

## Fellowship Training Programme on Decent Work

Building the capacities of journalists in the Arab region to communicate labour-related issues using a human-centred approach

### Metadata

**Countries involved:** Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

**Nominated by:** International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Primary SDG:** 8 **SDG target:** 8.7

**Supported by:** ILO SSTC regular budget contribution to development cooperation (RBTC) for Arab states

**Implementing entities:** ILO Regional Office for Arab States

**Project status:** Completed

**Project period:** May 2021 – December 2021

**URL of the practice:** [www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS\\_832903/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/beirut/media-centre/news/WCMS_832903/lang--en/index.htm)

### The challenges

It is rare for Arab media outlets to cover pressing labour-related stories. Issues related to decent work do not receive adequate or in-depth coverage in the region. Journalists who specialize in labour and work issues are scarce. Capacity training in this area is needed to address this thematic gap in media coverage.

### Towards a solution

ILO developed a fellowship training programme to promote a more robust, comprehensive and human-centred approach to reporting on labour markets and decent work in the Arab region. The programme emphasized cooperation to amplify communication across the region ILO worked collaboratively with academic, policy, civil society and media institutions to implement the fellowship programme.

The programme methodology supported journalists from different countries to share and learn from each other's experiences and adapt good practices. Participants received scholarships to create stories in a variety of formats (in-depth reports, articles, videos and blogs) on labour and decent work issues. The reports produced by the journalists were widely publicized by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States on all communication platforms, thus promoting ILO results to numerous stakeholders.

Twenty-five journalism fellows attended two days of intensive training and peer learning through a workshop conducted by media organizations and supported by an ILO technical specialist. The fellows then passed their knowledge to peers in media organizations in their home countries, positively influencing the journalistic narrative on World of Work issues and multiplying the benefits of the knowledge and experience the fellows gained.

As part of the programme, a panel event titled "Ethics in Reporting on Labour Market Issues" was held at the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) Annual Forum 2021. A set of ethical reporting guidelines for journalists on reporting on labour market issues in the Arab region was launched by the ILO.

Through the programme, participating journalists built their capacity to cover pressing labour-related issues that are not receiving adequate coverage in the region and shared their newly acquired knowledge with colleagues in their media organizations. Thus, the programme made inroads in building a generation of journalists that are knowledgeable about ILO's human-centred

approach to achieving social justice and decent work mandates, labour standards, fundamental principles and rights at work, and the centrality of decent work to successful economic, social and environmental policies and realization of the SDGs.

This good practice contributed to strengthening ILO's position as a global centre of excellence for knowledge on the world of work.

### Contact details

Salwa Kanaana  
Regional Communication and Public Information officer for Arab States, ILO  
kanaana@ilo.org

Anita Amorim  
Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships, ILO  
amorim@ilo.org

### Photos of the initiative

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an ILO news article. The title is "ILO fellowship equips Arab journalists to better report on labour market issues". The sub-headline reads: "The ILO has boosted the capacity of Arab journalists to report on labour issues while connecting with and learning from each another through the SSTC Journalism Fellowship for Arab States." The article is dated "23 December 2021". Below the text is a video player with the title "Arab Journalists connect for a more ro..." and a "Watch later" button. To the right of the video is a "Tools" section with font size options (A, A+, A++) and a "Print" button. Below that is a "Share this content" section with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. At the bottom right, there is a graphic titled "THE KEY GUIDELINES FOR ethical reporting on labour market issues in Arab States" with a numbered list from 1 to 7. The bottom of the page features a caption: "AMMAN (ILO News) – With the ILO's support, a group of Arab journalists have been learning tricks of the trade from seasoned experts on how to cover labour market issues. The South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)".

### Related resources

- [ILO fellowship equips Arab journalists to better report on labour market issues](#) ILO article and video on the fellowship
- [Repercussions of the financial crisis on the relationship between employers and domestic workers in Lebanon](#) by Rida Hariri
- [“Work we invented ourselves”: circumventing closed paths in Lebanon](#) by Sabah Jalloul
- [A crumbling infrastructure: another aspect of the Lebanese crisis](#) by Hanan Hamdan
- [When the employer decides what employees can post on Facebook](#) by Afnan Abu Yahya