

EMR-SDG Learning Platform
Webinar on COVID-19 Inequities in the Arab Countries
21 July 2020, 12:00 – 13:30 Cairo time (10:00 – 11:30 UTC)

Context

The once-in-generations COVID-19 pandemic is testing governments all over the world, especially in terms of their commitment to the third sustainable development goal: ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. Four months after WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, it is time to reflect on how well the Arab countries responded to that unique challenge and what lessons can be drawn from their experiences. This webinar aims at taking stock of the inequity challenges introduced by COVID-19 situation in Arab countries, and how governments and different stakeholders are recognizing such inequities, and, more importantly, what policies and actions are adopted to prevent and mitigate such inequities.

The webinar is organized by the EMR-SDG Learning Platform, a partnership project implemented by the Social Research Center (SRC) of the American University of Cairo with support from the Alliance of Health Policy and System Research and the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Partners include the Directorate for Sustainable Development and International Cooperation of the League of Arab States, Egypt's Ministry of Planning and Development, Jordan's High Health Council, and Morocco's National Observatory for Human Development.

Objectives

1. Review available evidence, from registries and special surveys, on the social stratification related to the different dimensions of COVID-19 (e.g: Awareness and adherence, health care related, mental and physical health, economic and livelihood impact,...).
2. Identify ongoing and/or planned studies investigating COVID-19 inequalities in Arab countries.
3. Discuss different policy models adopted in dealing with COVID-19 and how they address vulnerabilities and inequities.
4. Draw main lessons, advised by evidence from successful experience within and outside the Arab region.

Moderator

Hoda Rashad

Director, Social Research Center, the American University in Cairo

Speakers

Magued Osman

CEO and Director, the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion (Bassera), Egypt

Adellatif Lfrakh

Statistician-Demographer, Ex-Director, CERED, Morocco

Invited Interventions:

El Hassan El-Mansoury

Secretary General, National Observatory for Human Development, Morocco

Maha El Adawy

Director, Healthier Populations Division, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Moez Doraid

Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States

Luay Shabaneh

Regional Director, UNFPA Arab States Regional Office

Language

English will be the main language of the webinar, but interventions, comments, and questions in Arabic are welcomed. No translation will be provided.

Agenda

Time	Speaker	Topic
12:00 – 12:05	Hoda Rashad	Introduction
12:05 – 12:15	Magued Osman	Presenting the Case of Egypt
12:15 – 12:25	Abdellatif Lfrakh	Presenting the case of Morocco
12:25 – 12:35	Abdelfettah Hamadi	More on the case of Morocco
12:35 – 12:45	Maha El Adawy	Discussion & general comments
12:45 – 12:55	Moez Doraid	Discussion & general comments
12:55 – 13:05	Luay Shabana	Discussion & general comments
13:05 – 13:25	Open	Questions, comments & responses from speakers
13:25 – 13:30	Hoda Rashad	Wrap up