

MIDEQ Research Consultancy

Egyptian Migrants in Jordan

Terms of Reference

16th November 2021

SUMMARY

This short-term consultancy opportunity is for research to explore Egyptian migration to Jordan. It is funded through the UKRI GCRF South-South Migration Inequality and Development Hub, otherwise known as the [MIDEQ](#) Hub. MIDEQ comprises more than 80 scholars, practitioners and artists working across 6 migration corridors (Nepal-Malaysia, Haiti-Brazil, Burkina Faso-Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia-South Africa, China-Ghana and Egypt-Jordan). MIDEQ research unpacks and challenges assumptions about the relationships between migration, inequality and development. We explore and inform new approaches to issues of inequality which maximise the benefits of migration for migrants, communities and countries. We now seek to commission qualitative research to add to our evidence-base regarding the migration of Egyptians to Jordan. We envisage that the consultancy will start in December 2021 and be completed by the first week of March 2022.

BACKGROUND

MIDEQ aims to transform understanding of the relationship between migration and inequality in the context of the Global South by decentring the production of knowledge about migration and its consequences away from the Global North towards those countries where most migration takes place. Drawing on the experience and expertise of our partners across 12 countries, MIDEQ builds an evidence-based understanding of the relationships between migration, inequality and development. We aim to translate this knowledge into concrete policies and practices which improve the lives of migrants, their families and the communities in which they live. MIDEQ is funded by the [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) Global Challenges Research Fund \(GCRF\)](#).

The MIDEQ Hub seeks a consultant(s) to design and implement a short-term research project to explore Egyptian migration to Jordan, an under-explored area of knowledge. Migration has long played a significant role in the political, economic, and social spheres in Egypt. Jordan hosts the largest number of Egyptian labour

migrants second only to Saudi Arabia¹. According to the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 2017 there were 1,150,000 Egyptians in Jordan. Due to visa-free travel between the two countries and geographical proximity, a significant proportion of this population does not hold work permits. Egyptians in Jordan work primarily in the agriculture, construction, and service sectors. Migration to Jordan takes place primarily through informal social networks.

Despite the proximity and relatively easy route to Jordan, the decision to migrate is nevertheless a significant financial investment made by the migrants, their families, and communities. Most Egyptian migrants to Jordan are young men and are considered important breadwinners for their families. Egyptian migrants who are married, and even those who are not, leave behind children, wives, parents, siblings, and other family members who rely on their remittances to improve their quality of life. According to Egypt's Ministry of Manpower, Egyptians living in Jordan sent US\$80 million in remittances in January of 2018 alone.

Prior to the outbreak of conflict in Syria and consequent flow of refugees to Jordan, Egyptians were one of the largest groups of migrants in the country. However, anecdotally, the decision of the Jordanian government to allow Syrian refugees to access work permits in 2016 and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on Egyptian migrants' ability to access employment in Jordan.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this research is to address a gap in knowledge about the current situation of Egyptian migrants in Jordan, including their experiences of inequalities, and the process and outcomes of migration. The research will engage with key MIDEQ themes of [inequalities and development](#). In addition, the research will specifically address objectives of MIDEQ WP2 ([Childhood Inequalities](#)), WP4 ([Migrant Perceptions, Knowledge and Decision-Making](#)) and WP5 ([Migration Intermediaries](#)).

Specific objectives include:

1. To explore the current living and working conditions of Egyptians in Jordan, including experiences of inequalities, the impact of COVID-19 and the work permit scheme for Syrian refugees and the ability to send remittances.
2. To explore the factors that influence migrants' decisions whether to migrate to Jordan, stay in Jordan, migrate elsewhere or return to Egypt.
3. To explore childhood inequalities as a driver of Egyptian migration.

¹ <https://www.mideq.org/en/migration-corridors/egypt-jordan/>

4. To explore the role of migration intermediaries (social networks, labour recruiters, brokers, NGOs/ trade unions) in influencing migrants' decision-making and their experiences of migration.

