

Basic Project Information

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Final Technical Report

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Abstract

This is the final report submitted by the Economic Research Forum (ERF) to IDRC in relation to the core grant #107227-001. The report covers the period from January 22, 2013 to January 21, 2016. It points out that IDRC's support has enabled ERF to play an even more active role in promoting and producing high quality research on policy relevant questions in and about the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey. It has equipped ERF to more effectively play the role of building research capacity in the region. And it has enhanced the capacity of ERF to engage in a wide range of dissemination activities, including open platforms for public debates. The work covered key thematic areas such as political and economic transformation, inequality, labor and natural resources. Special attention was given to issues of gender and the collection, harmonization and dissemination of microdata to all researchers. In addition, a policy dialogue program was launched to broaden dissemination across various stakeholders. At the same time, all activities were inclusive of experts from diverse social fields. Within ERF, the grant supported the process of strengthening the institution's processes, staff profile and organization. Without the core funding and predictable support from IDRC, ERF would not have become the leading regional institution on economic issues that it has become. The IDRC-ERF relationship has been an effective partnership for serving public interest through policy research in a region that is undergoing dramatic political, social and economic transformation.

Keywords: Economic Research Forum, Arab region, research capacity, capacity-building, policy research, open access micro data, policy outreach.

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This progress report is submitted to IDRC in the context of the Core Support Grant No: 107227-001 to ERF. The report covers the entire period of the grant from January 22, 2013, through January 21, 2016.

I. Research Problem

Over its 20 years of existence and thanks to the generous support from a few donors, ERF has been able to (i) build a stronger research capacity for a better quality of output, (ii) flexibly reshape its research agenda to address the most glaring knowledge gaps in the region and (iii) communicate research findings to various stakeholders through diverse outreach channels. With the Arab spring, ERF has had to work harder to improve the way it operates on all of these fronts. This meant scaling up its activities to include new topics, including gender equality, branching out to include new talents, bringing about more gender and regional balance, and working harder to put forward platforms for effective national dialogues.

To these ends, ERF requested core financial support from IDRC in 2012 for 3 years (2013-2015). As it turned out, IDRC's support was instrumental in helping ERF overcome many hurdles without having to respond to ad hoc requests that would steer it away from its core mandate. In more concrete terms, IDRC's support has enabled ERF to play a more active role as a center for quality policy research, knowledge creation, capacity building and policy debates in the region. Research activities not only increased in number but also became more focused on such issues as inequality, employment, gender, political and economic transformation and natural resources and economic diversification. Through this grant, ERF has also been able to engage more researchers from diverse fields and countries in the region.

During the grant period, adjustments were made in terms of successively moving to new research questions, figuring out new ways to build research capacity as well as expanding avenues for more effective dissemination. The end result is an impressive track record of publications, events, and the development of a vibrant network. Within ERF, the grant strengthened ERF's capacity to carry out its mandate. Outside of ERF, the grant has enabled ERF to increasingly gain a reputation for impartiality and excellence in the region and abroad.

II. Objectives

The general objectives of the Project were to: (i) contribute to the strengthening of the Economic Research Forum, (ii) to enhance the capacity of researchers in the region, and (iii) to make their research more relevant and appropriate for policy makers and other actors. The specific objectives of the Project were as follows:

1. Strengthening ERF's role in promoting applied economics research in the region, with an emphasis on inter-disciplinarily, gender and regional balance;
2. Promote institutional development of ERF, through implementation of recommendations of the external evaluation, strengthening its core (in-

- house) research capacity, and improving the monitoring of policy relevance of research; and,
3. Promote policy-relevant research on women's economic empowerment, in close collaboration with the SIG IDRC program.

We believe that these objectives were largely met.

General objectives

Throughout the entire period (2013-2015) and thanks to IDRC's support, ERF was able to promote the production of fresh knowledge about the region on selected but key research themes where research gaps are most apparent and to improve both the quality and policy relevance of its research.

Progress can be illustrated by a few examples. *First*, ERF has adapted its research agenda to address glaring knowledge gaps in terms of the region's developmental dynamic and pressing challenges. It has successfully launched new research initiatives, provided open platforms for debates among various stakeholders and availed its recommendations in new and more accessible manners. The focus of the research programs on issues such as political and economic transition as well as macroeconomic management in natural resource rich countries was an attempt to keep-up with the challenges facing Arab economies and their neighbors. In this regard, the research output was quite significant, including the launch of more than 100 research projects engaging close to 130 lead researchers. This led to the production of 232 working papers, 3 edited volumes, 7 editions of the *Middle East Development Journal* in addition to a number of policy notes. *Second*, ERF has invested heavily in micro data collection (either by financing its own labor market surveys or by acquiring household surveys from national statistical offices) and providing researchers with access to a harmonized version of these datasets. To be able to do that, ERF has strengthened its in-house data cleaning and harmonization efforts and team building. So far, the ERF data portal now holds 45 data sets, of which 22 harmonized HIES (HHIES) from five Arab countries, 8 harmonized LFS (HLFS) from Jordan and Palestine, 4 Labor Market Panel Surveys from Egypt and Jordan, 7 data sets on micro and small enterprises from four countries, 2 higher education graduates surveys in two Arab countries, and 2 firm-level datasets on exports and imports from Egypt.

Second, ERF has continued to consolidate its network and *enhance the capacity of researchers* from the region to cultivate second and third tier of young researchers. The number of affiliates has expanded from 270 in 2012 to 311 in 2015. The share of promising young researchers (in the research associate category) currently accounted for a fifth of the total number of affiliates. Moreover, more young women have been joining the network and they currently account for close to 40 percent of research associates. ERF attempted to have a wider coverage of countries as well as bringing about more gender balance. In parallel, a number of capacity building activities took place during the grant period, including tailored training workshops and sponsoring the participation of promising researchers in international conferences. Between 2013 and 2015, ERF organized 16 training workshops with

the participation of more than 250 trainees from 24 countries. For instance, to help young researchers publish their work in refereed publications to gain international academic credibility and visibility, ERF organized (for 6 consecutive years) a workshop on "writing winning research proposals". This workshop provide participants with a unique opportunity to enhance their capacity to identify specific and novel research questions, select an appropriate methodology and ensuring policy relevance. In addition, ERF started sponsoring the participation of young researchers to international conferences (the Global Development Annual Conference and to the Annual Meetings of the Middle East Economic Association) to present their research and/or gain exposure to international research. In essentially all cases, trainees were selected through on an open and competitive call for participation on the basis of explicit eligibility criteria. A description of events can be found in section V.

Third, to make research more *relevant for policymaking*, ERF has added a policy dialogue program to its menu of activities since 2014. The objective of this novel component was to bridge the gap between research and policy. In addition, ERF has strengthened its ties with the media since to increase the visibility of its research and better inform public opinion. It has partnered twice with the media syndicate in Egypt for the organization of national dialogues. In addition, ERF systematically distributed press releases ahead of various events, invited media representatives to attend these events and even organized interviews for them with some of the key speakers. Finally, ERF continued to use social media (facebook page, twitter accounts, blogs on conference topics and its youtube channel) to connect with the online community, broaden outreach to a maximum number of stakeholders and maximize impact.

Fourth, ERF was able to widely disseminate research findings through a variety events between 2013 and 2015, some targeting the research community while others the policy-making community. It sponsored or co-organized around 33 events in 12 countries, gathering close to 2000 participants over the past 3 years.

Specific objectives

Objective 1

To fulfill its mandate and *promote applied economics research* in the region, ERF has continued to initiate and support economic research about the ERF region with a particular focus on areas where knowledge gaps are apparent. The following five themes were selected because of their critical importance to the region at this juncture of its development: (i) The Economics and Politics of Arab Awakening, (ii) Inequality, (iii) Employment, (iv) Women economic empowerment and (v) Natural Resources and Economic Diversification.

More concretely, ERF initiated 110 research projects under different themes between 2013 and 2015 engaging close to 130 lead researchers, out of which 30

percent were female, around half of them resided in the region and two-thirds were non-affiliates (figures 1).¹

Figure 1: Characteristics of lead authors of research projects, 2013-2015



Beyond the work on these specific themes, over 100 researchers presented around 50 papers to ERF's Annual Conference every year. The topics came under 6 broad areas in economics: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Finance, International Economics, Labor and Institutional Economics.

In order to boost rigorous research at the micro level, ERF took the decision to provide researchers free access to all sorts of micro data. That meant that ERF took upon itself to engage directly in the collection, harmonization and sharing of such surveys as household surveys, labor market surveys and firm level surveys. It was thus necessary to have a strong in-house team. Since then, sustained effort has been made in the areas of (i) data collection, (ii) data access, and (iii) support to national statistical offices.

Objective 2

In order to promote its *institutional development*, ERF undertook a number of measures, some of which were recommended in the external evaluation conducted in 2013. These measures were related to research management and quality, ERF's

¹ This figure does not include papers presented in the Annual Conference.

visibility, ERF's internal management (and staffing) and governance and sustainability.

First, because ERF strives to produce high quality and policy relevant research and seeks to be inclusive of all Arab researchers without discrimination by gender, nationality, or ERF affiliation, it has adopted transparent and clear processes for research management and quality assurances. The selection of research project for funding (whether submitted through a research competition or directly commissioned) is guided by clear criteria (value-added, adequate methodology and policy relevance), peer reviews and the scrutiny of a reputable Scientific Committee. For final output quality, ERF relies either on peer-review or on expert discussion in the context of a small technical workshop. In order to get a sense of the evolution of research quality over time, ERF tries to track ERF-funded research that is published in peer-refereed journals. To give a rough idea, more than 60 papers financed by ERF were published in refereed journals during the past 3 years.

To ensure that ERF activities (capacity building events, research competitions, workshops) are as inclusive as possible, they are open to all researchers regardless of whether they are affiliated to the network or not. In fact, non-affiliates tend to represent the majority in most ERF activities. They account for 66 percent of research grantees, 93 percent of trainees and 74 percent of conferences' participants. ERF has also begun to systematically conduct evaluation of all events and the feedback has been generally positive.

Second, ERF has attempted to develop links and partnerships with major international associations to increase international visibility and reputation. In a unique regional event, ERF partnered with the International Economic Association (IEA), the Colombia Global Centers (Amman), as well as a number of prestigious institutions in the organization of the IEA's 17th World Congress, in Jordan in 2014. This partnership involved taking the lead in the organization of two high-level policy seminars and two policy sessions, which brought together regional and international researchers and policy-makers. The ERF has also been asked to edit a volume for the IEA on the Economies of the Middle East in Times of Transition. ERF is also partnering with the University of Southern California (USC) and the Institute of New Economic Thinking (INET) to organize a conference on "Oil, the Middle East and the Global Economy." The conference is scheduled to take place in April 2016 in Los Angeles, USA.

Third, ERF has revised its charter in 2011 to remedy several shortcomings including its institutional structure, the roles and responsibilities of the BOT, the advisory committee and the Managing Director, code of conduct of members of ERF, sources of funding and what happens in the event of liquidation, etc. The charter also introduced new categories of affiliates and revised their membership criteria. These revisions contributed to a more flexible mode of operation for years to come.

Fourth, in terms of sustainability efforts, ERF has complemented the core funding support from IDRC by a new grant from the World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). The new initiative was called "the Arab

Spring Development Initiative" in 2014. More importantly, ERF has been able to increase the level of its endowment from USD 14.5 million in 2012 to USD 18.3 million in 2015. It has also acquired new premises which hosts a number of activities and is a source of considerable savings every year. Together with the revised charter, ERF moved closer to a state of continuity that is envied by similar institutions.

Finally, on staffing, ERF has strengthened its own internal capacity in a variety of ways. Each of the 5 thematic areas is led by a thematic leader who is essentially responsible for the intellectual leadership and the implementation of the thematic research agenda as well as for monitoring the quality of final deliverables. ERF is currently housing 3 international PhD holders and 2 international MA holders who contribute to producing in-house research. The data team is now in full force. Staffing for communications, finance and administration is highly professional and dedicated.

Objective 3

ERF takes it as a starting point that full and equal participation of women and men represents a major opportunity for shared growth and inclusive development. In this context, ERF with the support of IDRC has initiated a research program on "Female Economic Empowerment in MENA." A broad research agenda, along interdisciplinary lines, was developed around two main pillars:

1. Measurement of multidimensional gender equality/inequality and women empowerment: gender wage gap, equal access to jobs, equal access to education, empowerment within the household etc.
2. Effective social protection policies for more gender equality

This set of activities was intended to create evidence-based research to deepen our understanding of the barriers to women's advancement and inform public policy about gender issues. They brought new perspectives to debates on gender in relation to women economic empowerment and the role of social protection for women. On measurement, research addressed a multitude of issues such as barriers to female labor market participation, work-life conflicts, women empowerment through education, the feminization of poverty, entrepreneurship as well as broader issues such as determinants of women empowerment and challenges facing rural women. On social protection, researchers addressed the effectiveness of social protection programs (such as employment subsidy programs, social transfers and survivors' benefits) in country-specific contexts on lifting women out of poverty, improving health indicators and/or more generally female empowerment. In addition, the work assessed the impact of micro credit programs and/or micro finance services in reducing the gender gap in employment. One interesting piece of research addressed the institutional challenges for responsive gender budgeting.

The research outcomes followed from two calls for papers on "Women Economic Empowerment in the ERF region" and "Gender and Social Protection in the MENA region". The first call yielded seven projects, covering issues of work-life conflicts and well-being of women, time use, entrepreneurship and ownership, female labor participation, and economic reforms and feminization of poverty. The second call for proposals yielded 10 projects on issues such as assessing the impact of different instruments of social protection on poverty reduction, improvement in equality and/or risk mitigation, with a particular emphasis on gender. In addition, work on gender was pursued through a multifaceted commissioned project on "The Economics of Life Course Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa" towards the end of 2015. This project is not funded outside of the IDRC grant. It focuses on the way in which life course transitions relate to markets including the relationship between life course transitions, and the markets for human capital formation, labor, and housing, intra-household bargaining, and inter-generational ties. This research had a gender component given the very different trajectories pursued by men and women over their life courses. Work under this project will further contribute with evidence that can help decision-makers introduce positive change to making labor markets more compatible with married women needs.

Work under the theme of gender brought together an intellectually diverse group of 45 researchers. It also involved the organization of two workshops and one policy conference. ERF also collaborated with the Middle East Centre of the London School of Economics and Political Sciences in London to organize one of the workshops on Women Economic Empowerment in the ERF Region. The policy conference was organized in collaboration with IDRC.

III. Methodology

This section will explain the process ERF relies on in conducting research activities.

In general, ERF's activities and work plans (for the following year) are discussed and approved by the ERF's BOT in their annual meeting in March. The IDRC representative was present in the meetings. ERF's programmatic activities also benefit from the guidance of a scientific committee (SC), the role of which is to review progress and give feedback and advice on research activities. It also provides guidance on:

- Setting research priorities of the ERF research agendas across a number of themes.
- Ensuring high scientific quality of research proposals and deliverables.
- Providing feedback on ERF's micro data initiative and policy dialogue plans of activities.

In more practical terms, with respect to *research*, the formulation of the multi-year research agenda and consequently the work plan for each theme is a collaborative consultative process between the thematic leader, the ERF managing director and

an ERF project officer. There are five thematic leaders whose role is to formulate a well-founded research agenda and ensure that the quality of research meets the highest standards. More concretely, the five thematic areas under research: Equity and Inequality (led by Rana Hendy and Ravi Kanbur), Natural Resources and Economic Diversification (led by Ibrahim Elbadawi), Employment (led by Ragui Assaad) and the Political Economy of Transformation in the Arab World (led by Ishac Diwan) and Women Economic Empowerment (Rana Hendy). For the other two pillars of the Arab Spring Development Initiative (ASDI), the Open Access Data Initiative is led by Dr. Hala Abou Ali, and the Policy Dialogue is led by Dr. Mustapha Nabli.

The research agenda for each theme identifies a number of research topics, among which a few are selected based on relevance to the region, the existence of a knowledge gap as well as researchers' diverse interests. Thematic work plans are discussed twice, once during the thematic leaders' meeting in March and another time during ERF's scientific committee in June/July. After the finalization of the work plan, ERF initiates the approved activities/projects and manages their activities, keeping close contact with the lead investigators.

To ensure quality, both at the proposal and final draft levels, review is subject to ERF standard procedures: all submitted research proposals (regardless of their modality of inception) underwent an independent external evaluation for selection based on clear evaluation criteria including value-added, adequate methodology and policy relevance. Large research proposals are subject to external evaluation and reviewed by ERF's scientific committee. With respect to the quality of the final research output, draft papers are subject to review in respective workshops or seminars and a final review by the thematic leader is conducted prior to publication to ensure quality.

With respect to the modality of project initiation, research project were initiated either through open and competitive calls for proposals or commissioned directly to well-established experts in specific fields and are conducted as structured projects. All projects under all themes are open to ERF and non-ERF affiliates. These modalities are balanced with in-house research and groups of researchers from the network and beyond. Some competitions run regularly on an annual basis: the Annual Conference, the ERF-GDN research competition. For the former, the call for papers covers a very wide range of topics, much of which is driven by the interest of researchers. These topics are: microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, finance, labor and human development and institutional economics. For the ERF-GDN competitions, ERF attempts to orient the call for papers toward more policy relevant issues. Three ERF-GDN competitions were launched focusing on the economics of formality, education and the economics of healthcare. Other calls for research proposals run on specific topics under the main thematic plans. To ensure maximum dissemination, the calls for proposals were advertised on the ERF website as well as other websites and sent to all ERF affiliates. A list of calls is present in annex I.

During the past 3 years, more than have of initiated research work occurred through open competitive calls for proposals. In fact, ERF launched 64 number of research competitions inviting researchers to submit proposals on several topics. Meanwhile, 46 projects were commissioned on focused themes. The selection of researchers in this case was more deliberate in order to fit a concept note prepared by the thematic leader.

Table 1: Research projects by lead researcher and coverage

Research Projects	No. of projects	Geographical Coverage	
		Country	Regional
Research Competitions	64	53	11
Structured Research Projects	46	17	29
Total	110	70	40

With regards to data, all acquired data sets are publicly available on the ERF data portal after acquiring necessary approvals and clearance when needed.

For capacity-building events' participation, in essentially all cases, trainees were selected through on an open and competitive call for participation on the basis of explicit eligibility criteria, ensuring balanced regional and gender representation. For workshop/conference participation, participants are selected based on them being part of the research team involved in the project and based on their expertise in the field.

With respect to dissemination, working papers were published with ERF's research output, disseminated weekly via e-mail and posted online on the ERF website where they can be freely accessed. Other communication tools are targeted for a non-specialized audience. *ERF Policy Perspectives* present a summary of policy-relevant research in a concise manner. Their purpose is to convince the target audience that a current and urgent problem exists and requires the adoption of preferred alternative or course of action outlined. *Policy Briefs* were launched in 2015 seeking to communicate clear, research-based views on policy-relevant topics in a concise manner derived mainly from ERF's research as well as other sources.

IV. Project activities

IDRC resources have been used to support the following ERF activities: (i) research projects, (ii) micro data collection and access (iii) capacity building, and (iv) dissemination and outreach.

Research projects

Research activities between 2013 and 2015 continued to focus on areas where knowledge gaps about the ERF region are apparent. The primary focus of research

activities revolves around five thematic areas: inequality, natural resources and economic diversification, the political economy of transformation, labor markets and human development and women's economic empowerment. Accordingly, more than a 100 research projects were initiated out of which 43 were completed.² They engaged close to 130 lead researchers. ERF Affiliates constituted only 33 percent of overall grantees and female researchers around 30 percent (figure 1).

Gender and Women Economic Empowerment

Under this theme, several activities took place. Two calls were launched on the following themes: "Women Economic Empowerment in the ERF region" and "Gender and Social Protection in the MENA region". The first call yielded seven projects (selected out of 22 submitted proposals in 2013) covered issues of work-life conflicts and well-being of women, time use, entrepreneurship and ownership, female labor participation, and economic reforms and feminization of poverty (more information on each project are included in Annex II). The second call for proposals on "Gender and Social protection" invited submissions assessing the impact of different instruments of social protection on poverty reduction, improvement in equality and/or risk mitigation, with a particular emphasis on gender. Ten proposals were selected out of 16 in 2014.

Overall, the project on gender produced around 32 research projects engaging around 45 number of researchers out of which half were women. In addition, two workshops were organized to discuss draft papers and a major conference on "Gender Equality in the MENA Region" was held in 2015 in cooperation with IDRC. A description of the activity can be found in the communication and outreach section.

