



Foreword

The Arab region harbors a societal landscape marked by rapid transformation and complex structural challenges that directly affect human well-being and the advancement of individual and institutional capabilities. Navigating these conditions requires analytical, evidence-informed research that illuminates policy options and contributes to more coherent developmental pathways. Within this context, the ANDD Paper Series reaffirms its role as a platform that supports emerging Arab researchers in producing studies grounded in empirical inquiry and attentive to the multidimensional development realities of the region.

This third issue, devoted to “promoting human well-being and strengthening capabilities to accelerate sustainable development,” brings together a set of contributions that reflect the scope of developmental concerns shaping the region. While the papers are placed within two overarching domains, health systems, nutrition, and food security, and the sustainable management of natural resources, they approach these fields from diverse analytical perspectives, highlighting institutional, technical, and policy-related dimensions.

Several of the contributions engage directly with the performance and resilience of health systems. The study examining health budgeting and spending in Palestine (2000–2024) provides a longitudinal assessment of financial pressures and resource allocation patterns, offering insights relevant to policy reform. Similarly, the paper on integrating basic and digital health literacies into Oman’s national policy framework underscores the need to embed community knowledge and digital efficacy within health strategies to advance equity and access. Complementing these analyses, the contribution on public–private partnerships in health care traces policy models and governance considerations that continue to shape service delivery in the region.

Other papers explore issues at the intersection of sustainability, institutional practices, and technological innovation. The study titled “Sustainable Practices from Eco-Schools to Eco-Universities” demonstrates how specific environmental education models can support capability-building and promote sustainable behaviors across educational institutions. Meanwhile, “Towards Sustainable Energy Management in the Pharmaceutical Industry: Optimizing Drying” presents an applied examination of energy efficiency in an industrial context that illustrates how targeted technological improvements can contribute to broader sustainability goals.

Several contributions address questions of capacity development, mobility, and digital transformation. The study on displaced and transient populations in Egypt identifies policy interventions that can provide better support to vulnerable groups facing persistent systemic constraints. Two papers examine the integration of artificial intelligence within educational and health-related systems. “Enhancing Lecturers’ Research Efficiency, Motivation, and Ethical AI Practices Through an AI-Based Training

Program” proposes institutional pathways for strengthening the digital and analytical capabilities of academic staff. Likewise, “Optimizing Enrolment Management in Higher Education Institutions Through AI Integration and Data Analytics” provides a systematic analysis of how universities can use AI-enabled tools to enhance resource management. Additionally, “Bridging Research and Reality: Advancing Value-Based Healthcare Through Evidence-Based Practices, Real-World Data, and AI Technologies” offers a forward-looking assessment of how data systems and analytics can support the transition towards value-based care models.

Across the collection, three academic features stand out. The first is the authors’ close engagement with local and regional contexts, enabling their analyses to remain sensitive to institutional realities and socio-economic constraints. The second is the careful attention to methodological design, ranging from quantitative assessments and qualitative case studies to comparative analyses, which lends rigor to the findings. The third is the emphasis on practical recommendations, reflecting a commitment to linking research with actionable policy options and implementation pathways.

As with previous editions, the preparation of this issue reflects a collaborative scholarly process involving peer-review, expert feedback, and iterative refinement. This process strengthens the analytical foundations of the papers and contributes to the broader aim of cultivating a research community capable of informing policy debates with evidence, depth, and contextual understanding.

Taken together, the contributions in this volume highlight the importance of anchoring sustainable development strategies in human well-being and capabilities. They illustrate the region’s capacity to generate knowledge that is both analytically rigorous and policy-relevant, and they reaffirm the value of continual dialogue between academia and development practitioners.

I extend my appreciation to the authors whose work enriches this issue, to the reviewers and experts who provided thoughtful assessments, and to our institutional partners for their ongoing support. It is hoped that this volume will serve as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners seeking to advance human well-being, strengthen capabilities, and promote sustainable and inclusive development across the Arab region.

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