

# Jobs, Diagnostics and Solutions Community of Practice (JDS CoP)

## News Digest

Edition #3, July 2020

**Dear members,**

Welcome to the third (3) Edition of the Jobs, Diagnostics and Solutions CoP **News Digest**. We are glad to share and exchange knowledge with fellow jobs practitioners. Many thanks to all of you who have shared their knowledge and resources. We welcome your continuous engagement and the wealth of experience that you bring and share.

With warm regards,  
Dino, Ian and Teuta

### ***At a Glance:***

*We have **126** members. If you have not yet registered please click at [JDS CoP Website](#)*

## **Announcement: Action Call < Follow Up Webinar from the JDS Course**



As we are planning to move our next JDS Course online in the late autumn, we would like to host a learning event to follow up on some of the main takeaways from the November Course, check in with you how the course learnings have helped in your work and discuss together some of your innovative ideas and thoughts of creating a shorter online version of the JDS course that fits best CoP member needs. Please contact [Dino](#) with any ideas and we will get back to you with a more detailed schedule soon. Stay tuned.

## Featured < Member Blogs



### Extracts about JDs drawn from the 'Year in Review' Message by CoP Practice Manager, **Ian Walker**

As we reach the end of the World Bank's financial year FY20 I thought it a good time to share some reflections about how the year has gone for the Jobs Group.

I'd like to thank everybody in the Jobs Group and all our partners in the Bank and beyond for their hard work and achievements before and during the Covid19 crisis.

Of course, it has been a surreal year. We spent the last three months in the lockdown saturated with Webex meetings and Zoom videos, wondering when and where things will get back to normal, assessing what might happen to job security and incomes, what should be done to [protect workers and jobs](#), and what the new normal might be going to look like for the workers in our client countries. [Read the full blog here and watch the video to learn more.](#)

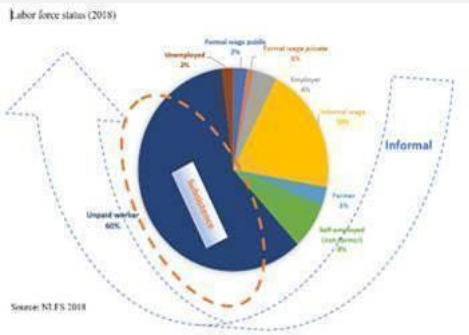


### **The fragile middle: Boosting private sector job creation in MENA** by [Asif Islam](#) and [Dalal Moosa](#)

The coronavirus pandemic and ensuing economic downturn is taking a toll on the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, much like the rest of the world. By the beginning of July of this year, there were over 95,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with a fatality rate of about 2.5%.<sup>[1]</sup> Besides the human casualty of this global crisis, the pandemic has halted economic activity and work, plunging oil prices and leading to a forecasted contraction of [4.2%](#) of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year. **A particular risk for MENA is the weakening of an already fragile private sector and jobs scene. Rebuilding better and stronger needs an understanding of some of the possible reasons behind this fragility.**

<sup>[1]</sup> Authors calculations based on data from the World Health Organization.

Read the blog [The fragile middle: Boosting private sector job creation in MENA](#) to learn more.



### **Nepal's Jobs are Improving, but Women are Losing Out** by Elizabeth Ruppert Bulmer

Nepal's economy is making great strides towards better work opportunities for its labor force. But not all jobseekers are able to access good-quality jobs...especially women.

In the past 10 years, wage jobs are increasingly available, particularly in urban centers. Kathmandu and its environs have experienced a population boom, as workers from other districts and provinces seek the more diverse and better paying jobs that cities provide. Wage jobs increased from 17% to 24% of total employment between 2008 and 2018, contributing to higher household incomes and lower poverty rates. Read the blog [Nepal's Jobs are Improving, but Women are Losing Out](#) to learn more.

## **In Focus < Blog Series**

### **Jobs and Structural Change Blog Series**

The Jobs and Structural Change blog series starts with stylized facts about how the type of Jobs created in the economy changes with economic transformation. An important aspect tends to be a shift from self- to waged-employment as economies transform.