The tables below provide a listing of the projects carried for every year of the reporting period.

ERF Research Activities by Stage of processing & Lead Researchers in 2013

	Team Leaders
Completed Projects	
Inequality of Opportunity and Inequality of Outcomes in the Arab Region	Ragui Assaad, Djavad Esfahani and Rana Hendy
The Egyptian Labor Market in a revolutionary Era	Ragui Assaad
Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy in Selected Southern Mediterranean Countries	Ahmed Galal, Izak Atiyas, and Hoda Selim
Free Trade Agreement, Non-Tariffs Barriers, R&D spillovers and TFP	Sofiane Ghali and Zohour Karray
SMEs and Public Procurement Policies in Egypt: The Case of Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Industries	Lobna Abdel Latif

² A total of 36 new projects were initiated in 2015.

The Elusive Quest for Arab Economic Development,	Ahmed Galal and Hoda Selim
What Drove Changes in Political Settlements in Iran and Turkey?	Hadi Esfahani and Esra Çeviker Gürakar
Rise and fall of Representative Institutions in Egypt, Sudan, Levant, and Iraq: Role of Geopolitics and Domestic Political Economy	Sami
The Political Economy of Transformation in the Arab World	Eberhard Kienle
A time to throw stones, a time to reap: How long does it take for democratic reforms to improve institutional outcomes?	Khalid Sekkat and Pierre-Guillaume Meon
Political Economy of Fiscal Policy and Decentralization in the Arab Countries	Mehmet Serkan Tosun
Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Urban Economies: A Comparative Study of Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Turkey at the Province level	Fatma El Hamidi and Cem Başlevent
Alternative Finance Mechanisms for Infrastructure in Egypt: Will Users and Developers Pay?	Hesham Osman, Tamer El-Diraby, Magued Osman and Matthew Turner
Water Policy And Poverty Reduction In Rural Area: A Comparative Economy wide Analysis For Morocco And Tunisia	Chokri Thabet
Rural Employment Conditions, Cost of Conflict, and Food Security in Palestine	Yousef Daoud
Ongoing Projects	
Incentives for Better Quality Higher Education,	Ragui Assaad
Private Sector Development and Economic Diversification in the GCC countries	Mohamed Chemingui
How Did Firms Export New Sophisticated Products with Few Existing Capabilities in Lebanon?	Sami Attallah and Ilina Sorour
Exports Diversification: New Evidence Using Customs Data	Rana Hendy and Chahir Zaki
Democracy, Democratic Consolidation and Military Spending	Ibrahim Elbadawi and Phil Keefer
Initiated Projects	
1. Measuring Top Incomes and Inequality in the Middle East: Data Limitations and Illustration with the Case of Egypt	Thomas Piketty and Facundo Alvaredo.
2. The Impact of Iran's Subsidies on Households	Djavad Salehi Esfahani
3. Labor Regulations and Informality in Egypt	Jackline Wahba
4. Adjustments to Shocks and Labor Market Dynamics in Egypt: The Egypt New Labor Law 2004	Chaimaa Yassine
5. Labor Market Institutions, Employment, and Gender in MENA Countries	Hadi Esfahani
6. How Long It Takes To Get Social Insurance? Informality Dynamics on the Egyptian Labor Market during the 1998-2012 Period	Irene Selwaness and Rania Roushdy
7. The Effects of Labor Market Reforms on the Labor Market Dynamics in Turkey	Seyit Mümin Cilasun
8. Transitions across Formal / Informal Divide In The Labor	Aysit Tansel

Markets In Egypt And Jordan	
9. The Pros and Cons of Formalizing Informal MSMEs in the Palestinian Economy	the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)
10. Informality and Poverty: A Causality Dilemma with Application to Egypt	Hanan Nazier
11. The Micro Determinants of Section into Self-employment in Sudan	Kabbashi M. Suliman
12. Rethinking the Distribution Effects of Informality in Egypt: A Micro-simulation Analysis	Reham Rizk
13. Formal-Informal Gap in Return to Schooling and Income Penalty to Education-Occupation Mismatch, A Comparative Study for Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine	Tareq Sadeq
14. Trade Liberalization and The Costs And Benefits Of Informality, An Intertemporal General Equilibrium Model For Egypt	Abeer Elshennawy
15. The Nexus between Informal Credit and Informal Labor for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Egypt	Mohamed El Komi and Mona Said
16. Political Economy of Macroeconomic Policy in Resource-Rich Arab Economies	Ghassan Dibeh
17. Institutional Requirements for Optimal Monetary Policy in the Resource-Dependent Arab Economies	Bassem Kamar
18. Fiscal Institutions and Macroeconomic Management in Resource- Rich Arab Economies	Jeffrey Nugent and Kamiar Mohaddes
19. Do Natural Resources Inhibit Transparency, Hamid Mohtadi	Michael Ross, and Stefan Ruediger
20. The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the political economy of the Arab uprisings using novel public opinion data	Ishac Diwan
21. The Political Economy of Fiscal Policy (in non-GCC) MENA Countries	Ishac Diwan
22. Political Economy Determinants of Private Sector Dynamism in the ERF Region	Ishac Diwan
23. The Work-life conflict and well-being of employed women in Turkey	Cem Baslevant
24. Female Empowerment and Time Use of Urban Women in Iran	Djavad Salehi Isfahani
25. Gender, Enterprise Ownership, and Labor Allocation in MENA	Hadi Esfahani
26. Women Empowerment and Poverty: Application on the case of Egypt	Hanan Nazier
27. Is Women's Work a Pathway to Their Agency in Rural Egypt?"	Kathryn Yount
28. Women at work in Oman's emerging private sector: Opportunities and constraints of female labor participation in a rentier economy in transition	Marieke Bontebal
29. Economic Reforms and the Feminization of Poverty: Evidence from Egypt	Shireen Alazzawi
Micro datasets	
Household Survey Data	Hala Abou Ali
Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS)	Ragui Assaad
Tunisia Labor Market panel Survey (TLMPS)	Ragui Assaad

ERF Research Activities by Stage of processing & Lead Researchers in 2014

	Team Leaders
Completed Projects	
Measuring Top Incomes and Inequality in the Middle East: Data Limitations and Illustration with the Case of Egypt	Thomas Piketty and Facundo Alvaredo
The Impact of Iran's Subsidies on Households	Djavad Salehi Esfahani

How Did Firms Export New Sophisticated Products with Few Existing Capabilities in Lebanon?	Sami Attallah and Ilina Sorour
Exports Diversification: New Evidence Using Customs Data	Rana Hendy and Chahir Zaki
Democracy, Democratic Consolidation and Military Spending	Ibrahim Elbadawi and Phil Keefer
Private Sector Development and Economic Diversification in the GCC countries	Mohamed Chemingui
Political Economy of Macroeconomic Policy in Resource-Rich Arab Economies	Ghassan Dibeh
Do Natural Resources Inhibit Transparency	Hamid Mohtadi, Michael Ross, and Stefan Ruediger
Formal-Informal Gap in Return to Schooling and Income Penalty to Education-Occupation Mismatch, A Comparative Study for Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine	Tareq Sadeq
Trade Liberalization and The Costs and Benefits of Informality, An Intertemporal General Equilibrium Model for Egypt	Abeer Elshennawy
The Pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Novel Public Opinion Data	Ishac Diwan
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The Effects of Labor Market Reforms on the Labor Market Dynamics in Turkey	Seyit Mümin Cilasun
Transitions Across Formal / Informal Divide in the Labor Markets in Egypt And Jordan	Aysit Tansel
The Pros and Cons of Formalizing Informal MSMEs in the Palestinian Economy	the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)
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Women At Work in Oman's Emerging Private Sector: Opportunities and Constraints of Female Labor Participation in a Rentier Economy In Transition	Marike Bontebal
Ongoing Projects	
The Nexus between Informal Credit and Informal Labor for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Egypt	Mohamed El Komi and Mona Said
Institutional Requirements for Optimal Monetary Policy in the Resource-Dependent Arab Economies	Bassem Kamar
Fiscal Institutions and Macroeconomic Management in Resource- Rich Arab Economies	Jeffrey Nugent

Gender, Enterprise Ownership, and Labor Allocation in MENA	Hadi Esfahani
Labor Market Institutions, Employment, and Gender in MENA Countries	Hadi Esfahani
Incentives for Better Quality Higher Education,	Ragui Assaad
Economic Reforms and the Feminization of Poverty: Evidence from Egypt	Shireen Alazzawi
Initiated Projects	
30. The Human Opportunity Index in the Middle East	Djavad Salehi Isfahani
31. Inequality of Opportunity in Income and Consumption in Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia	Ragui Assaad, Rana Hendy, Caroline Krafft, John Roemer and Djavad Salehi-Isfahani
32. The Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty in the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey: Applying the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Framework to Egypt	Nora Lustig and Hala Abou Ali
33. The Role of Fiscal Policies in Fighting Poverty and Reducing Inequality in Iran with a Focus on Energy Subsidies Reform	Ali Enami and Nora Lustig
34. How did Trade Policy Affect Inequality in the MENA Region?	Akiko Suwa-Eisenmann and Chahir Zaki
35. The Impact of Unconditional Cash Transfers on Labor Supply: Evidence From Iran's Energy Subsidy Reform Program	Djavad Salehi-Isfahani and Mohammad Hadi Mostafavi Dehzoeei
36. A Comprehensive Approach to Measuring Income Inequality in the Arab World	Rana Hendy and Hoda El Elnaby
37. The Distributional Effects of Trade Policy in Tunisia	Leila Baghdadi, Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso and Habib Zitouna
38. A Comparative Study of Pro-Poor Growth in Three MENA Countries	Ali Hashemi
39. Decomposing Income Inequality in Tunisia and Egypt	Yosr Abid, Cathal O'Donoghue and Denisa Sologon
40. Social Transfers and Income Inequalities in Egypt and Jordan	Yousef Beshay and Nyasha Tirivayi
41. Demographic Change, Fiscal Policy and Pension Systems in MENA Countries	Mehmet Serkan Tosun
42. Contribution Density Determinants and Labor Market Effects of Pension Reform in Tunisia	Mehdi Ben Braham, Mouna Ben Othman and Mohamed Ali Marouani
43. The Impact of Pension and Social Assistance on Poverty and Inequality: Evidence from Egypt	Mohamed Arouri and Nguyen Viet Cuong
44. Assessing the Effect of Subsidizing Private Pension Participation on Aggregate Savings and Other Macroeconomic Outcomes: Theory and Evidence from Turkey	Seyit M. Cilasun and Semih Tumen
45. Undervaluation and firm-level exports diversification in Arab countries	Khaled Sekkat
46. The Political Economy of Macroeconomic Policy in Resource-Rich Arab Economies	Adeel Malik
47. Political Connections and Public Procurement in Turkey: Evidence from Construction Work Contracts	Esra Çeviker Gürakar & Tuba Bircan İldiri and Umut Gündü
48. State Capture: Evidence from Tunisia	Hassan Arouri , Leila Baghdadi and Bob Rijkers
49. Is there a MENA variety of capitalism?	Steffen Hertog
50. Moroccan Cronyism and Economic Growth	Saadi Med Said
51. Labor Market Dynamics in MENA	Ragui Assaad
52. Late-Life Living Arrangements and Intergenerational Ties in Egypt. Elderly Socio-Economic Conditions From Labor Market Surveys	Aurora Angelli

53. The Selection Aspects of Emigration in Egypt at the Individual, Household and Community Levels: The Local Impacts of Emigration on Poverty And Inequality Through Investment and Local Labor Market Effects	Sami Bensassi, Anda David and Joachim Jarreau
54. Intergenerational Mobility in Women's Employment Outcomes in Egypt	Maia Sieverding
55. Labor Mobility In Egypt, Jordan And Turkey: A Multi-State Multi-Spell Analysis Using The ELMPS, JLMPS And TWMHS	Zeynep Başak and Erol Taymaz
56. Does Migration Affect Labor Supply, Non-farm Diversification and Income of Home Households? Evidence from Egypt	Mohamed Arouri and Cuong V. Nguyen
57. Women's Participation in Labor Market in Egypt: Constraints and Opportunities	Hanan Nazier and Racha Ramadan
58. Do Remittances and International Migration Affect the Performance of Labour Market in Jordan? An Empirical Investigation	Ghazi Alassaf
59. Impact of Technology on Family Formation	Ehab Sakr and Noran Farag
60. Meeting the challenges of secondary education in MENA region: Improving efficiency of resources	Donia Smaali Bouhlila
61. Identification of Sources of Students Inefficiencies in 5 MENA Countries With The Bias Of Stochastic Discount Factor	Mohamed Ayadi and Abdelali Ben Mbarka
62. Returns To Schooling In Egypt	Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur, Murat G. Kirdar, Abdurrahman Aydemir, and Ragui Assaad
63. Out of Pocket Education Expenditure and Household Budget: Evidence From Arab Countries	Reham Rizk and Hala Abou Ali
64. Determinants of Education Expenditures and Private Vs. Public Divide in Educational Outcomes in Turkey	Elif Öznur Acar, Seyit Mümin Cilasun, and Burak Günlalp
65. Gender and Social Protection	Rana Hendy
Micro datasets	
Household Survey Data	Hala Abou Ali
Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS)	Ragui Assaad and Bassem Shannaq
Tunisia Labor Market panel Survey (TLMPS)	Ragui Assaad

ERF Research Activities by Stage of processing & Lead Researchers in 2015

	Team Leaders
Completed Projects	
Demographic Change, Fiscal Policy and Pension Systems in MENA Countries	Mehmet Serkan Tosun
Contribution Density Determinants and Labor Market Effects of Pension Reform in Tunisia	Mehdi Ben Braham, Mouna Ben Othman and Mohamed Ali Marouani
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Assessing the Effect of Subsidizing Private Pension Participation on Aggregate Savings and Other Macroeconomic Outcomes: Theory and Evidence from Turkey	Seyit M. Cilasun and Semih Tumen
Was Economic Growth Pro-Poor? Evidence from Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine	Ali Hashemi
Decomposing Income Inequality in Tunisia and Egypt	Yosr Abid, Cathal O'Donoghue and Denisa Sologon
The Human Opportunity Index in the Middle East	Djavad Salehi Isfahani and Atieh Vahidmanesh
The Role of Fiscal Policies in Fighting Poverty and Reducing	Ali Enami and Nora Lustig

Inequality in Iran with a Focus on Energy Subsidies Reform	
The Impact of Unconditional Cash Transfers on Labor Supply: Evidence From Iran's Energy Subsidy Reform Program	Djavad Salehi-Isfahani and Mohammad Hadi Mostafavi Dehzoeei
Inequality of Opportunity in Income and Consumption in Egypt, Jordan, and Tunisia	Ragui Assaad, Caroline Krafft, John Roemer and Djavad Salehi-Isfahani
The Distributional Effects of Trade Policy in Tunisia	Leila Baghdadi, Inmaculada Martínez-Zarzoso and Habib Zitouna
The political economy of monetary policy in resource-rich Arab Economies	Adeel Malik
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Fiscal Institutions and Macroeconomic Management in Resource-Rich Arab Economies	Jeffrey Nugent
Undervaluation and firm-level exports diversification in Arab countries	Khaled Sekkat and Ibrahim Elbadawi
Labor Market Institutions, Employment, and Gender in MENA Countries	Hadi Esfahani and Roksana Bahramitash
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Gender, Enterprise Ownership, and Labor Allocation in MENA	Hadi Esfahani and Roksana Bahramitash
The Nexus between Informal Credit and Informal Labor for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Egypt	Mohamed El Komi and Mona Said
Identifying Sources of Inefficiency among students of 5 MENA Countries	Mohamed Ayadi and Abdelali Ben Mbarka
Returns To Schooling In Egypt	Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur, Murat G. Kirdar, Abdurrahman Aydemir, and Ragui Assaad
Out of Pocket Education Expenditure and Household Budget: Evidence From Arab Countries	Reham Rizk and Hala Abou Ali
An Analysis of Education Expenditures in Turkey by Income Groups	Elif Öznur Acar, Seyit Mümin Cilasun, and Burak Günalp
Ongoing Projects	
The Impact of Fiscal Policy on Inequality and Poverty in the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey: Applying the Commitment to Equity (CEQ) Framework to Egypt	Nora Lustig and Hala Abou Ali
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State Capture: Evidence from Tunisia	Hassan Arouri , Leila Baghdadi and Bob Rijkers
Is there a MENA variety of capitalism?	Steffen Hertog
Moroccan Cronyism and Economic Growth	Saadi Med Said
Banking and Crony Capitalism in Egypt	Ishac Diwan and Marc

	Schiffbauer
Crony Capitalism in Lebanon's Banking Sector	Jad Chaaban
Cronyism and Job Creation in Lebanon	Ishac Diwan and Jamal Haidar
Mapping Firm Ownership Structure in the Islamic Republic: Parastatal and Private Sectors in Relational Perspective	Kevan Harris
Public Private Partnerships in Egypt: Rules versus Deals	Sahar Tohamy
Anatolian Tigers and the Emergence of the Devout Bourgeoisie in Turkey	Izak Atiyas, Ozan Bakış and Esra Ceviker Gurakar
The Network of Interlocking Directorates in Morocco: Controlling Banks and Insurances and Capturing Pension Funds	Oubenal Mohamed
The Role of the State in MENA Capital Markets	Alissa Amico and Steffen Hertog
Unpacking Non-Tariff Barriers in the Middle East	Adeel Malik and Ferdinand Eibl
Incentives for Better Quality Higher Education,	Ragui Assaad
Labor Market Dynamics in MENA	Ragui Assaad
The Selection Aspects of Emigration in Egypt at the Individual, Household and Community Levels: The Local Impacts of Emigration on Poverty And Inequality Through Investment and Local Labor Market Effects	Sami Bensassi, Anda David and Joachim Jarreau
Labor Mobility In Egypt, Jordan And Turkey: A Multi-State Multi-Spell Analysis Using The ELMPS, JLMPS And TWMHS	Zeynep Başak and Erol Taymaz
Do Remittances and International Migration Affect the Performance of Labour Market in Jordan? An Empirical Investigation	Ghazi Alassaf
Initiated Projects	
66. Is Internal Migration a Way to Cope with Climate Change? Evidence from Egypt	Adel Ben Youssef, Nguyen Viet Cuong and Mohamed Arouri
67. Rural-to-Urban Migration and Development in Turkey	Aysegul Kayaoglu
68. Measuring Food Security in Egyptian Rural and Urban Areas	Basem Fayyad
69. The Economic Response of Rural Areas to Local Supply Shock: Evidence from Palestine	Belal Fallah
70. The Impact of Recent Investments on Transportation Infrastructure on Rural Development in Turkey	Belgi Turan
71. Migration, Gender, Decision-making and the Environment in Saiss Region (Morocco)	Dina Najjar
72. Maghreb rural-urban migration: the movement to Morocco's towns	Bouoiyour Jamal
73. Rural-Urban Migration and Income Disparity in Tunisia: A Comparative Analysis between Rural Migrants and Residents	Hatem Jemmali
74. Did the Cost of Living Rise Faster for the Rural Poor? Evidence from Egypt	Shireen AlAzzawi
75. Agricultural Trade Liberalization with the EU: Spatial impacts on employment and poverty in Tunisia "	Chokri Thabet
76. Impact evaluation of the Moroccan National Human Development Initiative (INDH) on rural poverty in Morocco, a household panel survey study"	Mohamed Benkassmi
77. Sovereign wealth funds: stabilization, investment strategies and lessons for oil-rich Arab economies	Diaa Noureldin and Ibrahim Elbadawi
78. Implications of the "fracking" revolution	Lutz Kilian and Kamiar Mohaddes
79. Oil price shocks, optimal policy rules and labor market heterogeneity in Arab oil rich economies	Almukhtar Al-Abri
80. Dealing With Multinational Oil Companies: Issues, Experiences and Lessons for the Arab Oil Countries	Jenik Radon
81. Capital market financing by firms in the Arab World	Sergio Schmuckler
82. How oil has impacted political institutions in the Middle East Beyond Revenues: A Historical and Comparative Approach	Sami

83. Employment and Unemployment in Tunisia	Mongi Boughzala and Ragui Assaad
84. Institutional Challenges for Responsive Gender Budgeting in Egypt: Budgetary vs political institutions	Lobna M. Abdellatif, Mohamed A. Ramadan, Mohamed Zaky
85. Women's economic empowerment through microfinance services - Focus: Tunisia	Walid JEBILI, Mathilde Bauwin
86. Energy Subsidy Reform in Egypt: The Gender - "Energy" Poverty Nexus	Fatma El-Hamidi
87. The Effect of Survivors' Benefits on Poverty and Health Indicators of Women and Children in Single-Mother Households: A Turkish Case Study	Oznur Ozdamar, Eleftherios Giovanis
88. Pension payments, social transfers, and income inequality in Turkey: How important is the gender dimension?	Cem Başlevent
89. Ladies and Gentlemen, Microfinance Needs to Consider your Different Social, Risk and Time Preferences: An Experimental Study in Rural Egypt	Mohamed El-Komi
90. Social Protection, Gender, and the Consumption Patterns of the Poor: The Role of NGOs in Poverty Reduction in Iran	Hadi Salehi Esfahani, Roksana Bahramitash
91. Social Protection and Gender in Iran: Assessing the Differential Impact of Social Protection Activities on Female-Headed versus Male-Headed Households	Hadi Salehi Esfahani, Seyed Mohammad Karimi
92. Does Microcredit Reduce Gender Inequality? An Application of Decomposition Analysis to Egypt	Mohamed Arouri, Nguyen Viet Cuong
93. The Impact of the Turkish Employment Subsidy Programs in Increasing the Level of Social Protection for Women	Belgi Turan, Seyit Mumin Cilasun, Binnur Balkan
94. The Economics of Life Course Transitions in the Middle East and North Africa	Ragui Assaad
95. Causal Effects of Morbidity on Labor Supply and Productivity in Turkey	Aysit Tansel, T. Paul Schultz and Ali Berker.
96. Determinants and Impact of Household's Out-Of-Pocket Healthcare Expenditure in Sudan: Evidence from Urban and Rural Population	Ebeidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla & Mohammed Elhaj Mustafa
97. Access to Healthcare, Utilization and Health Outcomes in Turkey	Firat Bilgel and Burhan Can Karahasan
98. Who Pays More: Public, Private, Both or None? The Effects of Health Insurance Schemes and Health Reforms on Out-of-Pocket and Catastrophic Health Expenditures in Turkey	Eleftherios Giovanis and Oznur Ozdamar
99. The link between Health Insurance Schemes, Health Expenditures, Productivity and Living Conditions - Growth of Households in Turkey	Eleftherios Giovanis and Oznur Ozdamar
100. Out of pocket health expenditure and household budget: Evidence from Arab countries	Reham Rizk and Hala Abou Ali
101. Out-of-pocket health expenditures in Turkey in the aftermath of the reforms	Burcay Erus.
Micro datasets	
Household Survey Data	Hala Abou Ali and Christiane Wissa
Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey (JLMPS)	Ragui Assaad and Bassem Shannaq
Tunisia Labor Market panel Survey (TLMPS)	Ragui Assaad

Open Access to Micro Data Initiative

In order to increase quality research using micro data, ERF took the decision to make the collection, harmonization and sharing of all types of *micro data* with researchers one of its pillars. Since then, sustained effort has been made in the

areas of (i) data collection, (ii) data access, and (iii) support to national statistical offices.

