

Globalization and Social Protection in Western Asian Arab Countries

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During the last two decades, there have been mounting pressures on developing countries to undertake structural adjustment strategies in order to streamline their societies with the growing and ever expanding demands of globalization. The Western Asian Arab countries in general are still lagging behind not only in terms of bringing their economies in line with the requirements of the global market economy, but also in terms of adopting appropriate measures to mitigate the negative impact of market liberalization and privatization on the underprivileged, the poor, the elderly, the unemployed and the marginalized sectors of their populations. The aim of this paper is to identify and analyze the impact of globalization on social risks in Arab countries that have been recently going through structural adjustment, assess the social protection measures they have adopted, and develop a framework of action for enhancing welfare measures.

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