

Roberto Bissio



A journalist by profession, Roberto Bissio, is the Executive Director of The Third World Institute, a non-profit organization committed to the promotion of South-South information exchange and the access of communities and citizen organizations to information. He is chief editor of the reference book "The World Guide", published every two years in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese with a development perspective on international relations. Under his direction, the Third World Institute started in 1989 the first Internet Service Provider in Uruguay and also UruguayTotal, the most visited "portal" and directory of the country. The Institute sued the Uruguayan government in 1991, forcing it to change monopolistic regulations that made Internet access difficult for the public, it initiated projects to provide access for blind people and has actively promoted the use of ICT tools by international civil society organizations and campaigners.

Mr. Bissio is also coordinator of the international secretariat of Social Watch (www.socialwatch.org) a network of Civil Society Organizations monitoring gender and anti-poverty policies in 60 countries; a member of the civil society advisory group to the UNDP administrator; a member of the boards of Third World Network, of the Montreal International Forum and of the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

Samir Radwan



Samir Radwan is one of the Arab World's most well-known development economists and employment specialists. He is currently a Member and Advisor on the Board of Trustees of the Investment and Free Zones Authority of Egypt (GAFI). From 2003 – 2006, he was Managing Director of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries Iran and Turkey, a regional think-tank based in Cairo. Prior to that he had spent close to 30 years in the International Labour Organization where he held key positions including Adviser to the ILO's Director-General on Development Policies and Counselor on Arab Countries. He is the author of a number of seminal books and publications on labor markets, industrialization, development and agrarian systems and poverty.

Dr. Radwan holds a PhD in Economics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, a Masters in Economics of Underdeveloped Countries from the University of London and a BA in Economics from Cairo University.

Mahmood Messkoub



Mahmood Messkoub is a Senior Lecturer in Development Studies at the International Institute for Social Studies of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, where his focus is on social policy and poverty. Prior to joining the ISS, Dr. Messkoub was a lecturer at Leeds University Business School. He has also held Visiting Scholar positions at Boston University, the Institut de'Etudes Politiques de Paris, and the Nobel Institute, Oslo. He is widely published on issues of demography, employment, poverty and social policy, and is consultant to a number of international and UN organizations including the ILO and UNRISD.

Dr. Messkoub holds a PhD in Economics from Queen Mary's (University of London), a Masters in Economics from the University of Leicester, and a BA in Economics from the National University of Iran.

Azfar Khan



Azfar Khan is the Senior Migration Specialist in the ILO's Regional Office for Arab States. In his ILO career he has held a wide array of positions as a Technical Advisor on Population and Poverty in the Development Policies Department, as a Development Economist in the Socio-Economic Security Programme and more recently as the Senior Migration Policy Specialist in the International Migration Programme based in Geneva. Prior to joining the ILO, he was a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, the Netherlands, where he also served as the Director of the UNFPA/Government of Netherlands Global Programme of Training in Population and Development. He has written widely on a range of topics examining the interrelationship of economics, population, poverty and social security.

He holds a PhD. in Economics and Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, and a Masters of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Arts in Economics from McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

Georges Corm



Georges Corm is an eminent Lebanese economist and historian. He began his career with the Lebanese Civil Service in 1963. In 1969 he entered the field of Arab and International banking. In 1980 he became Advisor to the Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon and in 1985 he established in Paris as an independent Economic and Financial Consultant for Arab and International institutions as well as several private financial institutions and companies. In December 1998 he was appointed, Minister of Finance of the Lebanese Republic (up to October 2000). He has been Professor Lecturer since 1969 at various Lebanese Universities and is now Professor at Saint-Joseph University where he teaches "International Economic Cooperation" and "Financial Management of the State".

He studied in Paris and graduated from *The Institut d'Etudes Politiques* (with majors in Economy and Public Finance) in 1961 and from the *Faculté de Droit et de Sciences Economiques* (Ph.d. in Constitutional Law in 1969). He is a member of several academic boards in the Middle East and Europe and Member of the Board of Trustees and Secretary General of the *Arab Organization to Fight Corruption*. He has published extensively in Arabic, French and English on economic topics, and has several award winning works. His website is: www.georgescorm.com

Mahmoud Abdel-Fadil



Mahmoud Abdel-Fadil is a senior Egyptian Economist, and Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences in Cairo University, a post he has held since 1983. Dr. Abdel-Fadil has over twenty years of international experience in macro- and micro-economics as well as wide experience in sector planning, rural development and regional planning. He is considered a regional authority on issues of poverty and income distribution. He is consultant to several United Nations and international organizations including UNDP, the World Bank, the IMF, UN University, the ILO, UN-ESCWA and others and has undertaken assignments in Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Morocco, the UAE. He is a member of the Egyptian Society for Economic Sciences, and sits on the Editorial Board of the Cambridge Journal of Economics.

