IMPACT EVALUATION SUMMARY
The Tunisian Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment has partnered with the World Bank to support the Community Works and Local Participation (CWLP) project, a pilot labor-intensive public works program (PWP) that aims to provide relief to the negative shocks of unemployment and improve productive community assets in Jendouba, Tunisia. PWPs are widespread in developing countries, but there is a surprising lack of rigorous evidence about their impact and effectiveness. This impact evaluation aims to close this evidence gap. Using a randomized control trial at the individual and community level, the impact evaluation team will be able to evaluate the direct and indirect socioeconomic effects of the CWLP project.

POLICY ISSUE
Unemployment in the MENA region has been a challenge for some time, markedly during the Arab Spring. The region would need to create over 50 million jobs in the next decade in order to ensure social and political stability. PWPs aim to tackle the most immediate challenge of creating employment interventions in the short term to protect the most vulnerable against extreme poverty and maintain peace and stability. However, implementation costs of such programs can be high. This impact evaluation will provide evidence on cost-effectiveness of CWLP, and its findings will be relevant to the policy and operations of PWPs in general.

CONTEXT
In the aftermath of the Jasmine Revolution, Tunisia’s economic growth slowed down as a result of the financial, food and fuel crises. The resulting drop in industrial production and labor market outlook led to the loss of 38,000 manufacturing jobs in 2009, particularly affecting employment opportunities for young people. It is in this context that together with the Tunisian Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, the World Bank is supporting the Community Works and Local Participation (CWLP) project in Jendouba, one of the underserved governorates of Tunisia.

CWLP was designed to provide temporary employment opportunities to long-term unemployed men and women who have little or no skills. PWPs such as Tunisia’s CWLP have been popular in low and middle income countries and have been typically used to mitigate shocks and to smooth consumption of the most vulnerable. Despite
their popularity, rigorous studies are needed to provide evidence on their impact on beneficiary households and communities.

**INTERVENTION**

The intervention will be implemented as a multi-randomized control trial in 80 *imadas* in rural Jendouba. Approximately 1500 individuals will be temporarily employed in labor-intensive infrastructure projects in Jendouba for three months, and will receive a maximum total amount of 825 Tunisian dinars (approximately US$550). In addition, cash grants between US$300–500 will be provided to a random sub-sample of individuals who have completed the entire 3 months of work, which are expected to be invested in human or physical capital, such as launching a start-up or a micro-enterprise.

**EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**

In order to ascertain the direct effects of employment in the CWLP project, eligible communities will be randomly allocated to either receive the program or be a control. Forty out of 80 imadas or communities will be randomly selected to receive PWP. Local associations within these 40 communities will identify 65 individuals who are willing to participate. Of these 65; 45 are offered the treatment and 20 are controls. In sum, 1800 individuals are expected to be participants and 800 controls.

The impact evaluation team will collect data from close-ended surveys which contain questionnaires aimed at gathering information about economic, social and psychological outcomes. The team will also integrate qualitative work throughout the IE process, in order to gather contextual information needed to interpret the quantitative findings.

**RESULTS**

The results of this impact evaluation will be used to engage a wide-range of stakeholders within the government of Tunisia, local civil society organizations, the World Bank Operational Task Team, international organizations, the academia, and other international development partners, who can influence the discussion and policy over social protection practices around the world.

**POLICY LESSONS**

*In Progress*

**Information Box**

- **Country:** Tunisia
- **Theme:** Social Protection
- **Topics:** Jobs
- **Timeline:** March 2015 to February 2017