

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

Research Partnership on Youth Livelihoods & Employment in Jordan

Policy Dialogue Support Consultant

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.

Accordingly, **the ILO is looking to hire two consultants to provide technical support to the project in coordinating policy dialogue and consultations around the outcomes of ongoing research.**

III. Tasks & Activities

Under the supervision of the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) of the ILO-RDPP Research Partnership and ILO's Technical Officer, the policy dialogue support consultants are expected to perform the following tasks and activities:

1. Support the ILO in arranging meetings and coordinating with relevant national and international partners and stakeholders to discuss and validate the outcomes for research carried out by the project.
2. Facilitate setting up meetings and interviews with identified stakeholders engaged in primary research activities under the project.
3. Ensure proper and adequate dissemination of research products produced by the project to all identified partners and stakeholders.
4. Work closely with identified stakeholders to plan mechanisms for using the outcomes of research carried out by the project in policy dialogue and formulation.
5. Support the development and dissemination of communications products related to the project including brochures, leaflets, infographics, press releases, etc.

IV. Deliverables & Deadlines

The assignment is expected to span over the course of 70 working days between September 20th and December 30th, 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. Support the ILO in arranging meetings and coordinating with relevant national and international partners and stakeholders to discuss and validate the outcomes for research carried out by the project.	10 reports summarizing the outcomes of discussions with partners on the outcomes of research carried out by the project	10	04/10/2022
2. Facilitate setting up meetings and interviews with identified stakeholders engaged in primary research activities under the project.	20 meeting briefs from stakeholders' interviews for primary research under the project	20	01/11/2022
3. Ensure proper and adequate dissemination of research products produced by the project to all identified partners and stakeholders.	Research dissemination note to at least 30 stakeholders and partners	15	22/11/2022
4. Work closely with identified stakeholders to plan mechanisms for using the outcomes of research carried out by the project in policy dialogue and formulation.	Report on the use of research products by national partners in policy dialogue	15	13/12/2022
5. Support the development and dissemination of communications products related to the project including brochures, leaflets, infographics, press releases, etc.	Report on content development and dissemination of communication products produced by the project	10	30/12/2022

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 deliverable(s) 01
2nd Payment	Upon submissions of deliverable(s) 02
3rd Payment	Upon submissions of deliverable(s) 03 and 04
4th & Final Payment	Upon submissions of deliverable(s) 05

VI. Supervision

The hired candidate will be working under the supervision of the ILO's Technical Officer and the Project's Chief Technical Advisor.

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 September 20th 2022 and shall finish no later than December 30th 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 nashawati@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_Policy_JO**

The deadline for receiving applications is 12/09/2022 COB. Only applications that fulfil the requirements indicated above will be considered