Dr. Abdel-Fadil holds a PhD in Economics from Sorbonne University in Paris and a BA in Finance and Accounting from Cairo University.

Adib Nehmeh



Adib Nehmeh is the Regional Advisor on Social Statistics at ESCWA. Mr. Nehmeh is a Social Development Specialist with many years of experience working in the Arab region on issues of Human development, social policy, MDGs, and poverty. Prior to joining ESCWA Mr. Nehmeh was UNDP's Regional Advisor on Poverty supporting 18 UNDP Country Offices and governments in the region in the design, implementation and monitoring of poverty programmes and policies. Mr. Nehmeh was also Project Manager at the Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs where he oversaw a number of key projects including the development of an index of living conditions based on the unsatisfied basic needs (UBN) approach.

Mr. Nehmeh holds a DEA degree in Sociology, and Masters degree in Law and Philosophy. He is a Lawyer, a civil society activist and a board member of several national or regional CSOs. Mr. Nehmeh has authored and contributed to many publications, including books, reports, papers, training materials, and articles on poverty, human development, gender, disability, and youth & adolescents.

Lina Abou-Habib



Lina Abou-Habib is the Director of the Collective for Development and Training on Development – Action (CRTD-A), a regional organization working in action research, programme interventions, campaigning and lobbying on gender equality and social justice in the MENA region. Ms. Abou-Habib has been involved in the design and management of development programmes in the Middle East and North Africa region on issues related to gender and citizenship, economy, trade and gender and leadership. She is a co-founder and coordinator of the Machreq/Maghreb Gender Linking and Information Programme. Ms. Abou-Habib has collaborated with a number of regional and international agencies, including The Royal Tropical Institute, UNIFEM, ILO, ESCWA, UNDP, UNRWA, EMHRN, WB, IDRC as well as public institutions, in mainstreaming gender in development policies and practices and in building capacities for gender mainstreaming. Prior to that, she was the Programme Coordinator for Oxfam GB in Lebanon. Ms. Abou-Habib is a programme advisor for the Women's Learning Partnership and the Global Fund for Women and is on the editorial board of Oxfam's journal, Gender and Development. Currently, she is involved in CRTDA's Arab Women's Right to Nationality Campaign and is the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Association of Women's Rights in Development.

Ziad Abdel Samad



Ziad Abdel Samad is the Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), based in Beirut, since 1999. ANND brings together 30 NGOs and nine national networks from 12 Arab countries active in the fields of social development, human rights, gender, and the environment. The network, established in 1997, focuses on developing the capacity of Arab civil society organizations and promoting democracy, human rights, participation and good governance in civil society and among governments. It has been an active participant in a number of United Nations conferences, WTO negotiations and the World Social Forum. Mr. Abdel Samad is also a member of the Lebanese Negotiating Committee for the accession in the WTO. He sits on the International Council of the World Social Forum and the Coordination Committee of Social Watch, an international network of citizen coalitions that monitors the implementation of the commitments made at the 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Mr. Abdel Samad is a member of the Board of Directors of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation. He is a member of the UNDP CSO Advisory Committee to the Administrator. Mr. Abdel Samad is the President of the National Steering Committee of the UNDP Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE) program in Lebanon and General Manager of the Centre for Developmental Studies (MADA), a Lebanese centre for social and economic studies and research.

Hassan Abdel Ati



Dr. Abdel-Ati is Associate Professor of Development Studies and Director of EDGE for Consultancy & Research in Khartoum. He is also the Secretary General of the National Civic Forum, a platform for political dialogue and peace, and a member in several regional and international networks. Dr. Abdel-Ati previously taught at the University of Khartoum's Geography Department and at the University of Bergen in Norway. He is a consultant for a number of international development agencies, including UNDP Sudan. He is author and editor of several books on Pastoralism, the Environment, Sustainable Development, Marginalization and Peace in Sudan.

Dr. Abdel-Ati holds an MSc in Regional Planning and a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Wales.

