



Draft Agenda

UfM Seminar on Refugee Entrepreneurship ``Addressing Economic Recovery Amidst Conflict`` Cairo, 11-12 December 2024

Venue: Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir Cairo – Diamond room 1 -

Day 1

Time Slot	Agenda Item
09:00 - 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 - 09:45	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Said Charna, Senior Economic Advisor, UfM Secretariat - GIZ
09:45 – 10:45	<p>Expert input: Refugee Entrepreneurship – changing the narrative</p> <p>This session aims to showcase, using statistics and scientific evidence, the significant potential of refugee entrepreneurship to drive economic growth and foster innovation in host countries.</p> <p>Key-note speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gilda Borriello, Researcher, World Bank/ University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) - Ahmad Sufian Bayram, General Partner @ Blackbox.vc (TBC)
10:45-11:30	<p>Icebreaker bingo</p> <p>The icebreaker will offer an excellent opportunity for participants to connect, socialize, and build teamwork, all while creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. It will allow everyone to get to know each other in a creative and engaging way.</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 - 12:00	The Union for the Mediterranean at a glance
12:00-13:15	<p>National best experiences for the economic inclusion of refugees</p> <p>On this occasion, presentations will showcase inspiring examples of national strategies and policies from across the region, with a focus on legal and</p>



	<p>regulatory frameworks aimed at integrating refugees and vulnerable groups into the economic landscape of their host communities.</p> <p>Moderator: Andreas Garbade, Advisor, GIZ</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nermeen Abdelaziz, Head of Livelihood Unit, UNHCR Egypt (TBC) - Dana Mufleh, Senior Digital Business Sector Officer, Ministry of Digital Economy & Entrepreneurship of Jordan - Suzan AbuFarha, Entrepreneurship Program Director, Tomorrow's Youth Organization (TYO), Palestine - Maya Chehade, Postdoctoral Researcher (TBC)
13:15-14:30	Lunch Break
14:30-15:45	<p>Incubation and skills development for refugee entrepreneurs</p> <p>In their early stages, businesses require incubation support, including access to office space, mentorship, and skill development in areas such as project management and creativity. These resources enable them to establish a strong foundation and eventually thrive. The panelists will share examples of initiatives that provide these essential services, specifically benefiting refugee innovators.</p> <p>Moderator: Ziad Nesrine Rekia, Associate - co-founder, Leancubator</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enaam Barrishi, Director General- Jordan River Foundation - Myriam Nouicer, Head of Global Communications and Advocacy, SINGA - Aicha Manai, CEO, Startup Refugees - Sabrina Salama, Head of MENA Partnerships, Seedstars (TBC)
15:45-17:00	Mediterranean Cafe: insights sharing on challenges and opportunities for refugee entrepreneurship



	The participants will engage in a brainstorming session on the challenges faced by refugee entrepreneurs, as well as the economic opportunities they can leverage, drawing on concrete examples from diverse countries and backgrounds.
19:30-22:30	Networking event

Day 2

Time Slot	Agenda Item
10:00 – 11:30	<p>Success Stories: from refugees to successful entrepreneurs</p> <p>Throughout history and around the world, there are numerous examples of individuals who have excelled in their host countries through their ability to innovate and create value. In this session, we will hear firsthand from those with tangible experiences that serve as role models and inspiration for others.</p> <p>Moderator: Nader Aljorf, Programs Manager, Startups Without Borders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ahmad Sufian Bayram, General Partner @ Blackbox.vc - Sami Al-Ahmad, CEO and founder, EMONOVO - Bushra Atassi, Founder and CEO, SkyTech - Madleen Abu Jayyab, CEO and Entrepreneur, 3abqour (TBC)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 - 13:00	<p>Access to Finance for refugee entrepreneurs</p> <p>The lack of access to finance is one of the key challenges faced by the private sector, particularly MSMEs. For refugee entrepreneurs, this issue is even more pronounced, especially for women. To address it, several innovative solutions leveraging technology have been developed, which will be discussed during this panel.</p> <p>Moderator: Mehdi Alaoui, CEO, LaStartupStation</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gilda Borriello, Researcher, World Bank/ University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) (TBC)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laura Di Santolo, Managing Director & Co-Founder, Forward Inc. - Muhannad Abu Mahfouz, Public Relations Officer, Bedar Social Ventures - Alaa Elnuimat, Green Entrepreneurship Program Officer, The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch Break
14:30 - 15:45	<p>Access to Markets for refugee entrepreneurs</p> <p>For businesses to thrive, seamless access to both national and international markets is crucial. This session will explore how to support refugee business owners in integrating into local, regional, and international value chains.</p> <p>Moderator: Ayah Elarief, CEO and Managing Director, Warrd and MENA Women Business Club</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amir Obeid Faheem, Chief Technical Advisor for Prospects, ILO (TBC) - Hamzah Kamal, Director of Economic Recovery and Livelihoods, Proximity International - Jordan - Mohamed Abbas, Founder of Nilepreneurs, innovation and entrepreneurship consultant - Ola Alhalabi, COO, Olistic - Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) (TBC)
15:45-16:30	<p>Feedback and forward-looking reflection</p> <p>Participants will engage in a reflection to propose ways for the UfM to continue collaborating with its key partners to promote refugee entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region, all within the framework of its mandate and available resources.</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Said Kajji, Project Analyst, UfM Secretariat