



**International
Labour
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Funded by:



ILO-RDPP Research Partnership for Improved Livelihoods of Jordanian & Syrian Youth

Launch of publications

Webinar

Thursday 13 July 2023

Background

Over the past decade, Jordan has endured a cascade of exogenous shocks, starting with the 2008 global economic crisis, and followed by incessant upheaval in the region, especially in neighbouring Syria. The chain of events produced devastating social and economic outcomes, which the country struggles to withstand to this day.

Years of protracted economic downturn have also resulted in detrimental labour market outcomes, with the country's youth disproportionately impacted. The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic did not only proliferate new employment challenges, but also exacerbated existing shortcomings in the labour market. In 2020, total youth unemployment (15-24) surpassed 45 percent, and around 53 percent for young women.

The pandemic erupted at a time when the world of work was undergoing profound changes, especially with spiralling developments in the technological realm. The crisis, however, underscored the urgency for technology adaptation, which further accelerated transformations in the labour market. Today, Jordanian youth and Syrian refugees are facing multi-faceted challenges and opportunities that influence their livelihoods, resilience and future prospects. Responding to this evolving landscape requires swift, targeted, and evidence-based strategies and interventions that place youth and other disadvantaged groups at the heart of socio-economic priorities and help Jordan in achieving its sustainable development goals.

To better inform policy development, the ILO has attempted to expand the knowledge and evidence base on youth livelihoods in Jordan and arrive at an in-depth understanding of the youth employment challenge through both qualitative and quantitative research and analysis. The research has followed, to the extent possible, a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach that has engaged not only the ILO's tripartite constituents, but also other key partners, including youth organizations, community-based organizations, research centres and think tanks, among others.

The research papers produced under this research partnership provided development-oriented & evidence-based recommendations that are intended to feed into national policies

and programmes while also informing the design and implementation of future interventions planned by the ILO and other national and international development partners in Jordan.

Objective

This webinar aims to present the main findings and recommendations of the five research papers produced within the framework of the ILO-RDPP Research Partnership for Improved Livelihoods of Jordanian & Syrian Youth, namely:

- Skills for Green and Digital Transitions and Employment in Jordan;
- School-to-work transition of young women and men in Jordan;
- Growth, Macroeconomic Policies and Employment: The impact of macroeconomic and trade policies on employment generation in Jordan;
- Platform work in Jordan: Challenges and opportunities; and
- The Potential Role of Exports in Promoting Formalization and Decent Job Creation for Youth in Jordan

The webinar will offer participants the chance to get a more in-depth understanding of the current issues surrounding youth employment in Jordan, the main reasons and drivers of unemployment or inactivity, and the policy measures that could be utilised to combat youth labour underutilization and deal with its repercussions. Crucially, participants will also be able to discuss policy options and potential strategies to support young people's employment and their access to decent and productive jobs.

Audience

Key participants invited to this webinar will include representatives of the following institutions in Jordan:

- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Youth;
- Relevant ministries including Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, and Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation;
- Jordan Department of Statistics (DoS);
- Jordan Chamber of Industry (JCI);
- Jordan Chamber of Commerce;
- The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions;
- The Technical & Vocational Skills Development Commission;
- UN agencies in Jordan, including UNICEF and UNHCR, amongst others; and
- Other international organizations and civil society organizations active in the development and labour market sector.

Language

The webinar will be held in English and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation from/into both languages.

Location, date and time

The webinar will be held virtually through the ZOOM platform on 13 July 2023, between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Amman local time)

Agenda

11:00 – 11:10	Welcome remarks - Tariq Haq, <i>Senior Employment Policy Specialist & Head of Regional Economic and Social Analysis Unit, ILO Regional Office for Arab States, Beirut</i> - Petr Kostohryz, <i>RDPP Partnership Manager, European Regional Development and Protection Programme for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.</i>
11:10 - 11:50	Presentation of research main findings and recommendations - Aya Jaafar, <i>Labour Economist, ILO Regional Office for Arab States, Beirut</i>
11:50 – 12:25	Experts' discussion - Ramsey Mansur, <i>Research Manager, Crown Prince Foundation, Jordan</i> - Lawrence Jeff Johnson, <i>Deputy Director, Research Department, ILO, Geneva</i> <i>Open discussion</i>
12:25 – 12:30	Closing remarks