Publications (Reports and Policy research working papers)

Reports

Tunisian economy suffers large losses in wake of the Arab Spring
This paper estimates the output loss in Tunisia resulting from the "Arab Spring" at 5.5 percent, 5.1 percent and 6.4 percent of GDP in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. Investment was the main channel through which the economy was adversely impacted by the Arab Spring. These findings, using Synthetic Control Methodology, are robust to a series of tests including placebo tests, and are consistent with those from an Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model of Tunisia’s economic growth.

Policy Research Working paper #7856

Authors: Samer Matta, Simon Mark Appleton and Michael Francis Bleaney | 10.2016

Publication summaries

Poverty has fallen in the Maghreb, but inequality persists
Feature story | 10.17.2016

Blogs by World Bank authors or guests on a WB blog

Results-based financing in response to a refugee crisis
Peter Holland | Arab voices and views | 10.19.16

What do we know about remittances and forced displacement?
Kirsten Schuettler | People Move | 10.26.16

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Citizen engagement amid fragility and conflict: Really?
Najat Yamouri | Development for Peace | 10.19.16

Prices seen rising for oil and other commodities in 2017
John Baffes | Development talk | 10.20.16
OPEC’s grip on oil prices may be slipping

John Baffes and Shane Streifel | Development talk | 10.26.16

Tackling mental health amid conflict, fragility and violence

Patricio V. Marquez and Melanie Walker | Investing in Health | 11.1.16

Disabled and forcibly displaced

Omer Karasapan | Future development | 10.27.16

Events

UPCOMING

Sir! I’d Rather Go to School, Sir!

Wednesday November 16, 12:30 pm | World Bank J Bldg Rm J6-050

Speaker: Mahdi Majbouri (Babson College)

Photo credit: Image Hessam M. Armandehi, by Nahal Farjadi’s under license CC BY 2.5

Interesting Reads

Crony capital and business climate

Crony capital is flourishing in Lebanon’s banking sector

Jad Chaaban | ERF Working Paper No. 1059 | 10.16

Image credit: Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license

As many as 18 of the 20 banks in Lebanon are found to have major shareholders linked to political elites, and that 43% of assets in the sector could be attributed to political control. Crony capital within the banking sector is seen to adversely impact the quality of banks’ loans and their exposure to public debt.

Do political connections in Lebanon reduce job creation?

Ishac Diwan and Jamal Ibrahim Haidar | ERF Working Paper No. 1054 | 10.16

Politically-connected firms (PCFs) in Lebanon are larger and create more jobs, but are also less productive than non-PCFs in their sectors. This suggests that PCFs are likely used for exchanging privileges for jobs that largely benefit their patrons’ supporters.

Fragility

ICT essentials for rebuilding fragile states

Mark Jamison | Information communications for development | 10.5.16

Migration and regional development

Mobilité interne et migration : état des lieux et impacts socio-sécuritaires

Abdelhak Bassou | OCP Policy Center | 10.16

A “New Normal” for the Oil Market

Rabah Arezki and Akito Matsumoto | IMFdirect | 10.27.16

While oil prices have stabilized somewhat in recent months, they’re unlikely to return to the high levels that preceded their historic collapse two years ago. For one thing, shale oil production has permanently added to supply at lower prices. For another, demand will be curtailed by slower growth in emerging markets and global efforts to cut down on carbon emissions. It all adds up to a “new normal” for oil.

Image credit: Creative Commons Zero (CC0) license.

Disparities in regional development largely drive voluntary decisions to resettle internally or internationally. The paper highlights the development challenges
<table>
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<th>Political connections impact public procurement in Turkey’s construction sector</th>
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<td>Esra Çeviker Gürakar and Tuba Bircan İldiri</td>
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<td>This paper provides systematic evidence that politically connected firms enjoy high levels of government discretion and higher contract prices in public procurements compared to non-connected firms.</td>
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| Le défi de la transformation économique structurelle |
| Karim El Mokri | OCP Policy Center | 9.16 |
| This paper analyzes the determinants of growth and structural transformation, and the challenges faced by middle income countries. The analysis highlights the need to reduce uncertainty and the costs of doing business, through policies that foster R&D, human capital through quality education, labor market flexibility and competitiveness, secure property rights and good governance. Success of industrial policy strategy will depend on incentive structure and quality of public institutions. |

| Inequality of opportunity in higher education in MENA |
| Caroline Krafft and Halimat Alawode | ERF Working Paper No. 1056 | 10.16 |
| By conventional measures such as wages and consumption, inequality is not particularly high in MENA. This paper uses an alternative measure to assess the determinants of attaining higher education in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, and quantify the extent and drivers of inequality of opportunity. Inequality is found to be high in Egypt and Tunisia but moderate in Jordan. |

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<td>MENA Chief Economist’s seminar series:</td>
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<td>World Bank Research Digest: Special MENA Issue</td>
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<td>Economic Research Forum (Cairo)</td>
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