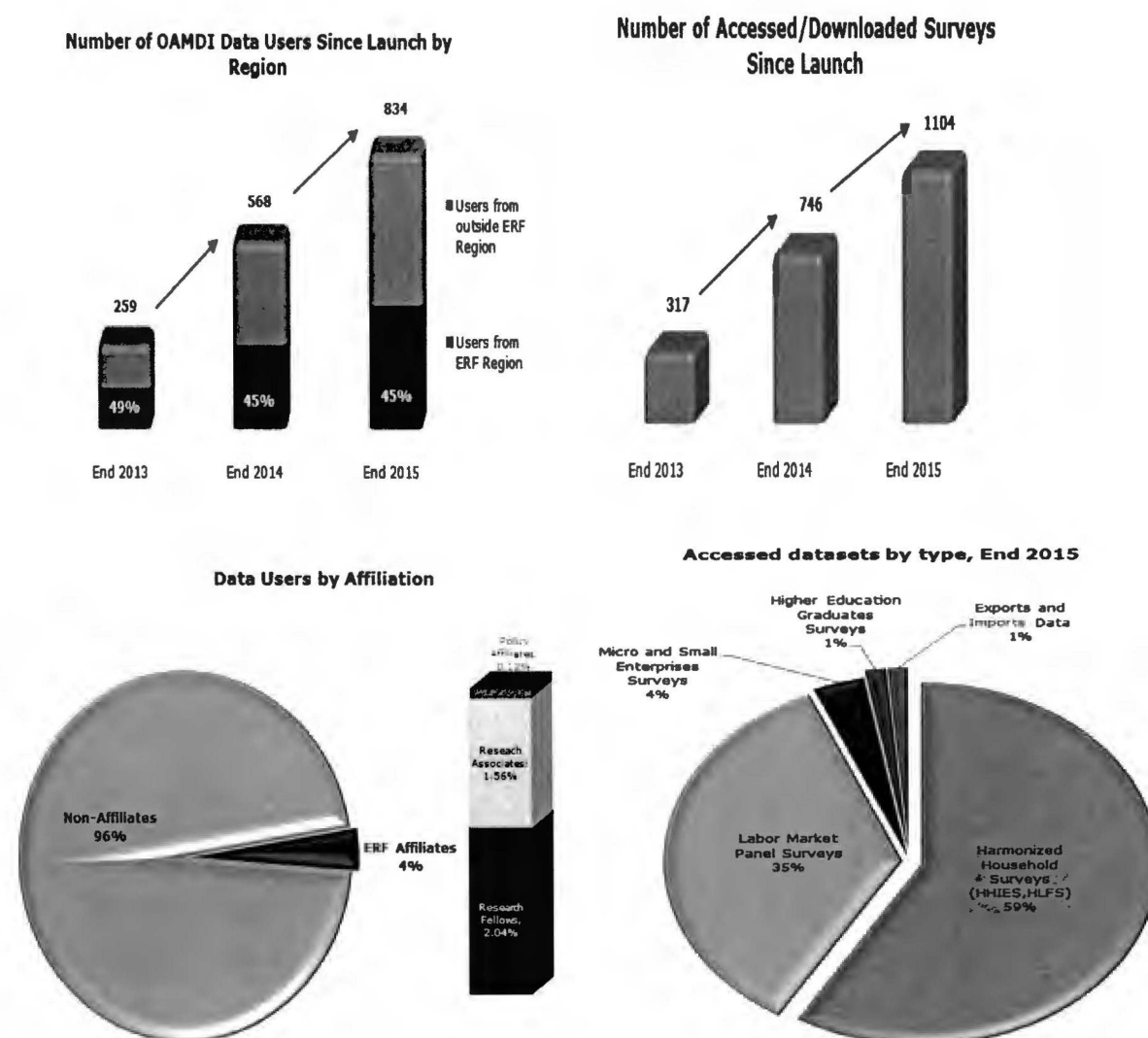
First, *data collection* efforts began in 2009 and intensified over the years. To date, ERF has been able to acquire 37 household income and expenditure surveys (HIES) from 14 Arab countries and 42 labor force surveys (LFS) from 4 Arab countries. In-house data cleaning and harmonization efforts continued vigorously in 2015. ERF has been working to obtain the authorization of statistical agencies to post a harmonized version of these datasets online. To date, 5 Arab countries have signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to that effect, while several others expressed interest in doing so. Today, the ERF data portal holds 45 data sets, of which 22 harmonized HIES (HHIES) from five Arab countries, 8 harmonized LFS (HLFS) from Jordan and Palestine, 4 Labor Market Panel Surveys from Egypt and Jordan, 7 data sets on micro and small enterprises from four countries, 2 higher education graduates surveys in two Arab countries, and 2 firm-level datasets on exports and imports from Egypt.

In parallel, ERF carried out the *Tunisia labor market panel survey (TLMPS)* in cooperation with the Institut National de Statistiques (INS) and the Applied Social Sciences Forum (ASSF). This survey is the fifth in a series that began with the Egypt Labor Market survey in 1998 (followed by two rounds in 2006 and 2012), as well as the Jordanian Labor Market Panel survey of 2010. The TLMPS covers a sample of 5000 households across different Tunisian governorates. It is a multipurpose household survey that inquires about schooling, housing, marriage and employment of individuals among a number of other topics. The data collection process of the TLMPS was completed during the first half of 2015 and is expected to be made available via the ERF data portal in the fall of 2016 after the cleaning and validation processes are completed. In parallel, building on the successful cooperation with the Department of Statistics of Jordan (DOS) in conducting the *Jordan labor market panel survey (JLMPS)* 2010, ERF has started discussion of doing another round of labor market panel surveys in Jordan. The project aims at tracking the change and transformation of the households that were previously interviewed in 2010 on different aspects including but not limited to: work, education, income, marriage, unemployment, and immigration. The new project takes into account a new stratified nationally representative sample of 2,000 households, which over-weights areas with a high concentration of non-Jordanian households. The survey is expected to be conducted between January and August, 2016.

Second, launched in 2013, the *Open Access Micro Data Initiative (OAMDI)* is a unique initiative that provides researchers with free access to several types of micro data. This on-line automated data portal (www.erfdataportal.com) is set up to encourage responsible use of micro data by registered researchers, respecting confidentiality and copyrights of the national statistical agencies. By end of 2015, around 834 users were registered on the online data portal, an impressive rise from the number of 2014. Close to half of them were from the ERF region (45 percent) (figure 3). And since registration is open to all researchers, it is not surprising that non-affiliate researchers accounted 96 percent of those who subscribed to OAMDI.

Moreover, ERF has granted access to 1104 micro datasets (figure 2). Close to 60 percent of the accessed/downloaded data sets were for household surveys (HHIES and HLFS), and 35 percent were for labor market panel surveys (LMPS). These trends confirm the growing trust in OAMDI data quality and credibility.

Figure 2: OAMDI statistics



Moving forward, and complying with ERF and other statistical agencies data confidentiality standards, ERF acquired in 2015 a new online data remote access and analysis system called LISSY. This secure system for remote data access aims at allowing the users to remotely conduct all statistical analyses needed on the surveys data disseminated by ERF, using two of the statistical packages (STATA or SPSS), without having direct physical access to the datasets. The system also includes a tabulator to further serve the researchers' needs. The testing phase of the system internally started in late 2015 and the system is expected to be launched and fully implemented during 2016.

Finally, to harness *the relationship with national statistical offices*, ERF is in regular contact with them. Moreover, ERF offered two training workshops to their staff in 2014 and 2015.

Policy dialogue

A number of activities took place since the launch of this program in 2014. With respect to policy briefs, 3 calls for policy briefs were launched and 3 training workshops were held for the winners, with a view to enhancing their skills in policy communication. In addition, ERF invited several authors to write policy notes, drawing on the work carried out by ERF and published in its working papers series. Moreover, two national dialogues and one development debate were organized.

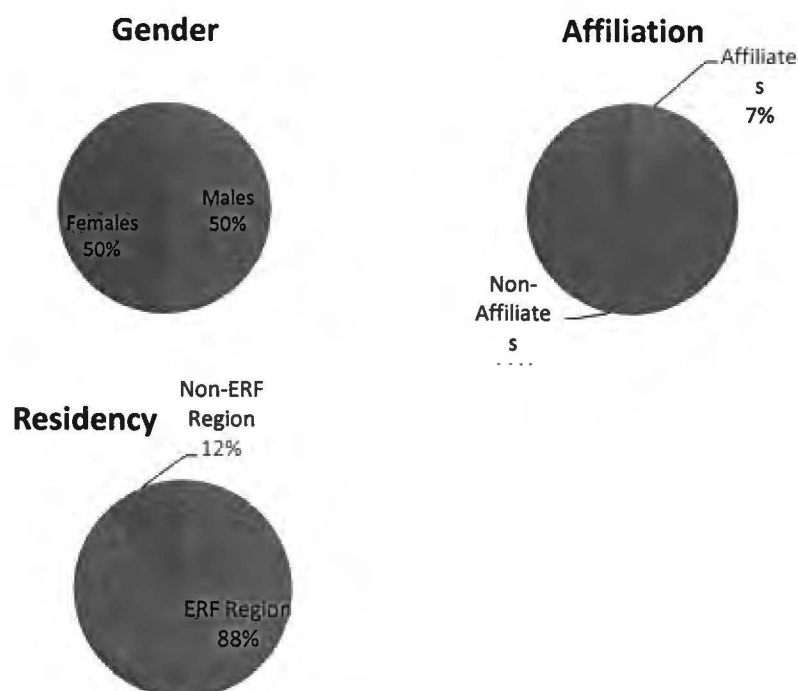
Capacity building activities

The three-year period of the grant witnessed dedicated efforts to enhance the capacity of knowledge creation for researchers in the region. ERF continued to provide researchers with opportunities to acquire new skills and methods and concepts through tailored training workshops as well as participation in international conferences.

Between 2013 and 2015, ERF organized 16 training workshops with the participation of 254 trainees from 24 countries. In essentially all cases, trainees were selected through an open and competitive call for participation on the basis of explicit eligibility criteria, ensuring balanced regional and gender representation. The training also involved the dissemination of the training material on the website for the participants. The feedback received from the trainees has been generally positive.

The majority of participants were non-ERF affiliates (94 percent) and most of them were from the ERF region (75 percent). Gender composition of the participants was also quite balanced.

Figure 3 Characteristics of participants to ERF training workshops



Training workshops

Below is a list of training activities by year

2013

MEASUREMENTS OF INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND INEQUALITY OF OUTCOMES, January 13-15, Cairo, Egypt

As part of its capacity-building activities under the inequality theme, ERF held, for the third year in a row, a training workshop on the Measurement of Inequality of Opportunities. It covered techniques of measuring inequality of income, health and education using a variety of survey data sets from Arab countries. It also covered methods of linking inequality of outcomes to inequalities of circumstances, such as family background, ethnicity, gender, and place of origin.

WRITING EFFECTIVE POLICY BRIEFS, May 27-29, Cairo, Egypt

ERF produces high quality research on a number of policy-relevant development topics of concern to the region. But the challenge remains for researchers to present their technical research findings to a non-specialized audience. The policy brief is one of the effective means for doing that; it is used to reach out to policymakers and a general audience.

By writing a policy brief, the researcher translates technical research into jargon-free and accessible language and makes an effort to derive policy advice from that

research. In order to contribute to bridging the gap between research and policy, ERF organized its first training workshop designed to help researchers write effective policy briefs. The "Most Effective Policy Brief Award" was handed out at the end of the training.

WRITING WINNING RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND PAPERS, September 28-30, Dubai, the United Arab Emirates

ERF continued to provide, for the fifth year in a row, a training workshop to develop researchers' capacity to identify research questions that are both relevant to policy making while contributing to the generation of new knowledge and selecting and adopting a proper analytical methodology to tackle these questions. This year's workshop – which focused on the theme of macroeconomics - brought together ten trainees selected from among tens of researchers who had submitted research proposals for presentation at the ERF 20th Annual Conference scheduled to take place in Cairo, March 22-24, 2014.

SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP II, November 19-20, Cairo, Egypt

This year the ERF staff received their first Situational Leadership II (SLII) training at the ERF premises in Cairo. SLII is a framework for employee development. It teaches leaders to diagnose the needs of an individual or a team and then use the appropriate leadership style to respond to those needs.

ANALYSIS OF PANEL & RETROSPECTIVE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DATA, December 9-11, Cairo, Egypt

This three-day training workshop covered techniques for analyzing panel and retrospective data using data from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Surveys conducted in 1998, 2006 and 2012. Organized for the first time, the training focused on retrospective data, which are data for which there are multiple observations at different points in time for the same individual or information. Retrospective data are essential to analyze change over time.

ADDRESSING EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES IN THE ARAB WORLD: THE ROLE OF MEDIA, December 11-12, Cairo, Egypt

Over the span of two days ERF held its first-ever training workshop for journalists. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of young journalists to write about socioeconomic and development related issues more knowledgeably, specifically the issue of education in the Arab world. A group of 10 journalists from Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia had the opportunity to be trained by distinguished journalists and researchers. The trainees were also given tips on how to turn written pieces into social media-friendly content to extend online outreach. This workshop falls within the framework of ERF's recognition that good media coverage is one of the tools to inform the policy debate as well as to establish the connection between research and policy making.

2014

MACRO-ECONOMETRIC MODELING WITH A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE *August 10-12, Cairo, Egypt*

Over the span of three days, ERF organized a training workshop, led by Alaa El-Shazly and Kamiar Mohaddes, covering different techniques used in time series macro-econometrics covering VARX* and Global VAR (GVAR) models for some 20 participants from the MENA region. The workshop covered basic time series models, such as Vector Auto-Regressive (VAR) models and more advanced techniques such as Global VAR (GVAR) modeling and its empirical applications. This approach has proven useful in analyzing interactions in the global macro-economy and other data networks where both the cross-section and the time dimensions are large.

WRITING WINNING RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND PAPERS *September 28-29, Tunis, Tunisia*

This workshop typically helps researchers develop proposals that ask policy relevant questions, while ensuring that these proposals are implemented using rigorous techniques. The training, facilitated by Atif Kubursi, brought together 12 young researchers and focused on microeconomics.

TRAINING FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES STAFF *December 5-7, Cairo, Egypt*

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Egyptian Official Statistics and the 50th anniversary of the foundation of CAPMAS, ERF in partnership with CAPMAS organized two workshops for 50 participants from the National Statistical Agencies of the Arab countries. The first training focused on Sampling, Data Collection and Dissemination, the second on Statistical Analysis of Panel Data. These workshops are part of the capacity-building activities under the micro data sets program.

WRITING POLICY BRIEFS *December 7-8, Cairo, Egypt*

Researchers can play an instrumental role in informing the policy process. In recognition of this valuable role, ERF organized a two day Writing Policy Briefs workshop for 20 researchers from the region. Facilitated by Ishac Diwan, the workshop featured sessions on What Policy Makers Look For in a Policy Brief; Planning, Writing and Checking a Policy Brief; and Visual Aids and Tips for an Effective Policy Brief. Sessions were convened for providing peer review and the workshop concluded with the announcement of the Most Effective Policy Brief Award. This workshop is part of the capacity-building activities under the policy dialogue program.

2015

MEASUREMENTS AND ANALYSIS OF OPINION POLL DATA, *May 10-12, Cairo, Egypt*

In collaboration with the World Values Survey (WVS), this workshop focused on the analysis of opinion polls data for some 15 participants from the MENA region. This

workshop was led by Bi Puranen (WVS), Eduard Ponarin (WVS), Irina Vartanova (Saint Petersburg Higher School of Economics), Mohamed Al Ississ (AUC) and Ishac Diwan (Paris Dauphine University and ERF). Using opinion polls data from the sixth wave of World Values Survey, participants were trained to test theories related to attitudes to gender equality, civic action, democracy and human security, and economic policies preferences. Lectures on econometric methods were combined with a selected review of the economic, political science, and sociological literatures that use opinion polls to empirically test these theories.

ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL TIME SERIES, August 9-11, Cairo, Egypt

Over a three-day span, ERF sponsored the participation of 18 participants from the ERF region to benefit from a hands-on training workshop on econometric methods used in financial economics such as CAPM, volatility modelling, and risk measurement, for the analysis of financial time. The workshop was led by Mahmoud El-Gamal (Rice University and ERF) and Diaa Noureldin (AUC and ERF). Participants were encouraged to write a paper to make use of the newly acquired methods using a dataset of their choice. The papers, to be delivered 6 months after the workshop, would be subject to a refereeing process, and published in the ERF Working Paper Series if approved.

TRAINING FOR NATIONAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES STAFF October 17-19, Cairo, Egypt

In partnership with CAPMAS, ERF organized a three-day training workshop for 30 participants from the National Statistical Offices of different Arab countries. The training, which was led by a number of survey experts, focused on methods of data collection and statistical analysis of economic census data. The workshop was part of ERF's capacity-building activities under its Open Access Data Initiative (OAMDI).

WRITING WINNING RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND PAPERS November 26-27, Cairo, Egypt

For the 6th successive year, ERF selected 9 young researchers from among tens of researchers who had submitted research proposals for the ERF's 22nd Annual Conference to attend a workshop on "writing winning research proposals". This year's workshop, led by Hadi Esfahani, focused on the theme of "institutions". It provided participants with a unique opportunity to enhance their capacity to identify specific and novel research questions, select an appropriate methodology and conduct policy relevant research.

WRITING POLICY BRIEFS December 8-9, Cairo, Egypt

In order to bridge the gap between research and policy, ERF organized a two day workshop for 10 researchers from across the region. Led by Mustapha Nabli and Romesh Vaitilingam, this workshop featured multiple sessions on translating technical research into jargon-free accessible language and deriving policy advice from that research. Participants were engaged in a competition and the best policy briefs were celebrated.