The research results will contribute to the overall evidence-base compiled by MIDEQ scholars, practitioners and artists.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The exact methodology will be agreed between the MIDEQ project team and the successful consultant(s). We envisage that the research will be qualitative, involving a mixture of semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The following are suggested for consideration in the proposed methodology:

- Qualitative interviews with Egyptian migrants currently in Jordan
- Research to be conducted in at least two relevant regions of Jordan
- Research to be conducted on Egyptian experiences in at least two relevant sectors of the economy (e.g. agriculture, construction, service sectors)
- Interviews with relevant key informant interviewees (e.g. government officials, NGO and trade union representatives, international organisation representatives).

The consultant(s) will be expected to adhere to MIDEQ's research ethics and safeguarding protocols which will be provided to the successful contractor prior to commencement of the research.

SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant(s) are expected to work in consultation with the MIDEQ project team in designing, developing and implementing this research project. The following components are envisaged:

1. Inception report (in English). This should include finalised research methodology, brief context outline, brief literature review, brief review of available administrative data on Egyptian migrants in Jordan and finalised interview and focus group guides.
2. Implementation of fieldwork. It is envisaged that the research consultant(s) will meet (virtually) with at least one member of the MIDEQ project management team on a fortnightly basis to discuss any arising issues, and to provide transcripts for the first five interviews conducted to jointly assess if the interviews are capturing the expected information.
3. Transcription of interviews / focus group and translation into English. Transcripts will be submitted to the MIDEQ project team.
4. Data analysis and reporting. The consultant(s) will produce a final report.
5. Virtual presentation of findings in a MIDEQ webinar.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The research should be completed by end of first week of March 2022. The following is the preliminary schedule of activities:

Activities	2021		2022		
	November	December	January	February	March
Procurement and recruitment process					
Contracting with successful consultant					
Finalisation of scope of work and research methodology					
Meeting with MIDEQ project manager/ team					
Preparation research materials including interview guides					
Submission inception report					
Fieldwork implementation					
Submission of transcribed and translated interviews					
Submission draft and revised final report					
Participation in a MIDEQ webinar					

DELIVERABLES

The consultant(s) will produce the following:

- Inception report, including finalised scope of work, research methodology, research materials including interview guides (in English)
- Transcripts of interviews and focus group discussions (translated into English)
- Final report (max. 30 pages).

PAYMENT

A final budget for the consultant upon finalisation of the scope of work. We envisage that the total budget will be up to £24,000.

MIDEQ will forward payment according to the following schedule and upon receipt of invoices:

Deliverables	Payment	Timeline
Inception report, including finalised scope of work and interview guides (in English)	30%	End of December 2021
Transcripts of interviews (translated into English)	40%	End February 2021
Draft final report (max. 30 pages).	30%	End of first week March 2021

ABOUT THE CONSULTANT(S)

The research consultant(s) must:

1. Be a fluent or native Arabic-speaker and have working knowledge of English
2. Have familiarity with the research context; demonstrable relevant networks among Egyptian migrants in Jordan will be an added advantage
3. Have the right to work in Jordan
4. Have at least 5 years' relevant research experience in the field of social science, including leading research consultancy projects, design and implementation of qualitative research methodologies, data analysis and report writing
5. Have a postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline
6. Have experience of working with an international team.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Interested consultants are invited to submit a proposal (maximum 3 pages), including:

- Letter of interest clearly stating understanding of the assignment, proposed research questions, relevant experience and qualifications
- Methodology proposed for this assignment, including identification of proposed region of study, method of sampling and sample size, research ethics.

The following should be appended to the main proposal:

- Sample of (or link to) at least one similar piece of work
- Copy of CV(s) including the name and contact details of at least one referee on similar work undertaken
- Financial proposal, including cost of conducting fieldwork, transcription and translation of transcripts into English (if necessary), analysis, report drafting (and translation if necessary), and meetings with MIDEQ project manager / team.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following:

- Relevant experience and qualifications of consultant(s)
- Understanding of assignment and familiarity with the national context
- Quality of proposed research methodology
- Understanding of aims of MIDEQ
- Value for money.

Proposals to be submitted to migrationhub@coventry.ac.uk and Katharine.jones@coventry.ac.uk in cc by 7th December 2021 5pm GMT.

If you have any queries, please contact: Katharine.jones@coventry.ac.uk