

ILO Partnership with the Regional Development and Protection Programme for Jordan (RDPP II)

Research Partnership on Youth Livelihoods & Employment in Jordan

I. Background & Context

Since 2011, **the conflict in Syria ushered the influx of over 650 thousand refugees to Jordan.** The unprecedented spike in population took a toll on the country's resources and pressured its weak infrastructure. As a result, Jordan's economic performance followed an obstinately low trajectory, with real GDP growth dropping from an average of 8 percent between 2004-2008 to less than 2 percent in 2019. The barrage of social and economic challenges rendered the recent pandemic a heavy-handed blow to the already ailing country. By the end of 2020, Jordan's GDP contracted by 1.6 percent, and unemployment recorded an all-time high of 23.2 percent, with youth and women facing the greatest risk of joblessness.

According to the Jordan Department of Statistics (DoS) **youth unemployment soared to 46 percent in 2020;** the highest rate in the country's modern history. That being said, even prior to the crisis, the young generation has been especially vulnerable to weak labour market performance, with youth unemployment steadily increasing since 2007. Further, the percentage of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) is estimated at an alarming 38 percent of the total youth population. These outcomes can be attributed to an array of economic, cultural and structural challenges, which perpetuate unequal labour market access and engagement opportunities for Jordan's youth, especially women and refugees.

The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic did not only proliferate new employment challenges, but also exacerbated existing shortcomings in the labour market. 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 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, policies, and interventions that place youth at the heart of socio-economic priorities and help Jordan in achieving its sustainable development goals. Nevertheless, the poor availability of youth-centred data, information, and research renders such objectives rather difficult to achieve.

The ILO Partnership with the Regional Development and Protection Programme for Jordan (RDPP II) for research on youth livelihoods and employment in Jordan aims to support the Government of Jordan (GoJ) and national constituents in responding to the youth employment challenge and supporting dialogue around policies and strategies for improving the livelihoods of young Syrians and Jordanians through evidence-based research and analysis. The project will employ primary and secondary research tools for arriving at an in-depth understanding of youth employment and livelihoods in Jordan and providing both qualitative and quantitative analysis of identified research questions. Above all, the research will follow, to the extent possible a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach that does not only engage the ILO's tripartite constituents, but also involves other key partners, including youth organizations, community-based organizations, research centres and think tanks, among others. Through close coordination

with line ministries and strategic partners, the outcomes of the project will inform the policy dialogue around labour market reform and youth employment strategies.

II. Objectives of the Assignment

Under the ILO-RDPP Research Partnership, will primarily focus on research and advocacy interventions on youth livelihoods and employment, with the aim of expanding the body of reliable data on Jordan's employment landscape, while promoting multi-level policy dialogue. The project will employ a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach at all stages, in order to ensure a diversity in perspectives. Several topics will be explored, shedding light on some of the core challenges preventing Jordanian and Syrian youth from economic participation. Ultimately, this will help inform the development of evidence-based strategies, policies, and interventions that place youth at the heart of Jordan's socio-economic priorities.

At the same time, the ILO in Jordan leads key interventions with national constituents on linking training to current labour market needs as well as anticipating and building competencies for the jobs of the future; building quality apprenticeship systems and incorporating core skills into training for young people; and expanding access to employment-related training in local communities in order to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, and equip women and men to work in the formal economy.

Accordingly, **the objective of this consultancy is to provide research and technical support to the project for carrying out the above mentioned interventions.**

III. Tasks & Activities

Under the supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the ILO-RDPP Research Partnership and ILO's Technical Officer, the research consultant is expected to perform the following tasks and activities:

1. Carry out secondary research on high turnover and job retention among Syrian and Jordanian youth.
2. Prepare a video script on youth employment and the future of work for the UN Youth Regional Summit.
3. Prepare a concept note for the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
4. Prepare a concept note for establishing a Center of Excellence in the plastics and chemicals industry, in collaboration with the Jordan Chamber of Industry, the East Amman Investors' Association, and the Technical & Vocational Skills Development Commission.
5. Follow up on the implementation and progress of the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship with concerned partners and national stakeholders.
6. Carry out secondary research on labour market transformations, especially post-COVID, and their impact on youth employment and livelihoods in Jordan.
7. Prepare at least 5 press releases and media advisories on research products produced by the ILO-RDPP research partnership.
8. Develop an interactive dashboard illustrating ILO Jordan's achievements in skills and employment policy, and research.
9. Develop an interactive dashboard displaying key macro-economic and labour market indicators in Jordan.