Participation in international conferences

In addition, ERF supported the participation of 26 young researchers either to the GDN annual global development conference (Manila in 2013, Accra in 2014 and Casablanca in 2015) or the MEEA meetings held in the USA.

Communications and Outreach

In order to disseminate research findings to a wide and diverse audience, ERF organized multiple events between 2013 and 2015 including 33 meetings/events including 6 conferences, 14 workshops, 3 policy seminars, 3 national dialogues, one expert group meeting, one book tour as well as co-organized 4 sessions with other partners. On average, the events annually attract around 600 participants from the research and policy communities, out of which a third attend ERF's annual conference. A number of dissemination activities took place under the *gender theme*, ERF around one conference on "Gender Equality and Development in the MENA region" and 2 workshops on "Women Economic Empowerment in the ERF region" (hosted by the Middle East Center of the London School of Economics and Political Sciences in 2013) and another on "Gender and Social Protection Policies in the MENA Region" in 2015.

The tables below show the events by year.

ERF Events in 2013, Location and Date

	Event	Venue	Date
1	Seminar on Egypt's Economy: Swift Solutions to Counter Pressing Challenges	Cairo, Egypt	January 2
2	Presentation on Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty	Beirut, Cairo, Alexandria and Tunis	January 14 – 26
3	ERF 19th Annual Conference	AFESD, Kuwait	March 3-5
4	Parallel Session at GDN's 14th Annual Conference Inequality of opportunity and outcomes in the Arab Region	Manila, Philippine	June 19-21
5	Workshop on the Political Economy of Transformation in the ERF Region	Tunis, Tunisia	October 27-28
6	The Middle East Centre of the London School of Economics hosted ERF Workshop on "Women Economic Empowerment"	London, UK	November 29
7	The Egyptian Labor Market in a Revolutionary Era: Results from the 2012 Survey	Cairo, Egypt	December 7-8
8	ERF Workshop on Incentives for Better Quality Higher Education in Egypt and Jordan	Cairo, Egypt	December 12
9	Second Expert Group Meeting on "Sharing Micro Data in the ERF Region: Investing Into the Research Infrastructure of the Future "	Tunis, Tunisia	December 20

ERF Events in 2014, Location and Date

	Event	Venue	Date
1	ERF's 20 th Annual Conference.	Cairo, Egypt	March 22-24

2	Pre-conference Seminar on "Firm-Level Export Diversification in the ERF Region."	Cairo, Egypt	March 21
3	Workshop on "The pulse of the Arab Streets."	Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA	April 3-4, 2014
4	Workshop on "The Impact of Labor Market Regulations and Institutions on Labor Market Performance and Outcomes."	Cairo, Egypt	May 25, 2014
5	Seminar on "The Jordanian and Egyptian Labor Markets in a New Era."	Amman, Jordan	June 5, 2014
6	ERF's Policy Sessions Roster at the IEA 2014.	Amman, Jordan	June 6-10, 2014
7	Barriers to Structural Transformation in North Africa: An ERF Parallel Session at GDN's 15th Annual Conference.	Accra, Ghana	June 18-20, 2014
8	Workshop on "The Economics of Informality in the ERF Region."	Cairo, Egypt	August 31, 2014
9	Workshop on "The pulse of the Arab Streets."	Paris, France	October 11-12, 2014
10	Monetary and Fiscal Institutions and Macroeconomic Management in Resource-rich Arab Economies.	Cairo, Egypt	October 25-26, 2014
11	National Debate/ Media Seminar on: Future Egypt,	Ain Sukhna, Egypt	November 14-16, 2014,
12	Growth or equity: which comes first?	Cairo, Egypt	December 10, 2014

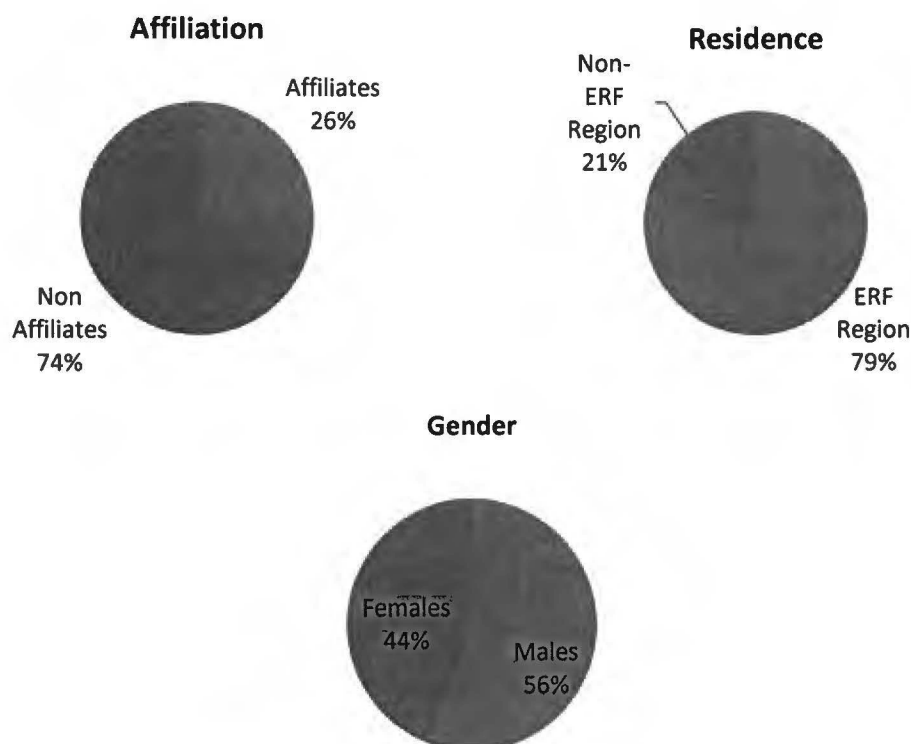
ERF Events in 2015, Location and Date

	Event	Venue	Date
1	ERF's 21st Annual Conference "Democracy and Economic Development"	Tunis, Tunisia	March 20-22
2	Workshop on Private Sector Dynamism in MENA	Oxford, United Kingdom	June 5-6
3	Session on "Rural Development in The Middle east and North Africa"	Casablanca, Morocco	June 11-13
4	Workshop on Structural Transformation in Selected South-Med Countries	Madrid, Spain	July 3
5	Education in the ERF Region	Cairo, Egypt	July 26
6	Labor Market Dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa	Cairo, Egypt	July 27
7	the Use of Labor Market Panel Survey Data	Cairo, Egypt	July 28
8	Egypt National Dialogue: Between Political Reform and Economic Development...Egypt the Future	Cairo, Egypt	September 30
9	ERF workshop on "Gender and Social Protection Policies in the MENA Region"	Cairo, Egypt	23 October
10	Conference on Gender Equality in the MENA Region	Cairo, Egypt	October 24-25
11	Monetary and Fiscal Institutions in Resource-Rich Arab Economies	Kuwait City, Kuwait	November 4-5

Participation

Over the past 3 years, ERF sponsored the participation of around 1710 participants to different (non-capacity building) events, out of which 522 attended the Annual Conference. Participation in the ERF events is fairly open to everyone. Most participants were non-affiliates of ERF (74 percent) and were from the ERF region (79 percent). Female participation accounted for 44 percent (figure 4). On average, the *gender* events annually attract 126 participants from the research and policy communities. Female participation accounted for 67 percent.

Figure 4 Characteristics of participants to ERF non-capacity-building events



Description

Between 2013 and 2015, ERF organized 33 meetings/events including 6 conferences, 14 workshops, 3 policy seminars, 3 national dialogues, one expert group meeting, one book tour as well as co-organized 4 sessions with other partners). This section provides a description of each of the events held by year.

ERF'S ANNUAL CONFERENCES (2013-2015)

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference, a tradition maintained since 1995, has become a unique vehicle for networking among economists from the region and outside of it. Three Annual Conferences were organized since 2013. The conference in 2014 was very special as it marked the 20th anniversary of ERF. Respectively, the themes of ERF's Annual Conferences were "Economic Development and the Rise of Islamist Parties" (2013), "Economic Development and

Social Justice" (2014) and "Democracy and Economic Development" (2015). The conference provided a platform for over 200 economists from the region and abroad to discuss topical issues in economic development. In addition to the plenary sessions, there were six parallel sessions, involving the presentation of almost 60 papers under the themes of: institutional economics, finance, macroeconomics, international economics, labor and human development and microeconomics. Parallel session papers were selected on the basis of a rigorous refereeing process in response to an open call for papers, hence their diversity. The closing session celebrated the six winners of the Best Paper Award.

Economic Development and the Rise of Islamist Parties was the theme of ERF's 19th Annual Conference in 2013. The choice of theme was especially timely given that Islamic parties had ridden the ballot boxes into power and had assumed the socioeconomic responsibilities. It was opportune to examine the current economic development under these parties. Having various Islamist parties in different countries raised differing questions around their historical context, capacity to rule and the likelihood of smoothly navigating through a transitional period. The first plenary addressed "The Causes of the Arab Uprisings and the Rationale for the Rise of Islamist Parties to Power." The second plenary session looked at Comparative Economic Performance in Islamist-Governed Countries. The final plenary session presented the Outlook and Possible Scenarios.

The 2014's Annual Conference was particularly special, as it marked ERF's 20th anniversary. The conference was held under **the theme of Economic Development and Social Justice** - a timely topic in light of the significant political transformations in the region. The first plenary session entitled Alternative Perspectives on Social Justice examined how the understanding of social justice has evolved over time. The second plenary session, titled Models of Social Justice, examined contemporary experiences around the world, with respect to the extent to which countries and societies were able to achieve social justice and how this goal was achieved. The final plenary session, titled Lessons for the Arab Countries in Transition, drew on accumulated knowledge and experiences to offer lessons to Arab countries in transition on their quest for greater social justice.

The 2015's Annual Conference "Democracy and Economic Development" was held in collaboration with the Tunisian Economic Association. Plenary sessions included high-profile and distinguished speakers from multiple disciplines. The first plenary discussed "The Relationship between Democracy and Development." As for the second plenary, the different forms of democracy and development were addressed. And the third plenary examined the experiences of countries that went through democratic transitions to draw lessons for the Arab countries currently navigating their own transitions

Besides the plenary sessions two special sessions showcased the work carried out by ERF on the themes of "Transition in the Arab World" and "Inequality in the Arab World."

OTHER EVENTS

2013

Conferences

THE EGYPTIAN LABOR MARKET IN A REVOLUTIONARY ERA: RESULTS FROM THE 2012 SURVEY, December 7-8, Cairo, Egypt

Based on the data collected under the Egyptian Labor Market Panel Surveys (ELMPS) 2012, ERF had initiated a structured research project that aims at providing a detailed understanding of how political instability and challenging economic conditions have affected the performance of the Egyptian labor market. The work addressed multiple aspects of the labor market including the structure and evolution of main trends, female participation, youth unemployment and aspirations, labor market dynamics, labor market earnings, the contribution of MSEs to employment and income generation, and international migration, among others.

Workshops

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRANSFORMATION IN THE ERF REGION, October 27-28, Tunis, Tunisia

A workshop on The Political Economy of Transformation in the ERF Region was held to discuss the outcome of the 13th Round of the Regional Research Competition supported by the Global Development Network (GDN). The selected papers tackled a multitude of issues that should provide a better understanding of how a few powerful groups, be they the local rulers and their crony capitalists, or foreign colonialists driven by their geopolitical interests in the region, have interacted to shape political and economic outcomes. The papers also explored the impact of domestic politics on fiscal decentralization and fiscal accountability and the impact of authoritarianism on governance outcomes. Moreover, the economic policies of transitional governments, which have mainly been of Islamist inclinations, are also assessed in the papers. The workshop was followed by a policy seminar on "The Performance of the Tunisian Economy in light of the Ongoing Political Transformations". The Seminar also looked into the reforms needed to enhance growth, improved public services, and inclusion.

WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, November 29, London, UK

The Middle East Center of the London School of Economics hosted an ERF workshop on Women Economic Empowerment on November 29, 2013 on its premises in London. The workshop provided a forum for researchers to disseminate the preliminary results of the seven proposals that have been selected under an ERF competitive call for papers. The workshop is part of an ERF research project on *women economic empowerment* funded by an International Development and Research Center (IDRC) grant.

INCENTIVES FOR BETTER QUALITY HIGHER EDUCATION IN EGYPT AND JORDAN, December 12, Cairo, Egypt

Building on ERF's previous work on financing higher education and in continuation of its partnership with the Ford Foundation, the objective of this workshop was to share and discuss the findings of a number of research studies that were carried out based on surveys tracking graduates from the business and information technology schools into the labor market in both Egypt and Jordan. The papers attempted to explain variations in the performance of the graduates in the labor market in light of information about the institutional framework governing higher education in different types of higher education institutions in both countries.

PARALLEL SESSION AT GDN'S 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND OUTCOMES IN THE ARAB REGION, June 19-21, Manila, Philippine

ERF's parallel session is a tradition that started since it partnered with GDN. In 2013, ERF organized a parallel session at the GDN's 14th Annual Global Development Conference on Inequality, Social Protection and Inclusive Growth. The session was an opportunity to bring together global as well as regional perspectives on inequality. Moderated by Ahmed Galal, ERF Managing Director, the session addressed the different aspects of inequality in the region. Different perspectives were delivered by a distinguished panel which included Francois Bourguignon from the Paris School of Economics, Mustapha Nabli, Former Governor of Central Bank of Tunisia, and Rana Hendy from ERF.

Other

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON EGYPT'S ECONOMY: SWIFT SOLUTIONS TO COUNTER PRESSING CHALLENGES January 2, Cairo, Egypt

ERF hosted a national dialogue to help define some of Egypt's pressing economic challenges and discuss possible solutions. The dialogue was part of a government initiative on the "National Dialogue for Economic Development" aiming to sound out the opinions of various stakeholders on the problems faced by the Egyptian economy. The event attracted a large and diverse crowd: government officials, economists and experts who were representatives of various ideologies and economic sectors. It also included members of the media, public figures and civil society representatives. The parties involved in the initiative then submitted their recommendations to the government.

BOOK TOUR ON WHY NATIONS FAIL: THE ORIGINS OF POWER, PROSPERITY AND POVERTY January 14 – 26, in Beirut, Cairo, Alexandria and Tunis

In light of the region's economic and political challenges, ERF in cooperation with the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS) and Alexandria University, organized Seminars in four cities in the region for Harvard Professor James Robinson on his recent book "Why Nations Fail? The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty". The seminars took place in Lebanon between January 14 and 16, in Cairo and Alexandria between January 20 to 22 and in Tunis from January 23 to 26. Written jointly with Daron Acemoglu, economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, this groundbreaking book attempts to answer the question that has kept experts guessing for centuries:

Why are some nations rich and others poor, divided by wealth and poverty? The Seminars featured the presentation of the book by James Robinson followed by discussions with experts and scholars, in addition to wide media coverage and press interviews.

SECOND EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON "SHARING MICRO DATA IN THE ERF REGION: INVESTING INTO THE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE FUTURE" December 20, Tunis, Tunisia

Capitalizing on its know-how in data collection and harmonization, ERF held an Expert Group Meeting on Sharing Micro Data in the ERF Region: Investing into the Research Infrastructure of the Future. The meeting, organized in partnership with the Higher School of Economic and Commercial Sciences (ESSECT), University of Tunis, brought together around 30 representatives of statistical offices from around the region. The expert group meeting has several objectives: (i) promote cooperation and foster relationships between National Statistical Offices and the research community in the ERF region, (ii) encourage more statistical offices to participate in ERF's data initiative, (iii) showcase ERF recent efforts in data harmonization and OAMDI's impressive progress to date, and (iv) provide a platform to stimulate the exchange of good practices among national statistical offices in data access and sharing especially in the context of preserving user confidentiality and maintaining the integrity of statistical systems and legal requirements.

2014

WORKSHOPS

THE PULSE OF THE ARAB STREETS April 3-4, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

In collaboration with the Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, the purpose of this workshop was to discuss the draft papers of the project on *The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Novel Public Opinion Data* and provide a platform for the discussion of the draft papers among experts in order to improve the final output.

THE IMPACT OF LABOR MARKET REGULATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS ON LABOR MARKET PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOMES May 25, Cairo, Egypt

ERF organized a workshop to discuss the preliminary findings of the draft papers on labor market regulations and institutions. The papers covered several issues, such as the impact of labor market regulations on informality, employment, and gender and labor market dynamics. These papers were the outcome of a call for papers in the context of ERF's research agenda on labor markets and human resource development.

THE ECONOMICS OF INFORMALITY IN THE ERF REGION, August 31, Cairo, Egypt

On August 31, 2014, ERF held a workshop on the Economics of Informality in the ERF Region. The workshop came as part of the 14th Round of the Regional Research Competition, supported by the Global Development Network (GDN). In its closing, the workshop featured a policy panel to discuss the set of policies that can enable the region to move from informality to formality, and the way to implement policies, rules and regulations to promote formalization.

THE PULSE OF THE ARAB STREETS, October 11-12, Paris, France

In collaboration with the Universite Paris Dauphine and the International Research Network (GDRI) of the CNRS (National Center For Scientific Research), this workshop served to present the final papers of the project on The pulse of the Arab Street: Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings Using Novel Public Opinion Data research papers. The meeting, led by Ishac Diwan, provided a platform for the discussion of the papers by a select group of researchers and international experts.

MONETARY AND FISCAL INSTITUTIONS, October 25-26, Cairo, Egypt

Building on findings from a previous phase of research on the implications of oil wealth on growth and macroeconomic policies under the theme of natural resources and economic diversification, ERF initiated two projects on Institutions and Macroeconomic Management in Resource-rich Arab Economies. The two projects cover the Institutional Requirements for Optimal Monetary Policy in the Resource-Dependent Arab Economies, and Fiscal Institutions and macroeconomic Management in Resource- Rich Arab Economies. The purpose of this workshop was for authors to receive feedback on the first drafts of their research.

ERF'S POLICY SESSIONS ROSTER AT THE IEA 2014, June 6-10, Dead Sea, Jordan

In a unique regional event, ERF partnered with the International Economic Association (IEA), the Colombia Global Centers (Amman), as well as a number of prestigious institutions to organize IEA's 17th World Congress in Jordan. ERF had the privilege of organizing two high-level policy seminars and two policy sessions, which were brought together regional and international researchers and policy-makers. The dilemma of subsidy reform and Equity in MENA was the topic of the first high-level policy seminar that took place as part of the opening ceremony. The second was on The Challenges and Dilemmas of Policy Making after the Arab Spring. The seminar raised the issue of government responses to the emerging challenges in the post-Arab-Spring to achieve secure social stability. The other two policy sessions covered The Political Economy of Change in the Middle East and Inequality of Opportunity in the Middle East.

BARRIERS TO STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN NORTH AFRICA, June 18-20, Accra, Ghana

ERF organized a parallel session at GDN's 15th Annual Conference that took place in Accra, June 18-20, 2014. The theme of the conference was "Structural Transformation in Africa and Beyond", an issue of relevance to the ERF region. ERF's session attempted to explain the reasons behind the disappointing structural transformation outcomes in the region and the extent to which overvaluation has hindered firm-level exports in North African economies during the last few decades. Moreover, the session attempted to highlight how politics has shaped industrial policy outcomes and how crony alliances have contributed to promoting economic and social exclusion.

Other events

POLICY SEMINAR ON FIRM-LEVEL EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION IN THE ERF REGION, March 21, Cairo, Egypt

ERF organized a policy Seminar on Firm-Level Export Diversification in the ERF Region on March 21, 2014, in Cairo, Egypt. The seminar disseminated the findings of a joint project between the ER and the World Bank aimed at uncovering the characteristics of exporters in the MENA region and constraints on export growth while also answering the questions of how firms start exporting, how they tap new markets, and how they develop new products. The seminar joined a number of stakeholders from different countries in the region that are covered by the research as well as other researchers and experts on the topic.