**Blog#5** in our series which builds on the Report [Pathways to Better Jobs in IDA Countries](#) shows that the waged-employment share, which averages only a fifth of all jobs in Low Income Countries (LICs) rises to 43 percent for Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs), and to two thirds for Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs). Self-employment, which tends to be associated with lower productivity, longer hours work in LICs, falls from an average of over three quarters to less than a third in UMICs, and is just a tenth of all



Jobs in High Income Countries. Waged workers in LICs and LMICs have higher median earnings and more reliable working hours than self-employed workers, whilst waged jobs provide more earnings stability, better working conditions and upward mobility.

[Blog#6](#) adds the dimension of changes in real GDP per capita and poverty incidence over time to the cross-sectional patterns observed in blog 5. Using regression analysis of growth episodes it shows that at low levels of income, an increase in the share of population in waged employment is *a more important* driver of poverty reduction than growth in GDP per capita. This is why in the World Bank's Jobs Group we are suggesting that the focus of growth strategies in LICs should be on accelerating the availability of higher productivity waged jobs, not simply self-employment.

## Member Spotlight



**Francis Wanyeki** is Kenyan, 48 years old with 20 years of working experience having worked in the private sector for 8 years before joining the Government where he has now worked for 12 years.

Francis is a graduate in Economics, Public Administration and Literature. He also holds a Master degree in Business Administration specialising in Strategic Management. Francis is also a trained Productivity practitioner, Knowledge management Practitioner, Management of information system and a trained mediator.

Francis has 12 years of working experience in Manpower Planning and Development and has been managing the Kenya Labour Market Information System in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection that is currently being support by the World Bank where he recently trained in Job diagnostics. He is currently working as The Technical Advisor to the Cabinet Secretary Labour and social protection.

## Upcoming Online Events



- ❖ [Post-Covid19 Forum organized by Business Fights Poverty Collaboration Network](#)
- ❖ [Lighthouse Webinars | Cyclones, COVID-19 and Crises - Where does India's Social Protection Architecture Go from Here?](#) First in a series of conversations that will aim at exchanging practical lessons and enhancing learning on how India can build a modern and capable social protection system at the national and state level. Date: July 17, 2020
- ❖ [Trade Agreements in a Post-COVID-19 World](#)  
Experts will discuss the role trade agreements will play in a post COVID-19 world and how they may shape future patterns of trade and global value chains. Date: July 28, 2020.  
Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events>

## Useful Articles and Resources

- [Reflecting on 40 Years of Learnings](#) by [Grahame Dixie, Executive Director, Grow Asia](#)
- Note on some practical insights on VCD from Graham Dixie's 40 yrs of learning <https://www.growasia.org/single-post/2020/05/14/Reflecting-on-40-Years-of-Learnings>
- In the months since Covid-19 emerged, it's become clear that society won't go back to normal any time soon—if ever. Politico Magazine surveyed designers, architects, doctors and more, asking what they would do to redesign the world. Here's what they said: <https://politico.com/interactives/2020/magazine-friday-cover-redesigning-the-world-coronavirus/>
- The Hamilton Project at the Brookings Institution hosted a webcast discussing how public policy initiatives can spur the innovations that lead to long-term economic growth and productivity. The event featured framing remarks by Paul Romer, followed by a panel discussion including Lisa D. Cook of Michigan State University, John Van Reenen of MIT Sloan School of Management, and Heidi Williams of Stanford University. Watch at <https://youtu.be/t7Qls1zxipk>

## Contact Us

Should you have any interesting and relevant resources, suggestions or activities to share in the **next JDS CoP Monthly Digest**, please contact [Teuta Gashi](#) (CoP facilitator) and, [Dino Merotto](#) (CoP chair). Please feel free to share this digest and invite new practitioners in the field to join [JDS CoP](#).

### About the JDS CoP

**The Jobs Diagnostics and Solutions Community of Practice (JDS CoP)** is a knowledge sharing and learning platform for officials, development practitioners, researchers and World Bank Group staff involved in developing cross-sector Jobs Strategies for countries, regions, and municipalities within countries.

For more information, visit the [JDS CoP Website](#)