

Challenges and opportunities for young people in transition from learning to decent work in the Arab region

Wednesday 16 March 2022, 14:45 PM – 16:15 PM (Beirut time)

Background and objective

The transition from learning to work and transitions within work are particularly challenging in the Arab region and, at the same time, crucial for its human and economic development. The COVID-19 crisis further exacerbated this problem, hitting disproportionately young people still in education as well as those in transition to work or in precarious work.

Several Arab countries are prioritizing reforms of the learning systems (formal education, professional training); along with strategies and policies to promote employability among youth. Still, progress towards improving education and youth employment outcomes in the region has been limited. Furthermore, labour markets in the region are struggling to keep pace with the rapid increase in the working-age population.

This interactive session will provide a platform for a discussion, led by young people, between different actors (governments, youth organizations, the private sector and donors) to reflect on the major challenges in the transition from education to work in the region.

The discussion will be informed by the findings of the ILO-UNICEF study on 'Young people in transition from learning to decent work (and within work) in MENA' and will contribute to strengthen its recommendations. The study will serve as a reference document for the Regional High-Level Meeting on Young People's Learning, Skilling, Social Inclusion and Transition to Decent Work convened by ILO, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF under the Arab region 'Issue Based Coalition' for Adolescents and Young People to be held in May in Jordan.

Key questions to be addressed:

1. How can reform of education and learning systems support the needs of the most disadvantaged young people to ensure the transition from education to work and continuous learning?
2. What role can be played by the governments and other stakeholders to support a smoother transition from learning to earning?
3. How can governments and the private sector work together to ensure that labor-market demand for decent jobs is increased for young women and men?
4. How can policymakers and the private sector ensure that work opportunities are available and accessible to young women, who continue to be unemployed or opt-out of the labor market at high rates across the region?

This special session is co-created, led and moderated by young people.

Opening remarks

- **Young People's representative**
- **Dr. Kishore Singh Kumar**, Senior Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO ROAS
- **Dr. Marleen Renders**, Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development and Participation, UNICEF MENARO

Presentation of the results of the report on 'Learning to Work Transition'

- **Dr. Nader Kabbani**, lead author of the report and CEO Legacy Social Development Advisory
- **Young people discussants**

Young people dialogue with stakeholders:

Panelists interviewed by young people

- **Ms. Lama Al-Natour**, Head of the Development Coordination Unit, Ministry of Education, Jordan
- **Mr. Ghali Jorio**, President of the Moroccan Youth Social Entrepreneurs Camp Group, Morocco
- **Ms. Samar Thawabteh**, Member of the Arab Trade Union Confederation's Young Leader Academy, Palestine
- **Ms. Emmanuelle Roue**, Team Leader Neighborhood, International Affairs Unit, European Commission

Open discussion

This Special Session will be organized Virtually on ZOOM. Please register in advance on [this link](#). In-person participants of AFSD can attend the session in the Meeting Room 300A, 3rd floor.