JORDANIAN AND EGYPTIAN LABOR MARKETS IN A NEW ERA, June 5, Amman, Jordan

ERF held a seminar on the Jordanian and Egyptian Labor Markets in a New Era, in celebration of the launch of the Jordanian Labor Market in the New Millennium book published by Oxford University Press. The seminar comparatively tackled cross-cutting issues in both the Jordanian and Egyptian Labor markets, including: labor market structure and dynamics in the two countries; gender issues in the labor market, a comparison of job accession, separation and mobility; and a comparison of labor supply and the role of the youth bulge.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON: EGYPT'S FUTURE, November 14-16, Ain Sukhna, Egypt

ERF convened a three-day national dialogue, covering socio-economic and political issues of concern, to discuss and debate Egypt's future over seven sessions. More than 50 prominent politicians, intellectuals and media figures took part in the deliberations. Among the questions addressed were: Where is Egypt heading? What next, especially that we now see tangible levels of security and stability, with the passing of the constitution, the election of the president and the soon to be held parliamentary elections? What are Egyptians thinking of? Where are development projects and reforms taking us? How can social justice be achieved? More importantly, how can we revamp the archaic educational system? And how can we transform Egyptian media into a constructive societal actor? The event was organized in cooperation with the Economic Editors Division of the Press Syndicate, and attracted extensive media coverage.

DEVELOPMENT DEBATE ON GROWTH OR EQUITY: WHICH SHOULD COME FIRST?
December 10, Cairo, Egypt

Keeping in tune with changing economic thought on development strategies and policies, ERF organized a live debate on: Which Should Come First, Growth or Equity? The debate took place on December 10, 2014, in Cairo and was organized in collaboration with the IDRC. To advance this public policy debate, two teams of debaters argued for and against the motion: The Economics of Growth is a More Urgent Priority than the Politics of Equity. The audience voted at both the start and the end of the debate. Prior to the debate, 33.3% voted that growth should precede equity, while 53.9% voted against. By the end of the debate, 42% voted for growth, while 52% believed that equity was more important.

2015

Conferences

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MENA REGION *October 24-25, Cairo, Egypt*

In cooperation with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), ERF held a conference on women's social and economic empowerment in the Arab World. The event was meant to inform policymakers about the significant political and economic disadvantages women in the region face. Over six sessions and a panel discussion, key international experts, regional academics, policy leaders and the media discussed and debated ways to overcome the main obstacles preventing the full participation of women in the region. Topics included ways to narrow down the gender gap and discrimination against women; women's empowerment within the household and in the labor market; women entrepreneurship; gender and social protection policies, and stereotypes surrounding the relationship between gender, religion and politics.

MONETARY AND FISCAL INSTITUTIONS IN RESOURCE-RICH ARAB ECONOMIES *November 4-5, Kuwait City, Kuwait*

This conference was held in collaboration with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. It was intended to address the challenges facing macroeconomic institutions in oil-rich Arab countries, particularly those responsible for monetary and fiscal policies. More than 50 participants from the region and abroad examined the prospects and policy options for achieving fiscal and monetary stability in oil-rich Arab countries. Over five sessions and a panel discussion, experts tried to understand the rules and procedures governing fiscal and monetary policies in these countries, the degree of their independence and the nature of interaction between fiscal and monetary institutions, and the influence of politics on both.

Workshops

PRIVATE SECTOR DYNAMISM IN MENA *Oxford, United Kingdom, June 5-6*

In collaboration with the University of Oxford, ERF organized a workshop to discuss the first drafts of the research papers accepted under the "*Political Economy Determinants of Private Sector Dynamism in the ERF Region*" call for proposals. This project was designed to explore the dynamic relationship between the private sector and political economy framework of various countries in MENA and to assess the economic effects of insider influence, corruption and other forms of rent-seeking. The workshop convened a number of experts in political economy.

STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN SELECTED SOUTH-MED COUNTRIES *Madrid, Spain, July 3*

ERF, in collaboration with FEMISE, organized a policy Seminar on Structural Transformation in Selected South-Med Countries. The seminar examined the experiences of Euromed countries on the road to structural transformation and the underlying factors for success or failure, including the role of the state. This seminar was intended to disseminate the findings of a research project conducted by ERF, commissioned by FEMISE and funded by the European Investment Bank (EIB), focusing on Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. The ultimate objective of the seminar was to identify the conditions under which industrial policy works, with a particular focus on the Euromed region.

EDUCATION IN THE ERF REGION *Cairo, Egypt, July 26*

ERF organized this workshop to discuss the 6 draft papers, which were accepted in the context of the 15th round of the ERF-GDN Regional Research Competition. The papers covered different angles of education in the ERF Region, including incentives, educational attainment, spending and returns to education and gender. The objective of the workshop was to provide feedback to authors, and was accordingly attended by expert discussants as well as a highly engaged and interested audience.

LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA *Cairo, Egypt, July 27*

This workshop served as a platform for discussing the first drafts of the six papers generated under a structured research project on "Labor Market Dynamics in MENA". The project capitalizes on the Labor Market Panel Surveys (LMPS) made available by the ERF, to identify the underlying strengths and weaknesses of the labor market, and to understand what policies could promote greater dynamism in the labor market. The project was designed to cover a variety of topics including employment and unemployment dynamics, informality, migration and household enterprise dynamics. The workshop brought together a number of expert discussants as well as a number of select participants.

THE USE OF LABOR MARKET PANEL SURVEY DATA *Cairo, Egypt, July 28*

Building on its wealth of labor market panel data collected from the various rounds of the Labor Market Panel Surveys (LMPSs), ERF launched an open call for

proposals titled inviting researchers from the ERF region to submit original research proposals addressing research questions which require the use of the available Labor Market Panel Surveys data. This workshop served as a platform for discussing the first drafts of the 6 papers generated under this project. The papers tackled a variety of issues, including migration, labor mobility and female participation in the labor market.

GENDER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES IN THE MENA REGION *23 October, Cairo*

The objective of the workshop was to provide a platform for discussing the first drafts of eight papers generated under a joint ERF-IDRC project on gender. The papers covered a variety of topics, including subsidy reforms, microfinance, income inequality, poverty and households' wealth. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the findings with experts with a view to receiving feedback to improve the final output. The workshop, which involved around 25-30 participants, was also intended to promote the interaction between researchers with interest in the topic.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA *Casablanca, Morocco, June 11-13*

ERF organized a parallel session at GDN's 16th Annual Conference on "Agriculture for Sustainable Growth: Challenges and Opportunities for a New 'Green Revolution'". The session attempted to highlight some of the critical aspects of the rural development challenges facing MENA countries. In this context, the speakers sized up the magnitude of poverty in rural areas, assessed past policies targeting the alleviation of poverty, explored the extent to which water scarcity, and analyzed the underlying causes of rural-urban migration.

OTHER

EGYPT NATIONAL DIALOGUE: BETWEEN POLITICAL REFORM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT...EGYPT THE FUTURE *September 30, Cairo*

ERF held a national dialogue on September 30, 2015 under the title "Between Political Reform and Economic Development...Egypt the Future". Renowned economists, political scientists, policy makers and journalists attended the dialogue to debate the nature of the relationship between economic development and political reform. The discussion came at a time when Egypt was about to hold its much anticipated parliamentary election - the third and final step of the political roadmap set forth after the June 30 uprising - making the need to clarify the relationship between political reform and economic development all the more pressing.

Website

ERF has launched a new website, introducing a revamped, more accessible interface that allows easier and smoother access to ERF's activities. The new website boast a user-friendly design with enhanced search functionality, allowing you to efficiently search our entire database and easy filter results. We have also

added a new section named In the News where you can see media coverage of all things affiliated with ERF. Moreover, the new website has a new Gallery section where you can watch videos and view photos of all ERF events. Finally, we have integrated ERF's blog into the website and it is now easily accessible on the home page. The new website is still in its Beta version and over the next few months you can expect further additions. Most notably, we intend to fully integrate our Data Portal in the coming months.

We believe that ERF's processes have contributed to the success of both the *management and implementation of the project*. The main pillars on which the ERF's process has been built are transparency and quality. On the one hand, ERF strives to maintain an open and competitive process for research grants and participation to capacity-building events. The thematic focus of ERF research work was conceived through wide consultations. Dissemination was carried out through multiple channels, including mega conferences, seminars and workshops. On the other hand, ERF has put more emphasis on research quality for selective research programs, mainly through a thorough research process for all submitted proposals and mentoring and systematic feedback mechanisms once the project is launched through workshop and discussion. In addition, the quality control begins at the project conception stage. ERF requires that the project's concept note was clear at the outset in terms of identifying the research questions, the modalities that will be used and the target audience.

Last but not least, it is important to point out that the management of this particular grant saw an in-depth interaction with the IDRC grant administrator and IDRC experts. This collaboration proved to be beneficial for both sides in terms of building trust, exchange of information and feedback and overall effective communication.

V. Project Outputs

Over the past 3 years, ERF's research projects led to the production of several output, including 232 working papers, 12 policy perspectives, 6 policy briefs, 3 volumes manuscripts by international publishers, in addition to 7 editions of the ERF journal MEDJ and 6 Forum newsletters (table 2). A full listing of publications is present in annexes III (for working papers), IV (for policy perspectives and briefs) and V (for edited volumes). It is worthwhile that many of the completed research work in 2015 will appear in the working papers' series in 2016.

Table 2: ERF Publications from FY 2007 to FY 2015

Type of Publication/Year	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Working Papers	23	76	72	78	85	80	80	76	76
Forum Newsletter	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Policy Research Reports	-	2	2	3	0	2	0	0	0

Policy Perspective	-	2	-	2	2	3	5	3	4
Policy Briefs									6
MEDJ	-	-	1	2	2	2	3	2	2
Volumes	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1

* FY 2010 covers 16 months (September 1, 2009-December 31, 2010).

Volumes

Over the past 3 years, ERF published 3 edited volumes with international publishers. In 2013, an edited volume on *Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprising* edited by Ishac Diwan was published by World Scientific Press. This volume examined the reasons behind the uprisings, how democratic transitions transpire, the role of Arab capitalism in the crises, and how the experiences of other countries such as Indonesia, Turkey and Iran, can forecast where these uprisings may lead the Middle East in the years to come.

In 2014, another volume on *The Jordanian Labor Market in the New Millennium* edited by Ragui Assaad was published by Oxford University Press. The volume analyses the results of the Jordan Labour Market Panel Survey of 2010 (JLMPS 2010) carried out in Jordan in the first quarter of 2010. The JLMPS 2010 is part of a series of surveys carried out by the Economic Research Forum to study Arab labour markets, all of which are designed as longitudinal surveys that track respondents over a number of years. The book fills an enormous gap in knowledge about labour market conditions in Jordan, on which there is little published in any language. The chapters of the book cover topics including the pace of job creation and employment growth, the persistence of high youth unemployment despite fairly healthy economic growth, the co-existence of in-migration, high unemployment, and out-migration, the very low and stagnant female participation rates despite rapid increases in educational attainment and delayed marriage among Jordanian women, and the unusually early retirement among prime-age male workers.

In 2015, the first edition of *The Egyptian Labor Market in an Era of Revolution* volume was published by Oxford University Press. The volume edited by Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft provides fresh insights into the Egyptian labor market in the wake of the January 2011 revolution. Drawing on a new Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS 2012), the authors tackle a wide range of issues, including the persistence of high youth unemployment, labor market segmentation and rigidity, growing informality and the declining role of the state as an employer. They also explore the impact of the economic difficulties associated with the revolution, especially in terms of adjustments to earnings, job insecurity, female labor force participation and the stagnation of micro and small enterprises.

In addition, ERF's research work on *Understanding and Avoiding the Oil Curse in the Arab World* is being prepared for printing by Cambridge University Press. In this edited volume, leading economists in the field of natural-resource economics offer a

variety of analytical perspectives and fresh insight on the question of how resource-dependent Arab countries can best exploit their oil revenues and avoid the oil curse, especially, once oil is exhausted. The volume is expected to be released in April 2016.

As a follow-up to ERF's participation to the International Economic Association (IEA)'s congress in Jordan in 2014, Ahmed Galal and Ishac Diwan were invited by the former IEA president, Joseph Stiglitz, to edit a volume on *Middle East Economies in Times of Transition*. As editors, they asked a distinguished group of authors to contribute to the volume, which will offer new insights on some of the key challenges facing the region at this critical juncture of its history. The main topics covered include economic growth and structural transformation, inequality, natural resources, and political transitions. The volume is expected to come out early 2016 and will be published by Palgrave.

ERF Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ)

The Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) was established six years ago with the goal of providing a solid analytical and empirical base for the promotion of sound policy-making to tackle the challenges facing the region. In 2015, Taylor & Francis and Routledge continued their production of the journal. The journal, which publishes two issues annually, has gained widespread recognition, becoming firmly established among academic publications and enjoying a steady growth in the number of subscribers. Exceptionally, special editions are entertained to showcase the outcome of ERF's work. To date, one special edition appeared in 2013 and another one is expected for 2016.

VI. Project Outcomes

ERF has always strived to produce economic research that contributes to the advancement of knowledge about the Middle East. We believe that the research that has been carried out generated fresh ideas and broke new grounds in areas that were not sufficiently explored in the past. And serious attempts have been made to disseminate this research widely. Attention has been given to the quality of research as well as data collection and sharing.

To cite but a few examples from research, ERF's recent work on the oil curse (forthcoming in a volume by the Cambridge University Volume) provides fresh and very timely insights about how oil-rich Arab countries can best exploit their oil revenues and avoid the oil curse. The work highlights the dire economic consequences of oil on economic growth, volatility and wealth. In addition, it explores the interaction between natural resource windfalls and economic and political institutions. On the basis of the analysis, the volume provides a set of recommendations to the oil rich Arab countries, especially in terms of how to improve macroeconomic management, industrial policy and political reforms. Compared to recent academic books on the same topic, this volume focuses on the unique features of the Arab World, which makes it among the very few in the field of natural resource economics in the context of the region.

The work on political economy has brought to the forefront the role of crony capitalism in hampering private sector dynamism and adequate job creation in Arab countries. More concretely, the work has focused on the privileges that politically connected firms enjoy as a result of their proximity to the political regimes whether they are unseen barriers to firm entry, low sector competition, high of levels of government discretion in obtaining higher contract prices in public procurements, having access to preferential bank finance, among other things. Overall the research confirms that politically connected firms outperform their competitors in terms of aggregate employment, output, market share, and profits in sectors that are subjected to both authorization requirements and restrictions on FDI.

Research on the labor theme derived from the panel labour market surveys brought to the attention of policy makers that the unemployment rate could be an imperfect indicator of the cyclical performance of the labor market and that it focuses attention on the plight of the well-off, not those who are the most vulnerable to poor labor market conditions. Other measures of labor market health, such as underemployment, types of employment (especially irregular work), hours of work, and levels of earnings that are far better measures of labor market health and also more sensitive to the conditions facing the poor and less educated. Other work also brings to the attention of Egyptian policymakers that easing demographic pressures are resuming in earnest as births are increasing due to the changing age structure of the population and an increase in fertility rates. The research results urge to prepare for the rising demographic tide and its inevitable pressure on the education system, food supplies, and labor and housing markets.

On the quality of research, there is strong evidence that ERF work is now better regarded by peers. On the one hand, the percent of formal publication of ERF papers into journal articles or journals in books is no less than 30 percent. At the same time, ERF's work is consistently getting published by well-known international publishing houses (Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press). Before that, publication of volumes was predominantly by local publishers.

On micro data, the ERF region was known for the absence of micro data of all kinds. However, this is no longer the case thanks to the sustained effort, which began in 1998 and intensified in the last 3 years. The process started in 1998 with the collection of labor market statistics, in collaboration with Egypt's Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Subsequently, the same effort was repeated in 2006 and 2012, which led to the availability of longitudinal surveys that provide a unique opportunity to track the labor market and demographic characteristics of households and individuals. This work has been replicated in Jordan and later Tunisia. In parallel, enormous effort was made to collect and share a large number of household surveys and to a lesser extent firm level surveys. We believe that the availability of these micro data sets will trigger an avalanche of serious research about the region by researchers from the region and abroad.

Moving on to policy impact, we believe that it is difficult to measure the impact of ERF's research on policy formulation as policymaking is often the result of a complex political process where knowledge is only one input among many. However, ERF made every effort to make its research findings relevant for policymaking. We attempted to ask relevant policy questions, followed by

discussing the findings openly and widely among all stakeholders and when the findings are communicated using appropriate channels. We tailored various publications to meet different demands, ranging from a reputable economic journal to policy briefs.

More recently, ERF has paid more attention to the media as well as the use of new social media tools to achieve maximum outreach of its research and better inform public opinion. In 2015, Erf partnered with the media syndicates in Egypt and currently in Tunisia towards the organization of national dialogues. More generally, ERF systematically distributed press releases ahead of various events, invited media representatives to attend these events and even organized interviews for them with some of the key speakers. For example, the national dialogue held in Al-Ain El-Sokhna was attended by more than 60 journalists and received wide press coverage.

Finally, on capacity building, the effort was more intense than at any time before. This can be seen from the large number of applications to participate in capacity-building workshops, a testimonial of ERF's credibility and quality of training. Another measure of the success of ERF in attracting researchers is that when the honorarium (compensation) for research presentation at the annual conference was cancelled in 2012, ERF continued to receive the same number of research proposals in response to the annual research competition. This shows that researchers continue to value the feedback and interaction that happen during ERF's annual conference which has become a leading research conference for researchers in the region.

VII. Conclusion and Recommendations:

We consider that this grant was a leap forward for ERF toward the implementation of its strategy and work plans. For the reporting period, the IDRC's core funding has played a major role in supporting ERF in achieving its objectives and in bridging the gap between research activity funds and those necessary for sustaining ERF's core activities, enabling ERF to improve research quality in the region, better address glaring knowledge gaps, while building the capacity of researchers and expanding outreach to different stakeholders. The work covered key thematic areas such as political and economic transformation, inequality, labor and natural resources. Special attention was given to gender issues and the collection, harmonization and dissemination of microdata to all researchers. Research output appeared in working papers, edited volumes published by book by international publishers, a peer-reviewed journal and policy notes. In addition, a policy dialogue program was launched to broaden outreach beyond the policy community. Activities were inclusive and included experts from diverse social fields. Within ERF, the grant supported the process of strengthening the institution's processes, staff profile and organization. Without the core funding and predictable support by IDRC, ERF would not have become the leading regional institution on economic issues as it has become. The IDRC-ERF has been an effective partnership for serving public interest through policy research in a region that is undergoing dramatic political, social and economic transformation.

Progress was possible because of the sustained support of donors who believe in ERF's mission and the dedication of ERF's affiliates and staff. To ensure continuity of this kind of activities in the future will require the continuation of ERF in doing what it does best: raise research capacity, create fresh knowledge and expand its outreach. In order to ensure this and not lose research momentum, ERF would like to continue to rely on IDRC's strategic partnership in the future.

ERF believes that providing cutting-edge research is crucial to shape public policy and to support people, societies and institutions to navigate the challenges ahead. Knowledge is cumulative, thus research has to be seen as a long-term, continuous activity. Based on the positive research outcomes of the IDRC grant, ERF would like to expand research work beyond 2016, especially as it is getting ready to define a new research agenda for the next 3-5 years.

Annex I: List of calls for proposals

2013:

- 1- Female Economic Empowerment
- 2- The Economics of Informality in the ERF Region
- 3- The Impact of Labor Market Regulations and Institutions on Labor Market Performance and Outcomes

2014:

- 1- Gender and social protection in the ERF Region
- 2- Education in the ERF Region
- 3- Reforming the pensions system in the ERF Region
- 4- Political Economy Determinants of Private sector dynamism in the ERF Region
- 5- The Use of the Online Labor Market Panel Surveys Data
- 6- The Use of Online Harmonized Household Surveys

2015

- 1- Economics of Healthcare in the ERF Region
- 2- The Political Economy of Contemporary Arab Societies
- 3- Labor Demand in the MENA Region
- 4- Rural Poverty, Rural-Urban Migration and Rural Development in the ERF Region (Arab countries, Iran and Turkey)
- 5- Asset Inequality in the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey

Annex II: Project Description under the gender theme

This annex provides a short abstract describing the research work carried out under the gender theme. This annex also includes work that is not yet published in the working paper series.

2013

1. Does Longer Compulsory Education Equalize Educational Attainment? Evidence From A Major Policy Reform **WP 777** (<http://erf.org.eg/publications/longer-compulsory-education-equalize-educational-attainment-evidence-major-policy-reform/>)

Authors: Murat Kirdar, Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur and Ismet Koc

Abstract: This study examines the effects of the extension of compulsory schooling from 5 to 8 years in Turkey—which substantially increased the grade completion rates not only during the new compulsory years but also during the high school years—on the equality of educational outcomes between men and women, and urban and rural residents. Longer compulsory schooling decreases the educational gap in basic education for most subgroups—in particular, the gender gap in rural areas, and the urban-rural gap both for men and women diminish following the policy. In fact, the urban-rural gap for women declines by almost 20 percentage points during the new compulsory grades. At the same time, however, longer compulsory schooling increases the gender gap in urban areas in non-compulsory schooling grades.