Farooq Ameen Mohammad Abdulla



Farooq Ameen is the Director of Bahrain's Unemployment Insurance Scheme at the Ministry of Labour. He has a long career with the Government of Bahrain as Senior Researcher in Social Planning, Senior Specialist in NGO Activities and Head of the International Relations Section. Mr. Ameen has authored several books and papers on social change in Bahrain focused on issues of women and the family.

Mr. Ameen holds a Masters degree in Sociology of Development from the University of Essex, UK, and a BA in Sociology from Kuwait University.

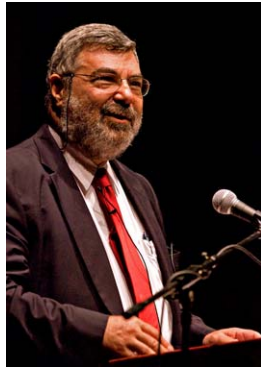
Abdeljalil Grefft-Alami



Abdeljalil Grefft-Alami is a medical doctor with many years of experience in public health, social development and social security. Dr. Grefft-Alami was formerly the Secretary General and Director General of the Moroccan National Social Security Fund. Dr. Grefft-Alami has also held a number of high ranking advisory positions in Morocco's Cabinet, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health. He is consultant to a number of international and United Nations organizations including the World Bank, UNDP and UNESCWA, and has been a key author of a number of national reports, including the National Human Development Report of Morocco and the National MDG Report. Dr. Grefft-Alami has also supported the Ministry of Social Development in the identification and formulation of a number of programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion.

Dr. Grefft-Alami holds a doctorate in Medicine from the University of Montpellier.

Rami Khouri



Rami Khouri is the Director of the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut. Mr. Khouri is a renowned journalist in the region. His journalism work includes several books and an internationally syndicated column by Agence Global. He also serves as editor at large of the Beirut-based Daily Star newspaper. Mr. Khouri was a Nieman Journalism Fellow at Harvard University (2001-2002), nonresident senior fellow of the Dubai Initiative at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and was appointed a member of the Brookings Institution Task Force on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World. Mr. Khouri is also a research associate at the Program on the Analysis and Resolution of Conflict at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University (NY, USA), a Fellow of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, Jerusalem (PASSIA), and a member of the Leadership Council of the Harvard University Divinity School. Mr. Khouri also serves on the board of the East-West Institute, the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University and the National Museum of Jordan. Mr. Khouri was a visiting scholar at Stanford University in October 2006, and in November 2006, he was the co-recipient of the Pax Christi International Peace Award for his efforts to bring peace and reconciliation to the Middle East.

Frederico Neto



Frederico Neto is the Chief of the Social Development Division of UN/ESCWA in Beirut. He has a wide range of work experience in the economic, social and environmental fields, accumulated during 19 years of service in the UN system. He was previously the Chief of the Urban Economy and Finance Branch at UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, where he dealt with urban employment issues, rural-urban economic linkages and municipal finance. Mr. Neto began his UN career at Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York, covering several sustainable development issues, including water resource management and climate change. He was a member of the Secretariat of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and was responsible for several chapters of the Annual UN Flagship publication World Economic and Social Survey. He is also the author of many articles in several areas of international development policy.

He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics and a Masters degree in Urban Economics from University College London.

Krishnan Sharma



Krishnan Sharma is an Economist in the Financing for Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. He is the lead economist for analyzing developments relating to private capital flows to developing countries and providing policy recommendations. His recent achievements include collaborating with the World Economic Forum to devise ways to mitigate the risks faced by private investors in infrastructure projects in developing countries. Sharma has also undertaken extensive research on economic and financial issues relating to emerging economies in Asia and Latin America, and has published papers and books on issues ranging from corporate bond market development to GDP-linked securities and the Asian financial crises. He is currently working on a project concerning the impact of diasporas on entrepreneurship. Prior to joining the U.N., Sharma worked in the financial sector in London. He was a senior economist at the Henley Centre for Forecasting and later an economic affairs advisor at Old Mutual International Asset Managers.

Ibrahim Saif



Ibrahim Saif is the Secretary General of the newly established Economic and Social Council of Jordan. He is an economist specializing in the political economy of the Middle East with research interests in international trade and structural adjustment programs in developing countries, with emphasis on Jordan and the Middle East. Dr. Saif serves as a consultant to international organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the International Labor Organization and is a fellow with the Economic Research Forum and a member of the Global Development Network. He has taught at both the University of London and Yale University, where he offered courses on the Economies of the Middle East.

Dr. Saif holds a Ph.D. from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).