors of the economy. The second day, *Gender, Household Resilience, Social Protection, and Refugee Wellbeing*, examines gender dynamics, women's economic participation, household vulnerability, social protection, resilience to shocks, and the wellbeing of refugees and vulnerable populations.

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We also acknowledge the financial support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for the organization of this dissemination webinar series.

Day 1

Labor Market Dynamics, Youth Transitions, Entrepreneurship, and Emerging Sectors

Monday, June 29, 2026
4:00 pm – 6:10 pm (Cairo time)
Agenda

4:00-4:10	Opening Remarks (10 mins)
	Speakers: Dr. Raed Safadi, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum (5 minutes) H.E. Dr. Haider Fraihat, Director General of the Department of Statistics (DOS), Jordan (5 minutes)
Chairperson & Moderator	<i>Amal Mowafy, ILO Jordan Country Coordinator</i>
4:10 - 4:35	Session 1: The evolution of labor supply in Jordan through 2025 (25 mins)
	Speakers: Caroline Krafft, University of Minnesota; Ragui Assaad, University of Minnesota; Nouf Abushehab (10 mins) Commentator: H.E. Dr. Nayef Steitieh, Former Minister of Labor and Founder of the Business Development Centre (BDC), Jordan (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins)
4:35 – 5:00	Session 2: School-to-work transition in Jordan: 2010-2025 (25 mins)
	Speakers: Marian Atallah, Cairo University and Halah Alattas, King Abdulaziz University (10 mins) Commentator: Rama Dabbas, Partnerships and Business Development Manager, Education for Employment, Jordan Q&A (5 mins)
5:00 – 5:10	Break
5:10- 5:35	Session 3: Gender and Entrepreneurship in Jordan (25 mins)
	Speakers: Atiyeh Vahidmanesh, University of Teheran and Nedjma Koval, Integrated International (10 mins)



	Commentator: Nour Al Moghrabi, Gender Specialist, World Bank (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins)
5:35- 6:00	Session 4: Emerging Sectors: Employment in ICT and Green Jobs in Jordan (25 mins) Speakers: Jack Duncan, International Growth Center and Salma Shaheen, International Growth Center, Jordan (10 mins) Commentator: Amira Qarqash, Digital Skills Development Manager, Ministry of Digital Economy & Entrepreneurship (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins)
6:00 – 6:10	Open Discussion: What Does JLMPS 2025 Tell Us About Jobs, Skills, and Emerging Sectors?

Day 2

Gender, Household Resilience, Social Protection, and Refugee Wellbeing

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

4:00 pm – 6: 40 pm (Cairo time)

Agenda

Chairperson & Moderator	H. E. Dr. Omar Razzaz, Former Prime Minister of Jordan
4:00-4:25	Session 5: Agency in Transition: Longitudinal Evidence on Women's Empowerment in Jordan (2010–2025) (25 mins)
	Authors: Yusra Alkasasbeh, Northeastern University, and Rasha Istaiteyeh, Hashemite University in Jordan (10 mins)
	Commentator: Reem Aslan, Gender Technical Specialist- Decent work for Women Programme, Regional Office for Arab States, International Labour Organization (ILO) (10 mins)
	Q&A (5 mins)
4:25 – 4:50	Session 6: Gender differences in time use in Jordan: unpaid caregiving and Women Employment (25 mins)
	Speakers: Alma Boustati, Lloyds Banking Group, and Marina Hesham, Cairo University (10 mins)
	Commentator: Manal Benkirane, Deputy Representative, UN Women Jordan (10 mins)
	Q&A (5 mins)
4:50 – 5:00	Break
5:00- 5:25	Session 7: How can Jordan increase female labor force participation? (25 mins)
	Speakers: Caroline Krafft, University of Minnesota, Ragui Assaad, University of Minnesota, Paloma Avendano, University of Minnesota and Ruotong Li, University of Minnesota (10 mins)
	Commentator: Shereen Al Abbadi, Senior Consultant, World Bank (10 mins)
	Q&A (5 mins)

5:25- 5:50	Session 8: Shocks and Coping for Jordanians and Refugees (25 mins)
	Speakers: Beyza Gulmezoglu, London School of Economics, and Sarah Winton, London School of Economics (10 mins) Commentator: Marguerite Duponchel, Senior Development Officer, UNHCR, Jordan (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins)
	Session 9: Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Demographics, Labor Market Outcomes, and Wellbeing through 2025 (25 mins) Speakers: Caroline Krafft, University of Minnesota, and Abdulrazzak Tamim, University of California, Berkeley (10 mins) Commentator: Leonardo Menchini, Chief Social Policy and Social Protection, UNICEF Jordan (10 mins) Q&A (5 mins)
6:15 – 6:25	
Open Discussion: What Does JLMPS 2025 Tell Us About Women, Households, Refugees, and Vulnerability?	
6:25- 6:40	Closing Remarks
	Speakers: Ragui Assaad, Professor and Freeman Chair for International Economic Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota Yasmine Fahim, Director of Research and Programs, Economic Research Forum