2. Did Trade Liberalization Benefit Female Workers? Evidence on Wage and Employment Effects from Egypt (**WP 787**) <http://erf.org.eg/publications/trade-liberalization-benefit-female-workers-evidence-wage-employment-effects-egypt/>

Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

Abstract: Egypt has gone through a period of dramatic, albeit slow, economic reform and trade liberalization process, with average tariff rates being reduced by more than 50% over a period of 15 years. This study investigates the extent of gender discrimination in the Egyptian manufacturing sector, and the impact of trade reform on the gender wage gap and on female employment. Results indicate that the gender wage gap, most of which is “unexplained” by worker characteristics, is high and has increased dramatically over time. Increasing trade liberalization has largely had a negative impact on women’s relative wages and on their employment, even after controlling for the public-private distinction as well as the occupational distinction. There is, however, some evidence supporting a favorable impact of increased export intensity on females in the labor market. This has important implications for policy makers attempting to create more equitable labor market conditions in post-revolutionary Egypt.

2014

3. The Work-Life Conflict and Well-Being of Turkish Employees

Author: Cem Baslevant

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/work-life-conflict-well-turkish-employees/> **WP 827**

Abstract: Using data drawn from the 2004 European Social Survey, we examine the determinants of the life satisfaction of employees in Turkey. The data reveals that the majority of Turkish wage and salary workers is under- or over-employed. The share of matched workers in the full sample is only 22 percent while about half the workers have to work longer than they desire. Gender is closely linked with the hours mismatch status, as the share of over-employment is 8 percentage points higher among female workers than men. Ordered probit model estimates reveal that over-employment (measured as the difference of the actual and preferred weekly number of hours) has a negative impact on well-being. We attribute the lack of a statistically significant finding with regard to under-employment to the small sample size. We also find no statistically significant difference between male and female employees with regard to the impact of the working hours mismatch. This finding suggests that the gender differences which would have been expected in this context are already incorporated in the respondents' subjectively determined desired hours of work.

4. Salaires, Genre et Choix de Secteurs en Algerie

Authors: Moundir Lassassi and Christophe Muller

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/salaires-genre-et-choix-de-secteurs-en-algerie/> **WP 853**

Abstract: Nous analysons les déterminants du choix du secteur et les salaires pour les hommes et les femmes dans différents secteurs d'activités en Algérie. Nous exploitons l'enquête nationale algérienne sur les consommations des ménages pour estimer des équations de salaire par des modèles qui permettent la correction de l'endogénéité et les biais de sélection dans le cas multinomial. Nos résultats montrent : les femmes sont moins bien rémunérées par rapport aux hommes dans les différents segments sur le marché du travail. Le secteur public est celui qui protège le plus les femmes de la discrimination salariale. Les rendements de l'éducation sont globalement plus importants dans le secteur public pour les deux sexes mais plus pour les hommes notamment pour les niveaux d'instruction supérieure, cela peut laisser penser qu'il y a une discrimination pour l'occupation des postes supérieurs en l'encontre des femmes. Quelques spécificités régionales (zones géographiques, densité et taux de chômage local) influencent le choix du secteur et expliquent en partie les écarts des salaires entre les hommes et les femmes. Enfin le différentiel des gains a un impact différent sur le choix professionnel selon les segments analysés. Ainsi le choix de travailler dans le secteur public au lieu de travailler comme salarié informel est dû principalement au motif de salaire. En revanche, les gains pécuniaires ne sont pas une motivation pour choisir le secteur public comparativement au segment self-employment. Ce résultat suggère qu'il devrait y avoir un gain non pécuniaire qui influe sur le choix du secteur public (les avantages sociaux par exemple).

5. Acceptability of Civil Marriage in a Multidenominational Society: Results of an Empirical Survey in Lebanon

Author: Rayan Haykal

<http://erf.org.eg/publications/acceptability-of-civil-marriage-in-a-multidenominational-society-results-of-an-empirical-survey-in-lebanon/> **WP 861**

Abstract: Family laws in Lebanon are administered by eighteen religious institutions, while the Lebanese State has abandoned its duty to produce any unified civil marriage contract.

Competition between religious institutions provides a large number of marriage contracts for the Lebanese citizens who have the ability of converting from one denomination to the other seeking for their favorite contract. A statistical survey on 603 couples allows us to sketch the portrait of a typical Lebanese who would accept the implementation of a civil marriage regime in Lebanon. Religious affiliation is essential to understand this willingness.

6. Individual and Households Determinants of Women Empowerment: Application to the Case of Egypt (**WP 867**)

Authors: Ragui Assaad, Hanan Nazier and Racha Ramadan

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/individual-and-households-determinants-of-women-empowerment-application-to-the-case-of-egypt/>

Abstract: This research deals with women's empowerment as an outcome of interest by defining the different individual and socio-demographic determinants that affect women's empowerment in the Egyptian society. The paper analyzed two dimensions of women's empowerment; the decision-making and the mobility aspects of Egyptian women. Using the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2012, we estimated a decision-making index and a mobility index. Our results came in line with the literature; age, education, employment, poverty status, number of children, having an adult son in addition to a woman's husband, and her father's characteristics appeared as significant determinants of empowerment. Further, most of these determinants, showed varying impact depending on the dimension of empowerment studied. The regional context was found to be very important in explaining Egyptian women's empowerment. Context was not only found to be an important determinant of women's empowerment as measured by our two indices, but it was also found to affect the impact of the other individual and socio demographic determinants on women's empowerment.

2015

7. Women's Participation in the Egyptian Labor Market: 1998 – 2012

Author: Rana Hendy (**WP 907**) <http://erf.org.eg/publications/womens-participation-in-the-egyptian-labor-market-1998-2012/>

Abstract: This paper examines the reasons for the persistently low participation of women in the Egyptian labor market over time and across the different economic sectors, using the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS) 2012. This panel dataset allows for an examination of the period leading up to and including the revolution, as it covers three different points in time: 1998, 2006 and 2012. Despite the remarkable increase in women's educational attainment, which has become higher for women than their male counterparts, participation in the labor market remains relatively low. Confirming widespread opinion, the findings indicate that the January 25 Revolution has had a negative effect on women's status in the labor market. Labor force participation has decreased, and unemployment has increased. It is thus important to analyze the different determinants of low female labor force participation. These include factors related to the supply of female labor, relating to family circumstances such as marriage, fertility and time use, women's preferences and reservation wages; as well as the factors related to the demand side, such as the shrinking public sector and discrimination in the private sector.

8. Informality and Socio-Economic Well-Being of Women in Egypt

Authors: Reham Rizk and Hala Abou-Ali

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/informality-and-socio-economic-well-being-of-women-in-egypt/> **WP 910**

Abstract: The paper attempts to quantify the impact of informal employment on women's contribution to the household budget. It further pinpoints the socio-economic factors that affect women's struggle to meet their household needs. Using the Egyptian Labor Market Panel Survey 2012, the analysis reveals that informality decreases women's contribution to the household budget by 31%. Moreover, women's educational level, household size, and husband's education, among other factors, shape women's involvement in the household budget.

9. Changes in the Institution of Marriage in Egypt from 1998 To 2012

Author: Rania Salem

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/changes-in-the-institution-of-marriage-in-egypt-from-1998-to-2012/> **WP 911**

Abstract: Fear over the perceived breakdown of the institution of marriage plagues many Egyptian policy-makers and members of the public. This study examines the trajectory of marriage behaviors in three nationally-representative surveys spanning the period 1998 to 2012 to determine whether this fear is justified. It also investigates socio-demographic variations in marriage practices at each time point. Overall, this study finds that marriage is nearly universal in Egyptian society, and both never-marriage and divorce are extremely rare over time and across all socio-demographic groups. Between 1998 and 2006, marriage was increasingly postponed to older ages, but starting in 2006, marriage began occurring earlier in the life-cycle for some groups. At the same time, in the period 2006 to 2012, engagement durations have risen slightly, unions between first cousins have declined slightly, and nuclear families are established by a considerably higher percentage of newlyweds upon marriage. Finally, there is some empirical support for the claim that marriage expenditures have risen over time.

10. Gendering the Costs and Benefits of the Arab Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt Using the Gallup Surveys

Author: Rania Salem

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/gendering-the-costs-and-benefits-of-the-arab-uprisings-in-tunisia-and-egypt-using-the-gallup-surveys/> **WP 913**

Abstract: The literature on gender and the Arab "Spring" has documented the role of female activists in the uprisings and analyzed the implications of Islamists' electoral successes for women. However, little is known about how ordinary women have experienced the changes that accompanied the uprisings and how this compares with men's experiences. The removal of authoritarian rulers may have improved satisfaction with public institutions or decreased perceived corruption, but for some the uprisings may have resulted in higher perceived or reported crime and deeper material hardship. This paper analyzes gender differences between Tunisians' and Egyptians' perceptions of prevailing economic and political circumstances using nationally-representative samples surveyed before, during, and after the uprisings of the Arab "Spring." Descriptive results indicate that Egyptians'

ratings of three indices of economic conditions are lower overall, although Tunisians perceive a steeper deterioration in economic circumstances in the post-uprising period. In both countries, these economic losses have not been compensated for by political gains, as measured by four indices. While women and men's economic and political attitudes follow a similar trajectory in each country, there are clear differences per the gender of the respondent, particularly when it comes to political attitudes. This gender difference is largely confirmed by multivariate analysis. Women are more likely than men to report favorable economic conditions in both countries. In the realm of politics, Egyptian and Tunisian women express greater dissatisfaction with law and order and with national institutions. At the same time, men perceive higher levels of corruption than do women in both countries.

11. Female Employment in MENA's Manufacturing Sector: The Implications of Firm-Related and National Factors

Authors: Ali Fakh and Pascal L. Ghazalian

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/female-employment-in-menas-manufacturing-sector-the-implications-of-firm-related-and-national-factors/> **WP 917**

Abstract: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has realized significant advances toward improving women's well-being and social status over the last few decades. However, women's employment rate in the MENA region remains one of the lowest in the world. This paper examines the implications of firm-related and national factors for female employment rates in manufacturing firms located in the MENA region. The empirical analysis is implemented for firm-level data derived from the World Bank's Enterprise Surveys database. It uses fractional logit and alternative models to carry out the estimations for female overall employment rates and for female non-production employment rates. The results reveal significant implications of firm-related factors, such as private foreign ownership, exporting activities, firm size, and labor composition for female employment rates. They also show that national factors, such as economic development and gender equality, promote female employment rates. There are considerable differences between the estimated marginal effects for female overall employment rates and those for female non-production employment rates. This paper provides policy-makers with important directions to design strategies aiming at enhancing women's economic opportunities and employment rates.

12. Is Women's Work A Pathway to their Agency in Rural Egypt?

Authors: Rania Salem, Yuk Fai Cheong, Kristin VanderEnde and Kathryn Yount

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/is-womens-work-a-pathway-to-their-agency-in-rural-egypt/> **WP 922**

Abstract: Whether work is performed for household members' consumption (subsistence work) or for sale to others (market work), it may be an enabling resource for women's agency, or their capacity to define and act upon their goals. The present paper asks: Do women who engage in market work have higher agency in the three domains of economic decision-making, freedom of movement, and equitable gender role attitudes, compared to those who engage in subsistence work and those who do not work? To address this question, we leverage data from a probability sample of ever-married women in rural Egypt. We use latent-variable structural equation models with propensity score matching to estimate the influence of women's work on three domains of their agency. We find no effect

on gender attitudes or decision-making. However, women's subsistence and market work are associated with increasingly higher factor means for freedom of movement, compared to not working.

13. Is there Feminization of Poverty in Egypt?

Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/is-there-feminization-of-poverty-in-egypt/> **WP 926**

Abstract: This paper uses five cross sections of newly released Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Survey data to determine whether there has been feminization of poverty in Egypt during the last 15 years. The period of study is one during which poverty as a whole has been increasing, and major economic, social and political changes took place. Results suggest that poverty is more prevalent among female headed households when compared to male headed households, but that married couple households are in fact poorer than both for most of the years under study. The rural-urban divide is also a very important factor determining poverty.

14. Access to Finance: Mind the Gender Gap

Authors: Hanan Morsy and Hoda Youssef

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/access-to-finance-mind-the-gender-gap/> **WP 929**

Abstract: Studies on financial inclusion have so far focused on assessing determinants to overall access to finance, but limited attention has been given to financial inclusion from a gender point of view, and on the gaps that separate females and males with regards to their access to the opportunities and services provided by the financial sector. We construct a database combining information from bank-level data with other variables reflecting the macro and regulatory framework across countries, as well as variables reflecting labour market female participation and gender disparities in access to property. A weighted least squares analysis is used to identify the impact of banking sector ownership structure and concentration, and of the regulatory and institutional framework on the gender gaps in selected indicators of financial access. We also assess whether these characteristics have the same effect on the overall level of access to finance.

15. Endowments or Discrimination? Determinants of Household Poverty in Egypt

Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/endowments-or-discrimination-determinants-of-household-poverty-in-egypt/> **WP 931**

Abstract: This paper investigates whether there is feminization of poverty in Egypt and examines the determinants of poverty by household type. Furthermore, it decomposes the poverty differential between the various household types into a component due to endowments and another due to the return to these endowments. The paper uses data from five Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption Surveys, that span a period of far-reaching economic, social and political changes, from 1999 to 2013. Results suggest that female headed households are indeed poorer than male headed households over the period. They are, however, less poor than married couple households. Initially, endowments were

more important in explaining the poverty differentials between the various family types, however in more recent years the returns to these endowments, or the treatment effect, became the dominant factor. This suggests the need for policies to ensure more equitable returns to endowments for the poor.

16. The Unfolding of Gender Gap in Education

Authors: Nadir Altinok and Abdurrahman Aydemir

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-unfolding-of-gender-gap-in-education/> **WP 934**

Abstract: The gender gap in education against females becomes smaller as the level of development increases and turns in their favor in developed countries. Through analysis of regional variation in the gender gap within Turkey, which displays a similar pattern to the cross-country pattern, this paper studies the factors that lead to the emergence of a gender gap against females. The data for student achievement and aspirations for further education during compulsory school show that females are just as well prepared and motivated for further education as their male counterparts across regions with very different levels of development. Despite this fact, large gaps arise in high school registration and completion in less developed regions, but not in developed ones. We find that larger sibship size is the main driver of gender gaps in less developed regions. While social norms have a negative influence on female education beyond compulsory school, they play a relatively small role in the emergence of gender gaps. These results are consistent with the fact that resource-constrained families give priority to males for further education, leading to the emergence of education gender gaps.

17. Gender, Enterprise Ownership, and Labor Allocation in MENA: The Roles of Islam, Oil, and Government Policies

Authors: Hadi Salehi Esfahani and Roksana Bahramitash

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/gender-enterprise-ownership-and-labor-allocation-in-mena-the-roles-of-islam-oil-and-government-policies/> **WP 951**

Abstract: We document a relatively low share of women among small and medium enterprise (SME) owners in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). This phenomenon appears to be related to the low female labor force participation (LFP) rates commonly observed in the region. However, the connection is not straightforward because the rates of large firm ownership by women in MENA are comparable and sometimes higher than some other world regions. To take a step toward understanding this puzzling pattern, we start with a framework that takes account of economy-wide interactions between firm ownership, employment, and outside options. We then use a unique cross-country micro dataset and a two-level model to separate out the role of individual characteristics from the influence of country conditions. Our first-level micro analysis suggests that the young age structure of MENA population helps explain part of MENA women's low participation and low SME formation. At the second level, we find that the prevalence of conservative religious culture, particularly the cultural and legal rule that husbands are financially responsible for their families' expenses, rather than sharing responsibility jointly with their wives, may be a key factor that helps explain the pattern of labor allocation. In addition, lack of government effectiveness, the relative closed-ness of MENA economies, and the gap between educational attainments of women and men in the past have also contributed to women's low LFP and SME ownership. These are all policy areas in which governments can make a

difference. We also explore the role of a number of other factors and show their roles in labor allocation, though they do not help explain the current weaknesses in patterns of participation and employment in the region. One very notable finding among these is that, in contrast to the results of many other studies, resource rents don't seem to be responsible for low LFP and small firm formation by MENA women. Quite to the contrary, they seem to have helped raise both of these outcomes in the oil-rich countries of the region. We attribute this sharp difference in findings to the closer cross-country comparability of our data and our micro-based approach.

18. Title: Arab Spring Protests and Women's Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from the Egyptian Revolution

Authors: Nelly El-Mallakh, Mathilde Maurel and Biagio Speciale

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/arab-spring-protests-and-womens-labor-market-outcomes-evidence-from-the-egyptian-revolution/> **WP 957**

Abstract: We analyze the effects of the 2011 Egyptian protests on the relative labor market conditions of women using panel information from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS). We construct our measure of intensity of the protests – the governorate-level number of “martyrs” (*i.e.*, demonstrators who died during the protests) – using unique information from the Statistical Database of the Egyptian Revolution. We find that the 2011 protests have reduced the gender gap in labor force participation by increasing women's unemployment and private sector employment. The political change has mostly affected the relative labor market outcomes of women in households at the bottom of the pre-revolution income distribution. We link these findings to the literature showing how a relevant shock to the labor division between women and men may have long run consequences on the role of women in society.

19. Title: Empowerment is a Community Affair: Community Level Determinants of Married Women's Empowerment in Egypt

Authors: Ragui Assaad, Hanan Nazier and Racha Ramadan

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/empowerment-is-a-community-affair-community-level-determinants-of-married-womens-empowerment-in-egypt/> **WP 959**

Abstract: This paper examines the contextual and community-level determinants of multidimensional women's empowerment in Egypt, while accounting for the usual individual and household level factors typically included in studies of women's empowerment. The paper analyzes two dimensions of women's empowerment: the decision-making and the mobility dimensions by means of two indices constructed from various survey questions relating to these dimensions. We use data from the Population Census of 2006 and the Demographic Health Survey of 2008 to construct community and governorate-level contextual variables to complement the individual-level data we obtain from the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey of 2012 (ELMPS 2012). In line with the literature, the determinants that are relevant to the decision-making and mobility dimensions of women's empowerment turned out to be quite different, confirming that “empowerment” is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, with women relatively empowered in some aspects of their lives but not in others. Moreover, our results show that context plays an important role in determining women's empowerment in Egypt after controlling for a variety of individual and household-level characteristics. These results highlight the importance of viewing women's

empowerment, and hence development as social and normative transformations rather than as just resulting from shifts in individual conditions, attitudes and behaviors. Thus, empowering Egyptian women will require changing community norms and values about gender relations rather than simply providing greater educational and employment opportunities for women.

20. Intergenerational Mobility in Women's Employment Outcomes in Egypt

Author: Maia Sieverding

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/intergenerational-mobility-in-womens-employment-outcomes-in-egypt/> **WP 978**

Abstract: The importance of mothers' educational and occupational attainments for understanding the social mobility of their children, and particularly daughters, has been increasingly emphasized as female labor force participation rates have risen in developed countries. However, few studies have yet to examine intergenerational occupational mobility between mothers and daughters in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, or contexts in which female labor force participation remains low. In this paper, I use the 1998, 2006 and 2012 waves of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey to examine the intergenerational dynamics of women's employment in Egypt. The findings demonstrate that mothers' work status is highly predictive of their daughters' labor market outcomes, suggesting that there is an intergenerational dynamic to women's employment. In addition, there is a degree of continuity in the types of work that mothers and daughters engage in. The findings suggest that the current decline in labor force participation rates among female youth, and successful policies to promote higher employment rates among young women, could have ripple effects for subsequent generations.

Work to be published in 2016

21. Institutional Challenges for Responsive Gender Budgeting in Egypt: Budgetary vs political institutions

Author: Lobna M. Abdellatif, Mohamed A. Ramadan, and Mohamed Zaky

Abstract: The project is giving evidenced-based answers to whether the allocation of public resources in Egypt is gender sensitive. More precisely, the project investigates how the public recognize the importance of public services for women protection, and whether the political institutions are capable of turning public values about women protection with clear weights. It does not only relate to public values and gender values, but also relates to the mechanism of budgeting allocation. The research is driven by three types of data sources: public believes, planners and administration experience, as well as documented public regulations, laws and political speeches.

