

# Raffaele Bertini

Official: Via della Postavecchia 4, Pistoia, Italy. Currently: 12 Pasteur, Medawar Real estate District, Beirut, Lebanon  
E-mail: raffaele.bertini1983@gmail.com; phone: +39 3333766106, +961 76778743; skype: rafbertini

---

I am an economist PhD with nine years of working experience in international organizations such as the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) of the United Nations and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). During my master and PhD studies at the University of Florence in politics and economics of developing countries, I held several research assistantships in agricultural and international economics. During my studies and working experience, I have developed project development and management skills, capacity development training and, on the technical side, analytical, economical, statistical and econometrical, including the use of software such as STATA to analyze different types of data from a micro to macro level. As a teammate, I possess networking and teamworking skills and I am a keen and fast learner. I am fluent in English, French and Italian. During my time at FAO, I was part of the writing team and was responsible for the Statistical Annex of the State of Food and Agriculture in the Economic and Social Agricultural Department for four years. I also held the titles of Climate Change Adaptation Economist on Tracking Adaptation in Agricultural Sectors (TAAS) in Climate and Environment Division and Expert on Foreign Direct Investments in Agriculture in the Partnership Division. At IOM, I worked at the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo (Egypt) as a Data and Statistics Officer and ad-interim Coordinator in the Regional Data Hub (RHD). Currently, I am covering the position of Economic Affairs Officer in the “Governance and Conflict Prevention” Cluster at UN ESCWA in Beirut (Lebanon).

## EDUCATION

---

- Jan 2010- Dec 2013 **PhD in Economics, University of Florence, Florence, Italy**  
Thesis title: “*What are the main determinants of large land acquisitions in Sub-Saharan Africa?*”. Supervisor: Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti.  
Chapter titles: Large Land Acquisition Receiving countries: A review of terrains; Investor countries in large land acquisitions in Developing and Transition countries, A model of Large Land Acquisitions: main determinants and data needs, Investors and Receiving Countries: Characteristics and Main Determinants with a Quintile Regression Approach, Investments in Sub Saharan Africa in Agricultural sector: A Poisson Regression approach, Arab Sovereign Wealth Funds and Investments in Land and Water in Sub Saharan African Countries.
- Aug 2010-Sept 2010 **Summer School in Econometrics, Bocconi University/ Palermo, Palermo, Italy**  
Topics: Static and Dynamic Panel Models, Stationary and non Stationary Dynamic Panel Models, Logit and Probit Models
- Sept 2006-Oct 2009 **MSc Advanced Development Economics, University of Florence, Florence, Italy**  
**Final mark: 110/110 with hon**  
Thesis: Financial Reforms in North Africa and Middle Eastern countries.
- Sept 2002-June 2006 **BA in International Cooperation and Economic Development, University of Florence, Italy**  
**Final mark: 108/110**  
Thesis: Educational System in a Protracted Crisis Area: the case of Palestine (written in Bethlehem, Palestine).

## WORK EXPERIENCE

---

### October 2022- Current, Economic Affairs Officer in the “Governance and Conflict Prevention” Cluster at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in Beirut/Lebanon

- Monitor economic developments in the Arab Region with a focus on the impact of the Israeli Occupation on the Palestinian People, society and economy and identifies recurrent and emerging issues of concern to the United Nations
- Development of the “Arab Risk Monitor” workstreams through collection, transformation and analysis of main drivers of risk in the Arab region.
- Design and conduct studies of selected issues in socio-economic impact of conflict and occupation and economic development and drafts resulting reports.
- Interpret and apply results of econometric modelling to analysis of economic prospects and policies.
- Develop draft policy recommendations pertaining to the impact of conflict and occupation on human development including climate security, social inclusion and other related topics.
- Formulate proposals for development strategies, policies and measures for presentation to intergovernmental bodies and organizes expert group meetings, seminars, etc. on development issues.
- Provide substantive support on economic issues to intergovernmental bodies (such as the General Assembly, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Economic and Social Council, the Trade and Development Board, the regional commissions and the subsidiary bodies of each) and represents organizational unit at international, regional and national meetings.
- Prepare global, regional, national or sector analyses that provides a basis for advising national governments on economic development issues.

- Conduct training seminars and workshops for government officials and develop technical modalities for the evaluation of individual technical cooperation projects.

