

Request for Proposals

Saudi Arabia Labor Market Research

Round 2.5 – Fall/Winter 2016

Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard Kennedy School, with the support of the Human Resource Development Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (HRDF), will be funding empirical studies of labor market issues in Saudi Arabia. EPoD is now calling for proposals from researchers for both pilot studies and full research projects, as well as small travel grants.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Development of Saudi Arabia has, since the late 2000s, built a large portfolio of labor market policies to address some of the Kingdom's key economic issues. Key policy leaders from the ministry have formed a collaboration with EPoD at Harvard Kennedy School to design a research-policy engagement around these initiatives. HRDF in Saudi Arabia has partnered with EPoD to support and catalyze this research and utilize the resulting policy outputs. The HRDF-EPoD collaboration seeks to build on the principles of EPoD's [Smart Policy Design and Implementation](#) approach, generate in-depth knowledge of the current constraints in the areas of employment and job creation in Saudi Arabia, and to design and test potential policy solutions using these findings in order to improve outcomes for Saudi men, women, and youth.

Under this initiative, EPoD will fund rigorous empirical research to improve labor market outcomes in Saudi Arabia. Research can also focus on building a better bridge between economic theory and the Saudi context, though it is important that research outputs are relevant to labor policy in Saudi Arabia.

The broad research priorities of this RFP are aligned with key strategic objectives identified for the Ministry in Saudi Arabia's [National Transformation Program](#). Additionally, our [Background Paper](#) provides a review of existing evidence and labor policies in Saudi Arabia. The research priorities for this round are:

- Job creation (MSLD NTP Strategic Objective 8)
- Safe and attractive work environment (MLSD NTP Strategic Objective 9)
- Skill development (MLSD NTP Strategic Objective 10)
- Increasing training capacity and market linkages (MLSD NTP Strategic Objective 12)
- Family protection including services for orphans (MLSD NTP Strategic Objective 1)
- Transforming welfare system and reducing dependence on social services (MSLD NTP Strategic Objective 3)
- Housing access for social service beneficiaries (MLSD NTP Strategic Objective 6)

We welcome proposals that fit within multiple themes; however, except in rare circumstances, proposals must fall within at least one of the strategic focus areas articulated by the Ministry as they relate to Saudi Arabia. We also welcome proposals that address one or more of these themes through the lens of job creation.

If a researcher is uncertain about whether a research project is eligible for funding under this RFP, please contact epod_rfp@hks.harvard.edu. Researchers who may be interested in submitting to future RFP rounds are also encouraged to contact us for further information.

Proposals are due by 5:00 PM Eastern on Friday, January 20, 2017. Please refer to the [RFP website](#) for guidelines and instructions on the application process and related forms.