

Yumna Kassim, M.Sc.

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Experience

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), *Cairo, Egypt*

Program Manager

01/2022-Present

- Manage the [CGIAR Research Initiative on National Policies and Strategies](#) across eight countries: Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India (Odisha state focused), Kenya, Laos, Nigeria and Rwanda.
- Run planning, monitoring, and initiative operations including theory of change maintenance and recruitment of multinational teams, workflow, and reporting for the initiative's three priority areas 'Building Policy Coherence', 'Integrating Policy Tools', and 'Responding to Policy Demand and Crises'.
- Lead the initiative's Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning, and Impact Assessment team and provide technical support and guidance to the Communications team, in compliance with overall CGIAR frameworks.

Senior Research Associate

01 – 12/2021

- Coordinated seven projects and led major donor (USAID, EU, IFAD, World Bank) reporting and engagement activities.
- Developed the first Annual Work Plan, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan, and managed the launch event for IFPRI's Sudan Strategy Support Program
- Co-developed and maintained spatial databases and mapping tools, including capacity building trainings with the ministries of agriculture and planning as well as various technical working groups and national and international partners: [MAP Egypt](#) | [MAP Yemen](#) | [Arab Spatial](#) | [SPADE](#) | AIDA [Egypt](#), [Yemen](#), [Jordan](#), [Tunisia](#)

Research Associate

03/2017-12/2020

- Co-led the qualitative research component (design, field instruments and activities including contextual inquiry, interviewing and focus groups discussions, and analysis) of an impact evaluation of cash transfer programs in Egypt.
- Supported research activities with data collection instrument development, fieldwork, budgeting, and dissemination.

European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed), *Barcelona, Spain*

Junior Research Fellow

03-09/2016

- Planned research project investigating "[How regional integration leads to youth employment in the Mediterranean?](#)";
- Organized multiple international conferences, and co-authored or edited related publications
- Developed and proposed a new publication series on *Geopolitics and Sustainability in the Mediterranean*.

Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS), *Barcelona, Spain*

Intern, Water and Environment Division

12/2015-02/2016

- Investigated the criteria used by international financial institutions to fund projects for the *Horizon 2020 Initiative for a Cleaner Mediterranean Sea*, and identified trends in processes and funding outcomes.
- Arranged and systematized the exchange of data, documents, and the approval process for Phase II of the *Urban Projects Finance Initiative in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean*.

Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment, *The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt*

Research Associate

09/2013-09/2014

- Contributed and coordinated to an Integrated Water Management research project that optimized water use in irrigation systems by increasing processes from 3 to 9-step systems.

- Conducted ~100 qualitative structured, semi-structured, and action research interviews as well as facilitated focus group research discussions.
- Initiated [Adopt-a-plot!](#) and the first [AUC Farmers Market](#) encouraging the university community to learn to grow greens, vegetables, and some fruits guided by the institute.

Psychosocial Services and Training Institute for Refugees in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

Coordinator

03-06/2012

- Coordinated trainings delivered to Refugee Communities Psychosocial Workers In-Training;
- Reported to Terre des Hommes and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, in Cairo;
- Successfully organized an international MHPSS Conference on ‘Psychosocial and Mental Health Support for Refugees and Migrants in Urban Settings’ for 70 participants, within two weeks of hiring

Education

M.Sc. Autonomous University of Barcelona, Ecological Economics **2015**
 Thesis: “A way with wells: Access and equity in irrigation water management in Egypt”

B.A. The American University in Cairo, Middle East Studies **2010**
 Awards: The Winning Horse of Middle East Studies Award for Academic Achievement; Dean’s Honor Roll

Selected Publications

2023. Gashaw T. Abate, Kibrom A. Abay, Jordan Chamberlin, Yumna Kassim, David J. Spielman, Martin Paul Jr. Tabe-Ojong. [Digital tools and agricultural market transformation in Africa: Why are they not at scale yet, and what will it take to get there?](#) Food Policy, Volume 116
2022. Kirui, Oliver K.; Siddig, Khalid; Breisinger, Clemens; Dorosh, Paul A.; and Kassim, Yumna. [Prioritizing development policy research in Sudan: An innovative approach to guide IFPRI’s Sudan Strategy Support Program.](#) Sudan SSP Working Paper 5. Washington, DC: IFPRI
2021. Perez, Nicostrato D.; Kassim, Yumna; Ringler, Claudia; Thomas, Timothy S.; and ElDidi, Hagar. [Climate-Resilient Policies and Investments in Egyptian Agriculture: Sustaining Productivity and Food Security.](#) Food Policy Report. Washington, DC: IFPRI
2019. El-Enbaby, Hoda; Gilligan, Daniel; Karachiwalla, Naureen; Kassim, Yumna; and Kurdi, Sikandra. [Cash transfers and women’s control over decision-making and labor supply in Egypt.](#) MENA RP Working Paper 25. Washington DC: IFPRI
2018. ElDidi, Hagar; El Enbaby, Hoda; Kassim, Yumna; Kurdi, Sikandra; Petesch, Patti; Moataz, Yasmine; and Goessinger, Karim-Yassin. [“Impact Evaluation Study for Egypt’s Takaful & Karama Cash Transfer Program. Part 2: Qualitative Report.”](#) IFPRI MENA RP Working Paper Series 15.
2018. Kassim, Yumna; Mahmoud, Mai; Kurdi, Sikandra; and Breisinger, Clemens. [“An Agricultural Policy Review of Egypt: First steps towards a new strategy”.](#) IFPRI MENA RP Working Paper Series 11.
2018. ElDidi, Hagar, and Yumna Kasim. [“Water-sharing in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean: How does community-based irrigation water management impact water access in the region?”](#) 2017 Revolve Water Around the Mediterranean Report.
2014. CUMRC, IFI – AUB Policy Institute, and RISE-AUC. [“The Impact of Population Growth and Climate Change on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security in Egypt and Lebanon”.](#)

Languages

Arabic (Native); English (Fluent, Primary); Spanish (B2: Advanced)

Full Publications, Conference Experiences List or References Available Upon Request