

June, 2013

CURRICULUM VITAE

EL-MAHDI, Abda Yahia

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of Birth: 13 April, 1959

Gender: Female

Nationality: Sudanese

CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: abda@unicons.org
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Address (1): Unicons Consultancy Ltd.
Street 21, Bldg. 74 D/H
New Extension, Khartoum,
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New Haven, CT 06511
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KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Ms. El-Mahdi has over 20 years of experience in economic management at both the macro and micro levels. At the macro level, close exposure (2002-2004) to the workings of the Ministry of Finance and National Economy in Sudan has added to her knowledge and expertise in matters related to macroeconomic policy formulation and public finance management. Her specific portfolio of international financial relations meant that she gained experience in negotiations with international and regional financial institutions financing the country's development projects. Ms. El-Mahdi's ministerial responsibilities included debt management and dealing with the country's debt problem. Her experience in formulating the national Poverty Eradication Strategy brought her into close contact with many aspects of the Sudanese economy that must be dealt with in the context of the strategy that included, among many other aspects, the inadequacy of intergovernmental transfers as well as fiduciary arrangements in the states and their localities.

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Previous management, economic analysis and research experience was gained at the 'Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey' in Cairo where she worked first as a Research Officer and later as a consultant. She gained seven years experience (1995 – 2002) during that period in managing their research project on Labor Markets and Human Resource Development in the MENA Region.

Her knowledge of international financial markets as well as the economies of African countries was enhanced by her two year experience with the International Monetary Fund. There she gained experience in the economic reform programs designed by international organizations and their relationship with member countries.

Since 2005, she has been managing UNICONS Consultancy Ltd. an independent economic consultancy firm based in Khartoum, Sudan. This entails, among others, setting the firm's strategy, mapping its way forward as well as managing its day to day activities. In implementing consultancy projects assigned to the firm, Ms. El-Mahdi has been involved as Project manager and task leader overseeing all aspects of the project including design, technical and logistical as well as evaluation aspects. The firm's work in formulating a strategy for the development of the microfinance sector in Sudan and its work in the establishment of a microfinance institution in Southern Sudan have contributed greatly to her practical knowledge in this field. Moreover, her close involvement in the National Stakeholder Consultations for the Fiscal, Financial, Allocation and Monitoring Commission (FFAMC) has given her insight in the critical issues related to inter and intra state fiscal transfers in Sudan. This was further researched by her in the work she undertook for the UNDP in Public Expenditure Management.

More recently, Ms. El-Mahdi has been researching the economic impact on Sudan of Secession of its Southern part and has produced three papers in this connection. Ms. El-Mahdi is also economic advisor to the Japanese Embassy as well member of the Board of Directors of financial and commercial entity.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

- 1986 – 87: Master of Science in Economics and Mathematical Economics, The London School of Economics and Political Sciences, United Kingdom.
- 1985 – 86: Diploma in Econometrics, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, United Kingdom.
- 1979 – 84: Bachelor of Science – Honors degree in Economics and Statistics, University of Khartoum, Sudan.

AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Board of Directors, The National Bank of Egypt (Khartoum); July 2012 – present

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Member of the Board of Directors, Haggag Holdings Company, Khartoum, Sudan; June 2013 – present

Senior Research Fellow: The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt (December 2005- present).

Member of Advisory Panel for Women, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. (February 2005 – present).

Member of the Board of Directors: Future Trends Foundation for Strategic Studies and Dialogue - Sudan. (May 2004-2010)

Member of Advisory Panel, Ministry of Social Welfare, Khartoum, Sudan (2004 – 2009)

Member of the Steering Committee: Mamoun Beheiry Center for Economic & Social Studies & Research in Africa, Khartoum, Sudan (Jan, 2010- Sept. 2011).

Member of Panel of Advisors, The Central Bank of Sudan, (March 2005 – 2007)

Member of the Board of Directors: Kenana Sugar Company Ltd.- Sudan. (December 2002 – Jan. 2005)

Member of the Board of Trustees of Haggag Foundation: 2007 – present

WORK EXPERIENCE

- March 2005 – present: Managing Director, UNICONS Consultancy Ltd. Economic consultancy firm based in Khartoum, Sudan.
- October 2002 – Dec. 2004: State Minister, Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Khartoum, Sudan.
- July 1999 – October 2002: Consultant, the Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt.
- February 1997 – June 1999: Research Officer for Labor Program, The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey (ERF), Cairo, Egypt.
- February 1995 – Feb. 1997: Research Coordinator, The Economic Research Forum for Arab Countries, Iran & Turkey, Cairo, Egypt.
- December 1988 – Jan. 1991: Technical Assistant to the Executive Director representing 17 African Countries, The International Monetary Fund, Washington, USA. (Resigned for family reasons).