**May 2021- October 2022, Data and Statistics Officer and since September 2021 ad interim Coordinator at the Regional Office for MENA Countries of the International Organization for Migration in Cairo/Egypt**

- Support in elaborating descriptive and predictive analyses of displaced and migrant population datasets as per IOM and partner's needs.
- Assist in the interpretation of findings for research reports, briefing notes, policy papers, and other materials as required, for academic journal and other IOM publications.
- Liaise with academic institutions and collaborate with partners for the implementation of joint research products and dissemination events; liaise with Mixed Migration Hub (MHUB) colleagues and find synergies in the work of IOM/DTM and MHUB and capitalize on existing resources. Identify opportunity for partnership with UN (United Nations) agencies, regional and continental bodies, and academic institutions.
- Support the RDH and RTSs (Regional Thematic Specialists) at Regional Office Cairo and country offices in advancing the work on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 on migrants and displaced population at country and regional level. Develop further the tool and the methodology and contribute to the production and dissemination of reports, policy briefs and other.
- Support the Migration Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and mobility work in the region. Develop joint work with other UN agencies and other partners in climate change driven migration both at the national and regional level. Promote collaboration with relevant stakeholders at country or regional level. Support the MENA country offices in work related to data and statistics as required.
- Represent the RDH in disseminating the work done through information products, online seminar, presentation at external events, conferences and with the publication of academic papers.

**April 2020- April 2021 Data Analyst and Economist at the Regional Office for MENA Countries of the International Organization for Migration in Cairo/Egypt**

- Support the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) regional and country teams to analyse routine and ad hoc datasets and carry out population movement analyses.
- Leading COVID19 impact analysis at Regional level and coordination with IOM country offices.
- Support in elaborating descriptive and predictive analyses of the displaced and migrant population datasets as per IOM and humanitarian partner's needs.
- Assist in the interpretation of findings for research reports, briefing notes, policy papers, and other materials as required, for academic journal and other IOM publications.
- Liaise with academic institutions and collaborating partners for the implementation of ad hoc surveys; liaise with Mixed Migration Hub (MHUB) colleagues and find synergies in the work of IOM/DTM and MHUB and capitalize on existing resources.

**May 2019- March 2020 Foreign Direct Investment in Agriculture expert at Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Rome/Italy**

- Drafting of concept notes and project proposals on blended finance schemes for environmentally friendly responsible agricultural investments with a focus on Global Environmental Facility 7 (GEF-7).
- Identification of opportunities for FAO to engage with GCF (Green Climate Fund) and GEF through Non-Grant Instrument projects (NGI) and in particular, GEF's NGI program under GEF-7 and Consider options for blended finance for responsible Foreign Agricultural Investment in developing countries, taking into account relevant agricultural, economic, trade, market, social and/or environmental data.
- Performing in-depth analysis of private sector sources of agricultural data and identify areas of potential synergies with FAO areas of data research and propose areas of future collaboration and partnerships.
- Analysing datasets provided by UNCTAD, World Bank, OECD, UNIDO and other UN agencies and identify in a critical light the various strengths and weakness of this data and lessons learned.
- Supporting the fine tuning and implementation of a strategy that would establish FAO as a market intelligence data provider, including market forecasts, investment trends, trade, ensuring the FAO's capacity to commercialize its data.

**June 2018- June 2019 Economist Climate Change Expert at Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome/Italy**

- Prepare analysis of climate adaptation strategies for three Southern African countries
- Prepare questionnaires and supportive documentation for implementing analysis on political and institutional aspects of climate change adaptation strategies
- Prepare global dataset with the list of selected indicators for the analysis of adaptation trends in agricultural sectors in all the regions including Middle East and North Africa.
- Prepare report in interaction with national partners

**Jun 2014-Jun 2018 Economist/Econometrician at Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Rome/Italy**

- Prepare statistical annex for the "State of Food and Agriculture in the World" based on international datasets and other sources of data. The datasets collect data for all the countries and regional aggregates to compare their performances and characteristics.
- Analysis of international datasets available for selected topics. Survey data analysis and in implementing descriptive analysis for indicators relative to rural and poor households from the economic and social point of view
- Prepares working papers with team members on rural development related topics
- Analysis of reports of other international organizations on selected development related topics

- Preparation of figures and tables based on data analysis relative to different aspects of the relevant topics
  - Reviewing of background papers commissioned for the Report and literature review of several topics for four reports edition. Analysis of Social Protection Policies in rural areas, analysis of climate change impacts on agricultural sectors and food security in rural areas, analysis of structural transformation in rural areas and analysis of migration and agricultural sectors in rural areas in developing countries. A regional comparative approach have been adopted for these analyses.
  - Drafting of thematic working papers in particular on land related matters including the transformation of agricultural systems in Middle Eastern and Northern African countries.
- Apr 2014-Jun 2014     Research Assistant at the European University Institute (EUI)- IMC in Fiesole/Italy**
- Data cleaning and preliminary analyses
  - Coordination of activities in the data collection process
  - Statistical Elaboration of preliminary results
- May 2011- Dec 2013     Project Coordinator at “Amici di Francesco”, Italian NGO in Pistoia/Italy**
- Coordination of activities in Italy to support projects in Benin
  - Coordinating and management of projects in several areas in Benin
- Sep 2012-Dec 2012     Teacher at Middlebury College in Italy in Florence, Italy.**
- Teaching International Economics and tutoring
- Aug 2012-Dec 2013     Student Tutor at the University of Florence- Department of Economics in Florence, Italy.**
- Support in courses administration and students
- Feb 2010-Mar 2011     Economist/ Researcher at the Department of Agriculture in University of Florence, Italy.**
- Carried out statistical analysis on the Italian agriculture census
  - Impact analysis of PAC reforms on Italian agricultural sectors
  - Use of different economical models to analyse the role of incentives on land allocation
  - Use of SAM analysis for the impact on economy and agriculture in the Italian region of Tuscany
  - Literature review on regional studies on land allocation and on the European Agricultural Policy