22. Women's economic empowerment through microfinance services - Focus: Tunisia

Author: Walid Jebili, and Mathilde Bauwin

Abstract: The study addresses the issue of women's economic empowerment through microfinance in Tunisia. It investigates the role of gender in the growing process of microfinance clients' businesses and whether it is a determining factor in this process. The innovation of this research lies in the definition of "economic empowerment", where it is

more linked to the business development process rather than to the client's socioeconomic characteristics. In this research, a double approach, static and dynamic, is considered, with a multinomial logit model, and a multistate-business-driven observation (BDO) model.

23. Energy Subsidy Reform in Egypt: The Gender – “Energy” Poverty Nexus

Author: Fatma El-Hamidi

Abstract: The objective of this study is to examine the economic and social impact of the proposed energy subsidy reform policies on the Egyptian household, which started in July 2014 and is expected to be phased out in five years. In this context, the study quantifies disparities in expenditure patterns on energy types, and transport across income/expenditure levels. It examines current levels and types of energy consumption by the gender of the head of the household. The findings of this study suggest further angles that may guide towards refined policy prescriptions to mitigate the negative consequences of restructuring energy subsidies, hence, predicting and avoiding future shortages and bottlenecks.

24. The Effect of Survivors' Benefits on Poverty and Health Indicators of Women and Children in Single-Mother Households: A Turkish Case Study

Author: Oznur Ozdamar, and Eleftherios Giovanis

Abstract: Although there are publicly provided survivors' benefits to the single-mother households in Turkey, only a single source of income categorizes these households under low-income families. The aim of this project is to empirically analyze the effect of survivors' benefits on poverty indicators of single-mother households in Turkey. It, also, investigates whether survivors' benefits promote health status of women and children in these families. The study uses three different surveys: Cross-Sectional Income and Living Conditions Survey of Turkey -2006-2012, Panel Income and Living Conditions Survey of Turkey -2009-2012, and Cross Sectional Health Survey of Turkey -2010, 2012.

25. **Title:** Pension payments, social transfers, and income inequality in Turkey: How important is the gender dimension?

Author: Cem Başlevent

Abstract: The main purpose of this project is to determine the extent to which social transfers and pension payments have an impact on income inequality and the incidence of poverty in Turkey. Using descriptive and econometric analyses, this research identifies the amounts of various types of income received by households, distinguishes between the incomes of male and female household members, and examines the gender dimension of the research question. The findings of this research might point to the importance of the continued economic activity of women in terms of social justice. Also, by quantifying the contribution of social transfers to inequality, concrete empirical evidence of whether social policies of the government have had an impact on political outcomes will be present.

26. Ladies and Gentlemen, Microfinance Needs to Consider your Different Social, Risk and Time Preferences: An Experimental Study in Rural Egypt

Author: Mohamed El-Komi

Abstract Microfinance has been identified by many as a useful tool in aiding economic development, even though the actual impact on poverty is still a matter of debate. Women empowerment is a preset objective of many microfinance institutions. Yet, even without targeting women, certain types and characteristics of microfinance loans are not appealing for men. This study investigates the effect of gender preferences on the choice of microfinance. As gender differences exist with respect to risk, time, social preferences as well as competitiveness, the implications of such dissimilarities are particularly crucial when designing financial and social protection policies. Consequently, the project suggests a mechanism to incorporate these differences in the design of the microfinance (and other financial policies that target the poor).

27. Social Protection, Gender, and the Consumption Patterns of the Poor: The Role of NGOs in Poverty Reduction in Iran

Author: Hadi Salehi Esfahani, and Roksana Bahramitash

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to assess the differential impact of NGOs on the consumption patterns of poor households in Iran. The project sheds light on whether the households that receive support from NGOs are indeed potentially among the poorest, how their expenditure patterns vary from the non-recipients, and whether the gender of the recipient and her/his status as head of household matters in the way NGO support. The study selects a group of 20 NGOs offering social protection services in Iran, and carries out household income and expenditure surveys on samples of their support recipients. Half of the NGOs are selected among those that target women and the other half are those whose agendas are not gender specific. Notably, the surveys rely on an extended version of the recent Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) questionnaires used by the Statistical Center of Iran.

28. Social Protection and Gender in Iran: Assessing the Differential Impact of Social Protection Activities on Female-Headed versus Male-Headed Households

Author: Hadi Salehi Esfahani, and Seyed Mohammad Karimi

Abstract: the aim of this project is to assess the differential impact of social protection services on household expenditure in Iran with respect to the gender of the head of household. The issue is important since poverty rates tend to be much higher among female-headed households; also, the gains from social protection might be diminished significantly if the rules and policies governing the provision of social protection tilt the benefits towards male-headed households. The research relies on quantile regressions of household expenditure distributions in Iran's provinces on indicators of social protection activity, controlling for household and province characteristics and other relevant and observable factors. The main sources of data are the annual Household Expenditure and Income Surveys (HEIS) and Iran's Statistical Yearbook produced by the Statistical Center of Iran and during 1991-2013.

29. Does Microcredit Reduce Gender Inequality? An Application of Decomposition Analysis to Egypt

Author: Mohamed Aroui, and Nguyen Viet Cuong

Abstract: Although Egypt has achieved relatively high economic growth with an annual growth rate of around 5%, poverty rate remains high and gender inequality still is a serious

problem. To reduce poverty and empower women, Egypt has implemented microcredit programs. This project investigates whether access to microcredit can help empower women and reduce gender inequality in Egypt. Additionally, it examines the policy implications for microcredit programs so that these programs can be more effective. The study relies on data from Egypt Labor Market Panel Surveys in 2006 and 2012.

30. The Impact of the Turkish Employment Subsidy Programs in Increasing the Level of Social Protection for Women

Author: Belgi Turan, Seyit Mumin Cilasun, and Binnur Balkan

Abstract: The Turkish government started a labor market program in July 2008, to subsidize the employers' social security contributions for the two target groups: young men (of age between 18 and 29) and all women above 18. The aim of this study is to investigate and analyze the impact of the program on social protection of women by checking the transitions in the labor market states. Using difference-in-differences (DID) and regression discontinuity design (RDD) techniques, the effectiveness of the policy will be assessed by analyzing the switches from informal employment to formal employment, from unemployment to formal employment and from out of the labor force to formal employment. Last, the study will carry out analysis on social protection with respect to firm size, since the degree of social protection in the intensive margin differs across firm size. Overall, the project aims to assess whether the subsidy program has been effective in reducing the gender gaps in the Turkish labor market in terms of the level of social protection.

31. Female Empowerment and Time Use of Urban Women in Iran

Author: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Abstract: This research project offers a descriptive account of the changes Iranian families have experienced and have influenced women's empowerment within the family. The study describes changes in the age and education gaps between spouses, women's childbearing and market work, and availability of household appliances. The study aims to understand the pattern of women's time allocation, specifically labor market participation vs. childcare and housework. The results are expected to shed light on the question of whether low labor market participation following the decline in fertility is the result of greater involvement of women in their children's education, which is consistent with increased empowerment, or if it results from more housework and/or leisure.

32. Women at Work in Oman's Emerging Private Sector: Opportunities and Constraints of Female Labor Participation in a Rentier Economy in Transition

Author: Marike Bontebal

Abstract: The aim of this research is to gain an understanding of the nature of female formal labor participation in the Sultanate of Oman, both in terms of opportunities and challenges. As private sector development is an important precondition to a sustainable post-oil economy, the research focuses, in particular, on addressing the challenge of increasing female employment in the private sector. The research is centered on finding out the structure and segmentation of the labor force in Oman and the pattern of formal labor participation of Omani women in the country. It also seeks to investigate the determinants of Omani female employment and how they have affected women's participation in the labor

force. Furthermore, it intends to study the perceptions and expectations of Omani women of public versus private sector employment and the main constraints and opportunities they identify with formal employment in the public and private sector. Finally, the research seeks to identify the opportunities for policy intervention to further promote and encourage female labor participation, specifically in Arab Gulf rentier economies.

Annex III: List of ERF Working Papers

During the reporting period ERF have produced and published the following 232 working papers on its website:

Working Papers 2013

Efficiency Gains from Liberalizing Labor Mobility

Authors: Frédéric Docquier, Joël Machado and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/efficiency-gains-liberalizing-labor-mobility/> WP 745

Politico-Economic Development of Turkey and The Transformation of Political Islam

Author: Hasan Ersel

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/politico-economic-development-turkey-transformation-political-islam/> WP 746

Distressed Whales on the Nile – Egypt Capitalists in the Wake of the 2010 Revolution

Authors: Hamouda Chekir and Ishac Diwan

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/distressed-whales-nile-egypt-capitalists-wake-2010-revolution/> **WP 747**

Exchange Rate Regimes for Post-conflict Recovery

Authors: Ibrahim Elbadawi and Raimundo Soto

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/exchange-rate-regimes-post-conflict-recovery/> WP 748

Approche de négociation dans le cadre d'un accord de libre échange régional liant des pays du MENA

Nabil Boubrahimi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/approche-de-negociation-dans-le-cadre-dun-accord-de-libre-echange-regional-liant-des-pays-du-mena/> WP 749

The Global Impact of the Systemic Economies and MENA Business Cycles

Authors: Paul Cashin, Kamiar Mohaddes and Mehdi Raissi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/global-impact-systemic-economies-mena-business-cycles/> WP 750

Aid, Exchange Rate Regimes and Post-conflict Monetary Stabilization

Authors: Ibrahim Elbadawi and Raimundo Soto

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/aid-exchange-rate-regimes-post-conflict-monetary-stabilization/> WP 751

What Determines the Access to Finance of SMEs? Evidence from the Egyptian Case

Authors: Hala El-Said, Mahmoud Al-Said and Chahir Zaki

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/determines-access-finance-smes-evidence-egyptian-case/> WP 752

Structural Labor Market Transitions and Wage Dispersion in Egypt and Jordan

Author: Chaimaa Yassine

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/structural-labor-market-transitions-wage-dispersion-egypt-jordan/> WP 753

How Different Are the Wage Curves for Formal and Informal Workers? Evidence from Turkey

Authors: Badi Baltagi, Yusuf Soner Baskaya and Timur Hulagu

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/different-wage-curves-formal-informal-workers-evidence-turkey/> WP 754

What Happened to Real Earnings in Egypt, 2008 to 2009?

Authors: Paul Cichello, Hala Abou-Ali and Daniela Marotta

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/happened-real-earnings-egypt-2008-2009/> WP 755

Reseaux Sociaux Et Insertion Sur Le Marche Du Travail En Algerie

Authors: Moundir Lassassi and Christophe Muller

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/reseaux-sociaux-et-insertion-sur-le-marche-du-travail-en-algerie/> WP 756

The Differential Effects of Oil Demand and Supply Shocks on the Global Economy

Authors: Paul Cashin, Kamiar Mohaddes, Maziar Raissi and Mehdi Raissi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/differential-effects-oil-demand-supply-shocks-global-economy/> WP 757

The Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey: Introducing the 2012 Round

Authors: Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft

Link: http://erf.org.eg/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/758_.pdf WP 758

Assessing the Impact of Trade Reforms on Informality in Egypt

Author: Irène Selwaness and Chahir Zaki

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/assessing-impact-trade-reforms-informality-egypt/WP759>

Factors Affecting the Choice of Households' Primary Cooking Fuel in Sudan

Author: Kabbashi Suliman

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/factors-affecting-choice-households-primary-cooking-fuel-sudan/> WP 760

Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in Urban Economies: A Comparative Study of Egypt and Turkey at the Province Level

Authors: Fatma El-Hamidi and Cem Baslevant

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/micro-small-enterprises-mses-urban-economies-comparative-study-egypt-turkey-province-level/> WP 761

Wages and On-the-Job Training in Tunisia

Authors: Christophe Muller and Christophe Nordman

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/wages-job-training-tunisia/> WP 762

The Growth of Turkey in World Trade: Opportunity or Threat for MENA Countries?

Authors: Marouane Alaya and Imed Mezghani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/growth-turkey-world-trade-opportunity-threat-mena-countries/> WP 763

Does Islamic Banking Development Favor Macroeconomic Efficiency? Evidence on The Islamic Finance – Growth Nexus

Authors: Laurent Gheeraert and Laurent Weill

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/islamic-banking-development-favor-macroeconomic-efficiency-evidence-islamic-finance-growth-nexus/> WP 764

Understanding Democratic Transitions in The Arab World

Authors: Ibrahim Elbadawi and Samir Makdisi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/understanding-democratic-transitions-arab-world/> WP 765

Accounting Information System of Tunisian SMEs: Complexity, Determinants and Impact on Financial Performance

Authors: Yosra Nouir and Sami Mensi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/accounting-information-system-tunisian-smes-complexity-determinants-impact-financial-performance/> WP 766

The Egyptian Economy Post-Revolution: Sectoral Diagnosis of Potential Strengths and Binding Constraints

Authors: Amr Hosny, Magda Kandil and Hamid Mohtadi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/egyptian-economy-post-revolution-sectoral-diagnosis-potential-strengths-binding-constraints/> WP 767

Modeling Political Performance of Islamist and Islamist-Rooted Parties in Turkey

Author: Ali Akarca

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/modeling-political-performance-islamist-islamist-rooted-parties-turkey/> WP 768

The Effect of Tutoring on Secondary Streaming in Egypt

Author: Asmaa Elbadawy

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/effect-tutoring-secondary-streaming-egypt/> WP 769

The Effect of Mergers and Acquisitions on Bank Efficiency: Evidence from Bank Consolidation in Egypt

Author: Malak Reda

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/effect-mergers-acquisitions-bank-efficiency-evidence-bank-consolidation-egypt/> WP 770

One Hundred Years of Oil Income and the Iranian Economy: A Curse or a Blessing?

Authors: Kamiar Mohaddes and Hashem Pesaran

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/one-hundred-years-oil-income-iranian-economy-curse-blessing/> WP 771

Business Cycle Synchronization in Euro Area and GCC Countries: A Wavelets-GA Approach

Authors: Mustapha Djennas, Mohamed Benbouziane and Meriem Djennas

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/business-cycle-synchronization-euro-area-gcc-countries-wavelets-ga-approach/> WP 772

Trade Determinants and Potential of Syria: Using A Gravity Model, With an Estimation of The Syrian Crisis' Impact on Exports

Authors: Zaki Mehchy, Rabie Nasser and Marc Schiffbauer

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/trade-determinants-potential-syria-using-gravity-model-estimation-syrian-crisis-impact-exports/> WP 773

Competitiveness in Turkish Banking: 2002-2011

Authors: Nurhan Davutyan and Canan Yildirim

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/competitiveness-turkish-banking-2002-2011/> WP 774

Resource Rents, Institutions and Violent Civil Conflicts

Authors: Ibrahim Elbadawi and Raimundo Soto

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/resource-rents-institutions-violent-civil-conflicts/> WP 775

Dual Banking and Financial Contagion

Author: Mahmoud Sami Nabi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/dual-banking-financial-contagion/> WP 776

Does Longer Compulsory Education Equalize Educational Attainment? Evidence From A Major Policy Reform

Murat Kirdar, Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur and Ismet Koc

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/longer-compulsory-education-equalize-educational-attainment-evidence-major-policy-reform/> WP 777

Agricultural Water-Use Efficiency in a Global Perspective: The Case of Iran

Author: Gholamreza Soltani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/agricultural-water-use-efficiency-global-perspective-case-iran/> WP 778

Students' Achievement in the MENA Countries: The Heyneman-Loxley Effect Revisited Using TIMSS 2007 Data

Author: Donia Smaali Bouhlila

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/students-achievement-mena-countries-heyne-man-loxley-effect-revisited-using-timss-2007-data/> WP 779

Private Tutoring and the Question of Equitable Opportunities in Turkey

Author: Aysit Tansel

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/private-tutoring-question-equitable-opportunities-turkey/> WP 780

Profit Sharing, Income Inequality and Capital Accumulation

Author: Mahmoud Sami Nabi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/profit-sharing-income-inequality-capital-accumulation/> WP 781

Partis islamistes, Pouvoir et Etat profond dans le monde arabe: analyse en termes du Principal-Agent

Author: Brahim ElMorchid

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/partis-islamistes-pouvoir-et-etat-profond-dans-le-monde-arabe-analyse-en-termes-du-principal-agent/> WP 782

Terrorism and Integration of Muslim Immigrants

Authors: Ahmed Elsayed and Andries de Grip

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/terrorism-integration-muslim-immigrants/> WP 783

Palestinian Household Willingness and Ability to Pay for Public Utilities in The West Bank: The Case of Electricity and Water

Author: Mahmoud El Jafari

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/palestinian-household-willingness-ability-pay-public-utilities-west-bank-case-electricity-water/> WP 784

Contribution of Structural Change to Productivity Growth: Evidence from Tunisia

Authors: Mohamed Ali Marouani and Rim Mouelhi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/contribution-structural-change-productivity-growth-evidence-tunisia/> WP 785

Banking and Monetary Crises: Impacts on Exports of MENA Countries

Authors: Mohamed Ben Abdallah and Zouheir Bouchaddakh

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/banking-monetary-crises-impacts-exports-mena-countries/> WP 786

Did Trade Liberalization Benefit Female Workers? Evidence on Wage and Employment Effects from Egypt

Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/trade-liberalization-benefit-female-workers-evidence-wage-employment-effects-egypt/> WP 787

Does Improved Local Supply of Schooling Enhance Intergenerational Mobility in Education? Evidence from Jordan

Authors: Ragui Assaad and Mohamed Saleh

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/improved-local-supply-schooling-enhance-intergenerational-mobility-education-evidence-jordan/> WP 788

Impact of Exchange Rate Volatility on Macroeconomic Performance in Sudan

Author: Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/impact-exchange-rate-volatility-macroeconomic-performance-sudan/> WP 789

Different Arab Springs? The Political Elite and De facto Political Power

Author: Mina Balamoune Lutz

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/different-arab-springs-political-elite-de-facto-political-power/> WP 790

Estimating Money Demand Function by a Smooth Transition Regression Model: An Evidence for Turkey

Author: Afsin Sahin

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/estimating-money-demand-function-smooth-transition-regression-model-evidence-turkey/> WP 791

Output-Employment Relationship across Sectors: A Long- versus Short-Run Perspective

Authors: Afsin Sahin, Aysit Tansel and Hakan Berument

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/output-employment-relationship-across-sectors-long-versus-short-run-perspective/> WP 792

The Composition of FDI in the MENA Region and Other Countries: Econometric Investigation and Implications for MENA Countries

Authors: Philipp Harms and Pierre-Guillaume Méon

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/composition-fdi-mena-region-countries-econometric-investigation-implications-mena-countries/> WP 793

The Growth Effects of Greenfield Investment and Mergers and Acquisitions: Econometric Investigation and Implication for MENA Countries

Authors: Philipp Harms and Pierre-Guillaume Méon

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/growth-effects-greenfield-investment-mergers-acquisitions-econometric-investigation-implication-mena-countries/> WP 794

Proxy Means Tests for Targeting Subsidies Scheme in Iran

Author: Mohamed Bakhshoodeh

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/proxy-means-tests-targeting-subsidies-scheme-iran/> WP 795

Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy in Morocco

Author: Lahcen Achy

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/structural-transformation-industrial-policy-morocco/> WP 796

Political Patronage and Economic Opportunity: The Case of Vertical Integration in the Egyptian Clothing Industry

Author: Amirah El-Haddad

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/political-patronage-economic-opportunity-case-vertical-integration-egyptian-clothing-industry/> WP 797

Macro-Financial Linkages in Egypt: A Panel Analysis of Economic Shocks and Loan Portfolio Quality

Authors: Inessa Love and Rima Turk Ariss

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/macro-financial-linkages-egypt-panel-analysis-economic-shocks-loan-portfolio-quality/> WP 798

The Impact of Urbanization on Political Outcomes in Turkey

Author: Cem Baslevent

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/impact-urbanization-political-outcomes-turkey/> WP 799

Does Infrastructure Mitigate the Effect of Urban Concentration on Poverty in Developing Countries?