RESPONSIBILITIES & CONSULTANCIES

Consultancies:

- UNDP: June, 2008 Budget Analysis for Pro-poor spending 2000-2008 as part of the project “Public Finance Management 2008”
- World Bank: 2006. Access to Finance in Darfur as part of the World Bank report on Private Sector Development of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (DJAM).
- World Bank: 2011, Support to State Transfer Review Study Program

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- World Bank: 2012; Support of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission
- Japanese Embassy in Sudan: 2013; Advisor on Economic and investment issues in Sudan

Minister:

- International financial arrangements including debt management issues.
- Formulation of macroeconomic policies and reforms under IMF Staff Monitored Program.
- Debt Management
- Sudan's Interim Poverty Eradication Strategy
- Head of Government side of the economic cluster of the Joint Assessment Mission for Sudan (2004)

ERF Consultant:

- All activities including research, workshops and conferences related to the Labor, Human Resource Development & Poverty Program of the Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries Iran & Turkey (ERF).
- ERF Coordinator for workshop on "The Analysis of Poverty & its Determinants in the MENA Region", Sanaa, Yemen August 2001.
- ERF Coordinator for the workshop "Partners for Employment Creation and Social Protection", Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF3). Organized with the World Bank, Cairo, March 2000.
- Coordinator for ERF/WB training project on "The Use of Household Data for Policy Analysis in the areas of Poverty and Human Resource Development in the Middle East and North Africa Region".

Researcher:

Member of a research team working on the collection, preparation and preliminary analysis of the 1998 Egypt Labor Market Survey funded by ERF.

Research Officer (Previous):

- Coordinate ERF's program on Labor & Human Resources.
- Responsible for the Chapter "Labor Markets & Human Resource Development", *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, ERF publication 1996, 1999, 2001.
- Coordinator for Conference on "Population Challenges in MENA Countries: Toward the 21st Century", Cairo, November 1999.

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PUBLICATIONS

- El-Mahdi, A. August, 2012. “Challenges of the Economic Crises afflicting Post-Secession Sudan” (in Arabic). To be published in the Journal of the Peace Institute, University of Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. July, 2011. “A Review of Transfers to States in Sudan: Post Secession Challenges”. Study commissioned by the World Bank as part of the Project: “--- Support to State Transfer Review Study Program ---”.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2011. “Post- Secession Economic Cooperation between North and South Sudan” – presented in Symposium held by National Organization for Voluntary Unity, Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2010. “Post-Referendum Economic Challenges: Focus On Northern Sudan” paper presented on November 2010, Mamoun Beheiry Center for Economic and Social Studies and Research in Africa (MBC), Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2008. “Public Spending in Sudan: Pro-Poor Considerations”. Contributing paper for Public Expenditure Management report sponsored by the UNDP in Sudan and implemented by Unicons Consultancy Ltd, Khartoum, Sudan.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2006. “Access to Finance, in the Post Conflict Era for the Darfur’s Private Sector”. Background paper for the chapter on Private Sector Development of the Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (DJAM), World Bank.
- El-Mahdi, A. 2005. “Public Finance in Sudan”; Centre for International Cooperation (CIC), New York University, USA.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1999. “Poverty in Egypt”, a report submitted to Centro Studi Investimenti Sociali (CENSIS), Rome, Italy as part of a research project on “Poverty in Transformation: Definition, Indicators and Key Players at the National and Mediterranean Level”, funded by the European Union, December 1999.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1999. “The Structure of Jobs in Egypt: Gender Comparisons over the period 1988-1999 - Preliminary results of the 1998 Egypt Labor Market Survey”. Presented at ERF Annual Conference, October 1999, Cairo, Egypt.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1998. “The Employment Challenge Facing MENA Countries” Paper presented at the International Conference, *The Plural Mediterranean: New Scenarios for the Mediterranean Area*, March 1998, Giovanni Agnelli Foundation, Torino, Italy.
- El-Mahdi, A. 1996. “Labor Flows and Remittances in the MENA Region”. Background paper for ERF publication, *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, Cairo, Egypt.

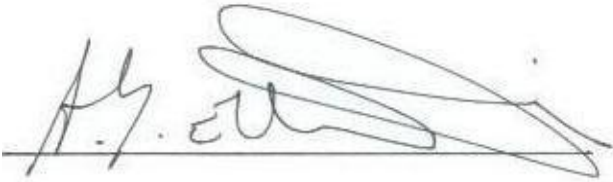
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LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English: Proficient
Arabic: Fluent
Italian: Basic

COMPUTER SKILLS

Experienced in using the following software:
STATA 5/6, Microsoft Office (Word, excel, power point, etc.)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. J. ...', written over a horizontal line.