## **SKILLS**

### **COMPUTING SKILLS**

- **Econometrics:** Stata 17, R, GIS, Office Packages

### **TEACHING SKILLS**

- Teaching International Economics in Middlebury University
- Teaching experiences in development and international economics and macro-micro economics and statistics
- Presentation Skills
- Private tutor (Maths, Statistics, French and English)

### **LANGUAGE**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Italian</b>          | Mother Tongue  |
| <b>English</b>          | Fluent   |
| <b>French</b>           | Fluent   |
| <b>Spanish</b>          | Upper Beginner/Intermediate (A2-B1)  |
| <b>Arabic (Classic)</b> | Beginner (Damascus University, Florence University and Bethlehem University) |

## **CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND COURSES ATTENDED**

- Sawiris Foundation, presentation of “Risk-Informed Policy Making: The Arab Risk Monitor”, Cairo, Egypt, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Economic Research Forum (ERF) presentation of two papers “Impact of COVID19 on mobility in the Middle East and North African countries” and “Impact of COVID-19 on Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Iraq”, Cairo (Egypt), November 2021
- Documentation Economiques, Juridiques et Sociales (CEDEJ) presentation of “COVID-19’s socio-economic impact on migrants – Perspectives from North Africa”, Cairo (Egypt), October 2021
- International Labour and Employment Relations Association (ILERA) 9th Africa Congress presentation of “Assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on migrants and displaced persons – Perspectives from North African countries”, Pretoria (South Africa), September 2021
- Research Initiative on the Economics of the Middle East presentation of “Ownership and Distribution of Agricultural Land in Arab countries: Land Distribution and its patterns in the region” Panmure House, Edinburgh (UK), November 2019
- Annual Meeting of Agricultural and Applied Economics Association presentation of “A global perspective on development paths for inclusive rural transformation”, A. Cattaneo, A. Sadiddin, R. Bertini, Chicago (USA), 2017
- Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2017 presentation of “Farmland Distribution and Rural Transformation in Developing Regions”, Washington DC (USA), 2017
- International Conference on Land Governance for Equitable and Sustainable Development, presentation of “Principles for responsible agricultural investment: Can they help to protect local livelihoods?”, R. Bertini, Y. Fiedler J. Karlsson, Utrecht (The Netherlands), 2016

- International Symposium Economic for Policies for a Progressive Arab World presentation of “Agricultural policies as tool for socioeconomic development in Arab countries: between new challenges and old structures.”, Lille (France), 2016
- International Conference of Association of African Agricultural Economists, Presentation of “Transformation in the size and distribution of farmland operated by household and other farms in select countries of sub-Saharan Africa”, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 2016
- Seminar and presentation of “What are the main determinants Sub-Saharan Africa?” at the University of Friburg, Friburg (Germany), 2015
- Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2014 presentation of “Large Land Acquisitions in Developing countries: A three level approach”, Washington DC (USA), 2014
- Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2013 presentation of “The Behavior of International Investors in Land Acquisitions in Sub Sahara Africa: a Quintile Regression Approach” Washington DC (USA), 2013
- Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty 2012 presentation of “Large Land Acquisitions in Developing countries: A three level approach” Washington DC (USA), 2012
- 2nd International Conference: Environment and Natural Resources Management in Developing and Transition Economies presentation of “Large Land Acquisitions in Developing countries: main determinants”, Clermont Ferrand (France), 2012
- Foreign Land Acquisitions in Africa: Implications for Trade, Investment and Development Policies Conference, Presentation of “Arab Sovereign Wealth Funds and Investments in Land and Water in Sub Saharan Africa Countries”, Bertini, TRAPCA, Arusha (Tanzania), 2011

