ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM
منتدى البحوث الاقتصادية

www.erf.org.eg



ERF

Institutional Profile

2026

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Independent Evidence.
Regional Knowledge.
Better Policy.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM

ABOUT US

WHY ERF EXISTS

1993
Established

Cairo, Egypt
Headquarters

500+
Affiliated researchers

24
Countries covered

The region is confronting profound economic and social change: shifting labor markets, fiscal pressures, demographic transitions, technological disruption, climate and energy challenges, conflict and displacement, and a more fragmented global economy.

Effective policy responses require **credible evidence, reliable data and institutions able to translate knowledge into action.**

ERF exists
to meet that need

Its mission is to generate and mobilize independent economic knowledge that improves public policy and strengthens the people and institutions that produce and use evidence across the region.

It is governed by a Board of Trustees, managed by a secretariat led by the Managing Director, and powered by a network of research fellows, research associates, senior affiliates and policy affiliates.

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

For more than three decades, ERF has worked from a simple conviction: **the region's economic future should be shaped by evidence produced in the region, by people who know it best.**

That conviction matters more than ever. Shocks now arrive faster and compound one another, and policymakers need more than analysis. They need data they can trust, institutions they can rely on, and answers grounded in how change affects people's jobs, incomes and prospects.

This is what ERF offers: a network of affiliated researchers and policy economists, panel surveys that follow households and workers over time, and a trusted space where evidence informs decisions.

In the years ahead, I want ERF to put independent evidence at the center of policy choices on jobs, fiscal resilience and structural transformation; to widen open access to the region's data; and to ensure that knowledge generated in our countries carries real weight in regional and global debates.

We will judge ourselves not by what we publish, but by what changes as a result.

Raed Safadi
MANAGING DIRECTOR

ECONOMIC RESEARCH FORUM
WHAT MAKES ERF DISTINCTIVE

A regional network, with deep local roots

Across the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey, ERF brings together economists and multidisciplinary experts, pairing the reach of a regional network with the insight of researchers who know their own economies, institutions and societies from within.



Research rooted in regional priorities

ERF mobilizes leading scholars from the region and beyond to tackle the most pressing economic questions, grounding methodological rigor in a clear understanding of each country's economic structures and political economy.

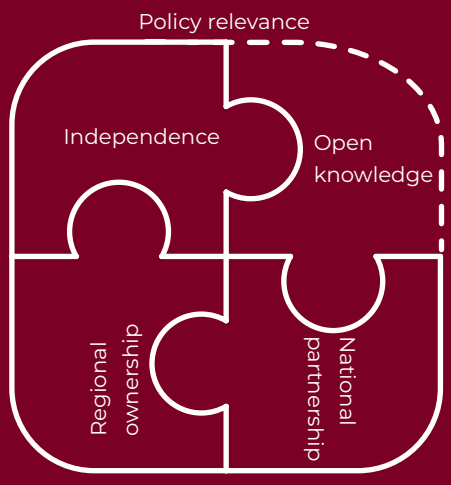
A bridge from evidence to policy

ERF brings research into decision-making through policy dialogues, ministerial roundtables, conferences, workshops and policy publications, offering a trusted space where analysis can shape real policy choices.

Data infrastructure for better evidence

ERF designs, implements, documents and harmonizes nationally representative socioeconomic surveys. Its Labor Market Panel Surveys in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Tunisia track households and workers over time, while the Open Access Micro Data Initiative (OAMDI) widens access to comparable microdata for researchers and policymakers.

FIVE PRINCIPLES



HOW WE WORK

INDEPENDENCE

Research guided by evidence, analytical rigor and intellectual independence

REGIONAL OWNERSHIP

Knowledge generated by and for the region

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Strengthening national institutions and capabilities, not substituting for them

OPEN KNOWLEDGE

Responsible access to and sharing of data, research and tools

POLICY RELEVANCE

Evidence focused on real policy choices and action

OUR RESEARCH FOCUS

ERF's research agenda is organized around three interconnected priorities, supported by cross-cutting themes that reflect the forces reshaping the region's economies and societies.

MACROECONOMIC & FISCAL RESILIENCE

Macroeconomic stability, public finance, debt sustainability, fiscal resilience, shocks, adjustment and economic recovery.

PRODUCTIVE SYSTEMS & PRIVATE SECTOR

Productivity, structural transformation, firms, entrepreneurship, trade, investment, innovation and private-sector development.

LABOR, INCLUSION & HUMAN CAPITAL

Employment, skills, education, poverty, inequality, social protection, gender, economic mobility and human capital development.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

• Governance and institutions • Digital transformation • Climate and energy
• Conflict, fragility and reconstruction • Demography and migration
• Regional integration

"BETTER POLICY BEGINS WITH BETTER EVIDENCE"

OUR KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

FROM RESEARCH TO DEBATE

Every ERF product is designed with a specific reader in mind — from the economists and specialists who scrutinize the methodology to the policymakers who need clear, actionable conclusions.



WORKING PAPERS

New research from across the network, shared early so findings can shape debate while it matters.



POLICY BRIEFS

Short, accessible summaries that turn research into clear, actionable messages for decision-makers.



MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL

ERF's peer-reviewed journal, publishing rigorous research on the economies of Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.



THE FORUM

ERF's policy portal where researchers comment on current economic issues for a wide audience.



DATA

Harmonized microdata from ERF's Labor Market Panel Surveys and other national surveys, available through OAMDI and the ERF Data Portal.

All are free to access, in line with ERF's commitment to open knowledge.

HOW ERF CREATES IMPACT

ERF works through partnerships rather than parallel structures. Whether working with a statistical office on a national survey, a ministry on a policy question, researchers on a regional program or development partners on a multi-country initiative, ERF seeks to strengthen existing institutions and **build lasting national capabilities.**

> **A REGIONAL PUBLIC GOOD**



At the national level

ERF works with governments, statistical institutions and researchers on specific policy, data and capacity challenges.

At the regional level

ERF creates comparability, enables countries to learn from one another and brings evidence from Arab countries, Iran and Turkey into international policy debates, including through its flagship Annual Conference.

WHAT ERF BRINGS



INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS

Rigorous economic analysis grounded in evidence and intellectual independence



COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

The ability to place national challenges in a regional context and draw lessons across countries



REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Deep knowledge of the region's economies, institutions and policy realities



CONVENING POWER

A trusted platform connecting researchers, policymakers and development partners together around difficult policy questions



TRUSTED DATA

High-quality socioeconomic data and harmonized evidence for credible analysis



LONG-TERM REGIONAL CAPACITY

Investment in the people and institutions that generate, interpret and use evidence

ERF PARTNERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO PARTICULARLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR PARTNERS:

ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (AFESD)

AFD AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

AERC CREA

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ford Foundation

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

International Labour Organization

IZA Institut of Labor Economic
Initiated by Deutsche Post Foundati

IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

UN WOMEN

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP

unicef

THE WORLD BANK

Intellectually independent.
Regionally grounded.
Focused on better outcomes for people.

EXPLORE
OUR WORK

Find our latest research, data and events online, or get in touch with the ERF secretariat in Cairo.

ONLINE

ERF Website:
www.erf.org.eg

The Forum - Policy Portal:
theforum.erf.org.eg

ERF Data Portal
https://erfdataportal.com

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