Author: Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/infrastructure-mitigate-effect-urban-concentration-poverty-developing-countries/> WP 800

Trade and R&D Externalities: Impact on the Cost of Production of the Tunisian Manufacturing Sector

Authors: Sofiane Ghali and Zouhour Karray

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/trade-rd-externalities-impact-cost-production-tunisian-manufacturing-sector/> WP 801

Macroeconomic Shocks and Banking Sector Developments in Egypt

Authors: Santiago Herrera and Hoda Youssef

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/macroeconomic-shocks-banking-sector-developments-egypt/> WP 802

Structural Change and Industrial Policy in Turkey

Authors: Izak Atiyas and Ozan Bakis

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/structural-change-industrial-policy-turkey/> WP 803

International Labor Mobility and Employment Interactions in Tunisia

Authors: Anda David and Mohamed Ali Marouani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/international-labor-mobility-employment-interactions-tunisia/> WP 804

The Structure and Evolution of Employment in Egypt: 1998-2012

Authors: Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/structure-evolution-employment-egypt-1998-2012/> WP 805

The Evolution of Labor Supply and Unemployment in the Egyptian Economy: 1988-2012

Authors: Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/evolution-labor-supply-unemployment-egyptian-economy-1988-2012/> WP 806

Trade, Transaction Costs and TFP: Evidence from Tunisia and Egypt

Authors: Sofiane Ghali, Habib Zitouna, Zouhour Karray and Slim Driss

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/trade-transaction-costs-tfp-evidence-tunisia-egypt/> WP 807

Long Run Versus Short Run Analysis of Climate Change Impacts on Agriculture

Younes Ben Zaied

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/long-run-versus-short-run-analysis-climate-change-impacts-agriculture/> WP 808

How Does Urban Concentration Affect Poverty in Developing Countries?

Author: Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/urban-concentration-affect-poverty-developing-countries/> WP 809

The Formal and Informal Framework of Foreign Direct Investment

Authors: Pierre-Guillaume Méon and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/formal-informal-framework-foreign-direct-investment/> WP 810

A Comparative Analysis of the Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in The Arab World and in Asia

Authors: Brahim ElMorchid, Nouria Ridha and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/comparative-analysis-determinants-foreign-direct-investment-arab-world-asia/> WP 811

Is There Anything Special With Intra-Arab Capital Flows?

Author: Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/anything-special-intra-arab-capital-flows/> WP 812

Young People and the Digital Divide in Egypt: An Empirical Study

Author: Mona Farid Badran

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/young-people-digital-divide-egypt-empirical-study/> WP 813

Returns to Foreign Language Skills in a Developing Country: The Case of Turkey

Authors: Antonio Di Paolo and Aysit Tansel

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/returns-foreign-language-skills-developing-country-case-turkey/> WP 814

Savings and Investment Decisions from Natural Resource Revenues: Implications for Arab Development

Author: Paul Collier

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/savings-investment-decisions-natural-resource-revenues-implications-arab-development/> WP 815

FDI and Exports Diversification in Arab Countries

Authors: Pierre-Guillaume Méon and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/fdi-exports-diversification-arab-countries/> WP 816

Debt, Inflation and Growth: Robust Estimation of Long-Run Effects in Dynamic Panel Data Models

Authors: Alexander Chudik, Kamiar Mohaddes, Hashem Pesaran and Mehdi Raissi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/debt-inflation-growth-robust-estimation-long-run-effects-dynamic-panel-data-models/> WP 817

The Macro-Micro Nexus and Public Procurement Support Policy for SMEs: The Case of Pharmaceuticals in Egypt

Authors: Lobna Abdellatif and Mohamed Zaky

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/macro-micro-nexus-public-procurement-support-policy-smes-case-pharmaceuticals-egypt/> WP 818

Do Global Shocks Drive Investor Herds in Oil-Rich Frontier Markets?

Authors: Mehmet Balcilar, Riza Demirer, Shawkat Hammoudeh and Ahmed Khalifa

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/global-shocks-drive-investor-herds-oil-rich-frontier-markets/> WP 819

Effects of NTMs on the Extensive and Intensive Margins to Trade: The Case of Tunisia and Egypt

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Authors: François Langot and Chaimaa Yassine

Links: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/reforming-employment-protection-in-egypt-an-evaluation-based-on-transition-models-with-measurement-errors/> WP 918

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Author: Bedri Kamil Onur Tas

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/how-to-achieve-efficiency-in-public-procurement-auctions/> WP 919

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Author: Abbas Al-Mejren

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Authors: Ilham Haouas and Almas Heshmati

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-impact-of-arab-spring-on-hiring-and-separation-rates-in-the-tunisian-labor-market/> WP 921

Is Women's Work A Pathway to their Agency in Rural Egypt?

Authors: Rania Salem, Yuk Fai Cheong, Kristin VanderEnde and Kathryn Yount

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Author: Aysit Tansel

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/inequality-of-opportunities-of-educational-achievement-in-turkey-over-time/> WP 923

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Author: Suliman Zakaria

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/an-investigation-of-the-month-of-the-year-effect-for-the-sudanese-stock-market/> **WP 924**

Bank's Capital Buffers and Business Cycle: Evidence from GCC Countries, 2004-2011

Authors: Mohamed Trabelsi, Ibrahim Elbadawi and Dhuha Fadhel

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/banks-capital-buffers-and-business-cycle-evidence-from-gcc-countries-2004-2011/WP 925>

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Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/is-there-feminization-of-poverty-in-egypt/> WP 926

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Author: Eberhard Kienle

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/changed-regimes-changed-priorities-economic-and-social-policies-after-the-2011-elections-in-tunisia-and-egypt/> WP 928

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Authors: Hanan Morsy and Hoda Youssef

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/access-to-finance-mind-the-gender-gap/> WP 929

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Authors: Canan Yildirim and Adnan Kasman

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/bank-market-power-and-non-interest-income-in-emerging-markets/> WP 930

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Author: Shireen Al Azzawi

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Authors: Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/inequality-of-opportunity-in-the-labor-market-for-higher-education-graduates-in-egypt-and-jordan/> WP 932

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Authors: Fida Karam and Chahir Zaki

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/how-did-wars-dampen-trade-in-the-mena-region/> WP 933

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Authors: Nadir Altinok and Abdurrahman Aydemir

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-unfolding-of-gender-gap-in-education/> WP 934

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Authors: Mahmoud Al-Iriani and Yahsob Al Eriani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/fiscal-institutions-and-macroeconomic-management-in-resource-rich-economies-the-case-of-yemen/> WP 935

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Authors: Doaa Akl Ahmed and Mamdouh M. Abdelsalam

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/modelling-the-density-of-egyptian-quarterly-cpi-inflation/> WP 936

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Authors: Hulisi Ogut, Asunur Cezar and Merve Guven

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Authors: Sevil Acar and Ahmet Atil Asici

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Author: May Attallah

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-economic-determinants-of-political-islam-an-empirical-investigation-of-the-arab-spring-in-egypt/> WP 939

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Authors: Hanan Morsy , Antoine Levy and Clara Sanchez

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/growing-without-changing-a-tale-of-egypts-weak-productivity-growth/> WP 940

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Authors: Cem Baslevent and Hasan Kirmanoglu

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/a-multilevel-analysis-of-individuals-attitudes-toward-welfare-state-responsibilities/> WP 941

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Authors: Rami Galal and Hoda El Enbaby

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/inequality-of-opportunity-in-individuals-wages-and-households-assets-in-egypt/> WP 942

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Authors: Ali Chebil , Aymen Frija and Rached Alyani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/measurement-of-total-factor-productivity-and-its-determinants-case-of-wheat-sector-in-tunisia/> WP 943

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Authors: Ahmed Elsayed and Olivier Marie

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Author: Amr Hosny

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/are-we-sure-about-the-effects-of-the-egyptian-uprisings-a-sure-approach/> WP 945

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Authors: Hind Hourmat Allah and Brahim ElMorchid

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/comprendre-lutilisation-de-la-recherche-en-sciences-sociales-par-les-organisations-de-la-societe-civile-la-lecon-marocaine/> WP 946

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Authors: Riadh Brini and Hatem Jemmali

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/public-spending-efficiency-governance-and-political-and-economic-policies-is-there-a-substantial-causal-relation-evidence-from-selected-mena-countries/> WP 947

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Authors: Riham Ahmed Ezzat and Nora Aboushady

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/do-telecom-restrictive-policies-matter-for-telecom-performance-evidence-from-mena-countries/> WP 948

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Authors: Mélise Jaud , Youssouf Kiendrebeogo and Marie-Ange Veganzones-Varoudakis

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/financial-vulnerability-and-export-dynamics/> WP 949

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Author: Caroline Krafft

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-determinants-of-child-health-disparities-in-jordan/> WP 950

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Authors: Hadi Salehi Esfahani and Rokhsana Bahramitash

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/gender-enterprise-ownership-and-labor-allocation-in-mena-the-roles-of-islam-oil-and-government-policies/> WP 951

Sectoral Shifts, Diversification, Regional Unemployment on the Eve of Revolution in Tunisia: A Sequential Spatial Panel Approach

Authors: Walid Jebili and Lotfi Belkacem

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/sectoral-shifts-diversification-regional-unemployment-on-the-eve-of-revolution-in-tunisia-a-sequential-spatial-panel-approach/> WP 952

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Authors: Hossam Eldin Mohammed Abdelkader

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/political-instability-uncertainty-democracy-and-economic-growth-in-egypt/> WP 953

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Authors: Hany Abdel-Latif , Tapas Mishra and Anita Staneva

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/arab-countries-between-winter-and-spring-where-democracy-shock-goes-next/> WP 954

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Authors: Touhami Abdelkhalek and Fouzia Ejjanoui

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/tests-de-separabilite-dans-les-decisions-des-menages-agricoles-cas-du-maroc/> WP 955

Which Firms Create the Most Jobs in Developing Countries? Evidence from Tunisia

Authors: Bob Rijkers, Hassen Arouri, Caroline Freund and Antonio Nucifora

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Arab Spring Protests and Women's Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from the Egyptian Revolution

Authors: Nelly El-Mallakh, Mathilde Maurel and Biagio Speciale

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Understanding Democratic Transition Using Self-Organizing Maps: A Special Focus on Arab Spring Countries

Authors: Houda Haffoudhi, Racem Mehdi and Gam Abdelkader

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/understanding-democratic-transition-using-self-organizing-maps-a-special-focus-on-arab-spring-countries/> WP 958

Empowerment is a Community Affair: Community Level Determinants of Married Women's Empowerment in Egypt

Authors: Ragui Assaad, Hanan Nazier and Racha Ramadan

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/empowerment-is-a-community-affair-community-level-determinants-of-married-womens-empowerment-in-egypt/> WP 959

Algeria–Mali Trade: The Normality of Informality

Authors: Sami Bensassi, Anne Brockmeyer, Mathieu Pellerin and Gael Raballand

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/algeria-mali-trade-the-normality-of-informality/> WP 960

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Authors: Bob Rijkers, Leila Baghdadi and Gael Raballand

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/political-connections-and-tariff-evasion-evidence-from-tunisia/> WP 961

Assessing Fiscal Sustainability in Algeria: A Nonlinear Approach

Authors: Abderrahim Chibi, Sidi Mohamed Chekouri and Mohamed Benbouziane

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/assessing-fiscal-sustainability-in-algeria-a-nonlinear-approach/> WP 962

An Estimation of Tariff Pass-Through in Tunisia

Authors: Leila Baghdadi, Hendrik Kruse and Inmaculada Martinez-Zarzoso

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/an-estimation-of-tariff-pass-through-in-tunisia/> WP 963

Do ICTS Reduce Youth Unemployment in MENA Countries?

Author: Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/do-icts-reduce-youth-unemployment-in-mena-countries/> WP 964

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Authors: Mahmoud Haddad and Sam Hakim

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/can-banks-lead-the-economic-recovery-of-the-arab-spring/> WP 965

Competitive Real Exchange Rates Are Good for the Poor: Evidence from Egyptian Household Surveys

Author: Ibrahim Elbadawi and Eman Refaat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/competitive-real-exchange-rates-are-good-for-the-poor-evidence-from-egyptian-household-surveys/> WP 966

Budgetary Institutions, Fiscal Policy, and Economic Growth: The Case of Saudi Arabia

Author: Ashraf Galal Eid

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/budgetary-institutions-fiscal-policy-and-economic-growth-the-case-of-saudi-arabia/> WP 967

Household and Contextual Indicators of Poverty in Tunisia: A Multilevel Analysis

Authors: Mohamed Amara and Hatem Jemmali

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/household-and-contextual-indicators-of-poverty-in-tunisia-a-multilevel-analysis/> WP 968

Technical Efficiency and Stability to Shocks: A Comparison between Islamic Banks and Conventional Banks in MENA Region

Author: Mohamed El Arbi Chaffai

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/technical-efficiency-and-stability-to-shocks-a-comparison-between-islamic-banks-and-conventional-banks-in-mena-region/> WP 969

On the Interaction between Trade Reforms and Labor Market Regulation: Evidence from the MENA Countries' Labor Markets

Authors: Irène Selwaness and Chahir Zaki

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/on-the-interaction-between-trade-reforms-and-labor-market-regulation-evidence-from-the-mena-countries-labor-markets/> WP 970

Late-Life Living Arrangements and Intergenerational Ties in Egypt: Elderly Socio-Economic Conditions from Labor Market Surveys

Author: Aurora Angeli

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/late-life-living-arrangements-and-intergenerational-ties-in-egypt-elderly-socio-economic-conditions-from-labor-market-surveys/> WP 971

Socio-political Attitudes across the World: To What Extent Are They Affected by One's Religion, Its Importance, Majority Status and Relative Income?

Author: Jeffrey Nugent, Malgorzata Switek and Fengyu Wu

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/socio-political-attitudes-across-the-world-to-what-extent-are-they-affected-by-ones-religion-its-importance-majority-status-and-relative-income/> **WP 972**

A Quarter Century of Changes in Labor Force Participation

Author: Rana Hendy

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/a-quarter-century-of-changes-in-labor-force-participation/> WP 973

Catastrophic and Impoverishing Effects of Out-Of-Pocket Health Expenditure: New Evidence from Egypt

Authors: Ahmed Rashad and Mesbah Sharaf

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/catastrophic-and-impoverishing-effects-of-out-of-pocket-health-expenditure-new-evidence-from-egypt/> WP 974

Economic Features of the Arab Spring

Authors: David Cobham and Abdalla Zouache

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/economic-features-of-the-arab-spring/> **WP 975**

Is There an Informal Employment Wage Penalty in Egypt?

Authors: Aysit Tansel, Halil Ibrahim Keskin and Zeynel Abidin Ozdemir

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/is-there-an-informal-employment-wage-penalty-in-egypt/> WP 976

Short and Long-Term Impacts of Emigration on Origin Households: The Case of Egypt

Author: Anda David and Joachim Jarreau

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/short-and-long-term-impacts-of-emigration-on-origin-households-the-case-of-egypt/> WP 977

Intergenerational Mobility in Women's Employment Outcomes in Egypt

Author: Maia Sieverding

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/intergenerational-mobility-in-womens-employment-outcomes-in-egypt/> WP 978

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1. Can Labor Mobility Spark Employment in Tunisia?

Authors: Anda David and Mohamed Ali Marouani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/can-labor-mobility-spark-employment-in-tunisia/>

2. The Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment to Arab countries, by

Author: Pierre-Guillaume Méon and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-determinants-of-foreign-direct-investment-to-arab-countries/>

3. The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment in Arab countries,

Author: Pierre- Guillaume Méon and Khalid Sekkat

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-impact-of-foreign-direct-investment-in-arab-countries/>

4. The Impact of Migration on Human Capital in MENA,

Author: Jackline Wahba

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-impact-of-migration-on-human-capital-in-mena/>

5. Migration, Trade in Services and Employment Interactions in Jordan, by

Authors: Anda David and Mohamed Ali Marouani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/migration-trade-in-services-and-employment-interactions-in-jordan/>

2014

6. Beware of the Echo: The Impending Return of Demographic Pressures in Egypt

Authors: Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/beware-of-the-echo-the-impending-return-of-demographic-pressures-in-egypt/>

7. Iran's Subsidy Reform from Promise to Disappointment

Author: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/irans-subsidy-reform-from-promise-to-disappointment/>

8. The Unemployment Rate is a Misleading Indicator of Labor Market Health in Egypt

Authors: Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/why-the-unemployment-rate-is-a-misleading-indicator-of-labor-market-health-in-egypt/>

2015

9. Promoting Successful Transitions to Employment for Egyptian Youth

Authors: Caroline Krafft and Ragui Assaad

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/promoting-successful-transitions-to-employment-for-egyptian-youth/>

10. Structural Transformation and Industrial Policy

Author: Izak Atiyas

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/structural-transformation-and-industrial-policy/>

Policy Briefs

2015

1. The Quality of Educational Performance of Students in The Middle East And North Africa: Much Remains to Be Done

Author: Donia Smaali Bouhlila

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/the-quality-of-educational-performance-of-students-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-much-remains-to-be-done/>

2. Transforming Egypt: Innovation and Diversification as Drivers of Growth

Author: Markus Loewe

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/transforming-egypt-innovation-and-diversification-as-drivers-of-growth/>

3. Pension Reform: Securing Morocco's Elderly

Author: Najat El Mekkaoui

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/pension-reform-securing-moroccos-elderly/>

4. Farmer Access to Formal Credit Institutions in Kassala, East Sudan: Determinants and Possible Ways Forward

Authors: Ebaidalla Mahjoub Ebaidalla and Eltyeb Mohamdain Abdalla

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/farmer-access-to-formal-credit-institutions-in-kassala-east-sudan-determinants-and-possible-ways-forward/>

5. Improving Health Status in Turkey: Combating Pollution

Authors: Oznur Ozdamar and Eleftherios Giovanis

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/improving-health-status-in-turkey-combating-pollution/>

6. *Untapping Low Female Labor Force Participation In Egypt: Ending The Marriage Mismatch (gender theme)*

Author: Rana Hendy

Link: <http://erf.org.eg/publications/untapping-low-female-labor-force-participation-in-egypt-ending-the-marriage-mismatch/>

Abstract: Despite significant increases in female educational attainment, Egyptian women's labor force participation rate remains one of the lowest in the world. This can be partially explained by the fact that while transitioning into marriage is an important phase in a woman's life, it poses a major obstacle to her economic participation. Accordingly, a marriage mismatch exists, whereby marital conditions and responsibilities do not respond to labor market needs and vice versa. Considering the fact that women largely seek out government jobs, policies that would make private sector jobs better fit the lifestyle of women, especially married women, would go a long way in improving the situation. This can be achieved by creating more part-time jobs and jobs that allow married women to work from home. Moreover, parental leave policies, equal-pay policies and policies that do not impede the growth of the services sector are other solutions.

Edited Volumes

2013

Understanding The Political Economy of The Arab Uprisings

Editor: Ishac Diwan

Publisher: World Scientific Press

Abstract: For the millions of citizens in the Arab World who came together in 2010–2011 to discover their common yearning for dignity and liberty, the real revolutions only began after the wave of protests. Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Uprisings reassess the interests, potential and constraints of various socio-political players and their importance in the building of a constructive environment for democratic progress in the Middle East. Initiated by the Cairo-based Economic Research Forum and edited by Ishac Diwan, this invaluable volume features contributions by Middle East academics across the world. They examine the reasons behind the uprisings, how democratic transitions transpire, the role of Arab capitalism in the crises, and how the experiences of other countries such as Indonesia, Turkey and Iran, can forecast where these uprisings may lead the Middle East in the years to come.

2014

The Jordanian Labor Market in the New Millennium

Editor: Ragui Assaad

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Abstract: This book analyses the results of the Jordan Labour Market Panel Survey of 2010 (JLMPS 2010), a major household survey of labour market conditions carried out in Jordan in the first quarter of 2010. The JLMPS 2010 is part of a series of surveys carried out by the Economic Research Forum to study Arab labour markets, all of which are designed as longitudinal surveys that track respondents over a number of years. The book fills an enormous gap in knowledge about labour market conditions in Jordan, on which there is little published in any language. The chapters of the book cover topics that are essential to understanding the conditions leading to the Arab Spring, including the pace of job creation and employment growth, the persistence of high youth unemployment despite fairly healthy economic growth, the co-existence of in-migration, high unemployment, and out-migration, the very low and stagnant female participation rates despite rapid increases in educational attainment and delayed marriage among Jordanian women, and the unusually early retirement among prime-age male workers. The chapters in the book make use of this unique data set to provide a fresh analysis of the Jordanian labour market that was simply not feasible with previously existing data.

2015

The Egyptian Labor Market in an Era of Revolution

Editor: Ragui Assaad and Caroline Krafft

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Abstract: This volume provides fresh insights into the Egyptian labor market in the wake of the January 2011 revolution. Drawing on a new Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS

2012), the authors tackle a wide range of issues, including the persistence of high youth unemployment, labor market segmentation and rigidity, growing informality and the declining role of the state as an employer. They also explore the impact of the economic difficulties associated with the revolution, especially in terms of adjustments to earnings, job insecurity, female labor force participation and the stagnation of micro and small enterprises. As such, the volume makes an important contribution to our understanding not only of the way the Egyptian labor market functions and the consequences of government policies but also how the revolution may have impacted labor market outcomes.