---

## PAPERS/PUBLICATIONS

- “Are Large-Scale Land Acquisitions in Africa Pro-development? A Network Analysis of FDI in Land and Agro-industry” Cuffaro, N., Prota, L., Bertini, R. (2022). In: Wamboye, E.F., Fayissa, B. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Africa’s Economic Sectors*. Palgrave Macmillan Chapter: 4 Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan
- “Which farms feed the world and has farmland become more concentrated?”, S. K. Lowder, M. V. Sánchez and R. Bertini; Accepted and under final review in *World Development*, June, 2021
- “Agricultural Land Issues in the Middle East and North Africa”, R. Bertini, A. Zouache; *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*; March 2021
- “Why Displaced Farmers Do Not Return to Agriculture? Lessons from Iraq”, K. Shideed, R. Bertini, L. Rossi, A. Sadiddin, *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, Volume 39, Issue 4, December 2020.
- “Poverty, social protection and agriculture: Levels and trends in data”, S. K. Lowder, R. Bertini, A. Croppenstedt, *Global Food Security*, December 2017
- R. Bertini, Y. Chaitani, 2023, “The impact of conflict on middle classes in Arab countries”, United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia.
- “Impact of COVID-19 on Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Iraq”, Economic Research Forum (ERF), Martin, Neale, Bertini, Omomo-Smith, Aymahrich, Working Papers Series, May 2022.
- “Navigating Through A Pandemic Amid Inflation and Instability: An Assessment of the Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Migrants in Eastern Sudan”, Economic Research Forum (ERF); Jourdain, Griesmer, Bertini, Working Papers Series, May 2022.
- “Social protection and agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty”, *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World*, FAO, Rome, 2015
- “Climate change, agriculture and food security” *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World*, 2016, FAO, Rome, 2016
- “Leveraging food systems for inclusive rural transformation” *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World*, 2017, FAO, Rome. 2017
- “Migration, Food Security and Agriculture”, *The State of Food and Agriculture in the World*, 2018 (forthcoming), FAO, Rome. 2018
- “The transformation in the size and distribution of farmland operated by households and other farms in developing countries: situation, trends and policies.” Lowder, S. & Bertini, R. 2017. Background paper prepared for *The State of Food and Agriculture 2017*. Unpublished.
- “A global perspective on development paths for inclusive rural transformation”, A. Cattaneo, A. Sadiddin, R. Bertini, 2018, Background paper prepared for *The State of Food and Agriculture 2017*. Unpublished.
- “Transformation in the size and distribution of farmland operated by household and other farms in select countries of sub-Saharan Africa”, S.K Lowder, R. Bertini, P. Karfakis and A. Croppenstedt, 2017, Unpublished
- “Large Land Acquisitions in Developing countries: A three level approach”, Bertini, 2015, Unpublished

- “The Behavior of International Investors in Land Acquisitions in Sub Sahara Africa: a Quintile Regression Approach”, Bertini, 2015, Unpublished
  - “Arab Sovereign Wealth Funds and Investments in Land and Water in Sub Saharan Africa Countries”, 2013, Unpublished
- 

## REFERENCES

**D. Sarah Lowder**, Senior Research Economist at SISTEMIQ Ltd, [sarahklowder@gmail.com](mailto:sarahklowder@gmail.com)

**Prof. Abdallah Zouache**, Professor of Economics, Sciences Po Lille, [abdallah.zouache@sciencespo-lille.eu](mailto:abdallah.zouache@sciencespo-lille.eu)

**D. Misato Yuasa**, Liaison and Policy Officer at the International Organization for Migration, [myuasa@iom.int](mailto:myuasa@iom.int)

**D. Marija Nikolovska**, Mixed Migration Hub Coordinator, [mnikilovska@iom.int](mailto:mnikilovska@iom.int)

**D. Jakob Skoet**, Senior Economist at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [jakob.skoet@fao.org](mailto:jakob.skoet@fao.org)

**D. Andrea Cattaneo**, Senior Economist at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [andrea.cattaneo@fao.org](mailto:andrea.cattaneo@fao.org)

**D. André Croppstedt**, Senior Economist at Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [andre.croppstedt@fao.org](mailto:andre.croppstedt@fao.org)

**Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti**, Professor of International Economics, University of Florence/ European University Institute, [giorgia.giovannetti@eui.eu](mailto:giorgia.giovannetti@eui.eu)

**Prof. Donato Romano**, Professor of Agricultural Economics at the University of Florence, [donato.romano@unifi.it](mailto:donato.romano@unifi.it)

**D. Benjamin Davis**, Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division, [benjamin.davis@fao.org](mailto:benjamin.davis@fao.org)

**D. Kostas G. Stamoulis**, Former Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, [kostas.stamoulis@fao.org](mailto:kostas.stamoulis@fao.org)

**D. Youssef Chaitani**, Senior Economic Affairs and Chief of Section of Conflict Prevention at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of the United Nations, [youssef.chaitani@un.org](mailto:youssef.chaitani@un.org)

**Prof. Tarik Allami**, Director of Governance and Conflict Prevention cluster at the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia of the United Nations, [tarik.allami@un.org](mailto:tarik.allami@un.org)