IV. Deliverables & Deadlines

The assignment is expected to span over the course of 95 working days between April 25th and September 10th, 2022. The CTA/supervisor shall advise on the order upon which tasks will be carried out. The table below presents the specific deliverables and deadlines expected from the hired consultant:

Tasks		Deliverable/s	#Working Days	Deadline
1.	Carry out secondary research on high turnover and job retention among Syrian and Jordanian youth.	Desktop review report on job retention among Syrian and Jordanian youth.	11	15/05/2022
2.	Prepare a video script on youth employment and the future of work for the UN Youth Regional Summit.	Detailed script for a 2-minute video in Arabic & English.	5	25/05/2022
3.	Prepare a concept note for the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship.	Concept note on the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship.	7	07/06/2022
4.	Prepare a concept note for establishing a Center of Excellence in the plastics and chemicals industry, in collaboration with the Jordan Chamber of Industry, the East Amman Investors' Association, and the Technical & Vocational Skills Development Commission.	Concept note for establishing a Center of Excellence in the plastics and chemicals industry.	12	24/06/2022
5.	Follow up on the implementation and progress of the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship with concerned partners and national stakeholders.	Progress report on the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship.	15	15/07/2022
6.	Carry out secondary research on labour market transformations, especially post-COVID, and their impact on youth employment and livelihoods in Jordan.	Desktop review on labour market transformations and their impact on youth employment and livelihoods in Jordan.	11	05/08/2022
7.	Prepare at least 5 press releases and media advisories on research products produced by the ILO-RDPP research partnership.	5 press releases and media advisories in Arabic and English.	10	20/07/2022
8.	Develop an interactive dashboard illustrating ILO Jordan's achievements in skills and employment policy, and research.	Interactive dashboard on ILO Jordan's achievements in skills and employment policy, and research.	12	15/08/2022
9.	Develop an interactive dashboard displaying key macro-economic and labour market indicators in Jordan.	Interactive dashboard on macro-economic and labour market indicators in Jordan.	12	10/09/2022

V. Payment Schedule

The table below summarizes the planned schedule for payments to be made upon the completion

and submission of deliverables delineated in section 4 of this ToR. A deliverable is considered completed upon review and satisfaction of the ILO.

Table 1: Payments Schedule

1st Payment	Upon submissions of deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop review report on job retention among Syrian and Jordanian youth. • Detailed script for a 2-minute video in Arabic & English. • Concept note on the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship.
2nd Payment	Upon submissions of deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept note for establishing a Center of Excellence in the plastics and chemicals industry. • Progress report on the ILO's interventions on youth innovation and entrepreneurship. • Desktop review on labour market transformations and their impact on youth employment and livelihoods in Jordan.
3rd & Final Payment	Upon submissions of deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 press releases and media advisories in Arabic and English. • Interactive dashboard on ILO Jordan's achievements in skills and employment policy, and research. • Interactive dashboard on macro-economic and labour market indicators in Jordan.

VI. Supervision

The consultant's work will be supervised by the ILO Senior Employment Policy Specialist and the ILO Technical Officer for the RDPP Project.

VII. Approval

All deliverables must be approved by the Project's Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and must be up to the satisfaction of the ILO.

VIII. Timeline

The hired consultant shall commence the work on April 25th 2022 and shall finish no later than September 10th 2022.

IX. Applicant's Profile

The assignment is open for individual consultants only. Those wishing to apply shall have the following qualifications:

1. University degree (minimum) in social sciences, economics, psychology or other related fields.
2. Minimum 3 years of relevant experience for Bachelor's degree holders, and a minimum of 2 years for Master's degree holders.
3. Strong communication skills, both verbally and in writing.
4. Excellent research and writing skills in both Arabic and English.
5. Fluency in the Arabic and English language (reading / speaking / writing).
6. Proficiency in using Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point.

X. Submission Process

Experts wishing to apply to this assignment must send an email to hamasha@ilo.org. The email shall include:

1. The consultant's updated curriculum vitae
2. A detailed financial offer
3. Writing sample on a similar topic from the expert's own work.

Emails must use subject title: **RDPP_Research_JO**

The deadline for receiving applications is 07/04/2022 COB. Only applications that fulfil the requirements indicated above will be considered