

Arab Public Opinion on Domestic Conditions

Findings from the Sixth Wave of Arab Barometer

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About Arab Barometer Wave 6

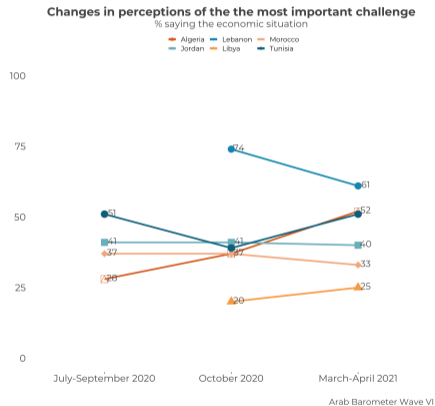
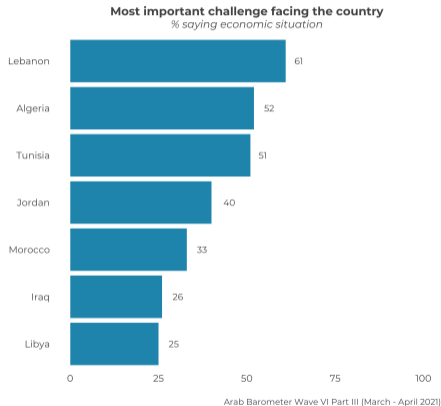
- ▶ Arab Barometer is the longest standing and largest repository of publicly available data on citizens' views in the MENA region
- ▶ New mode: phone surveys vs face-to-face due to COVID-19
- ▶ Shorter interviews of approximately 20 minutes each
- ▶ Sample was around 1000 interviews per survey selected using Random Digital Dialing (RDD)
- ▶ Three surveys per country for most surveyed countries from summer 2020 until spring 2021
- ▶ Surveyed countries include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq & Kuwait
- ▶ Further details at www.arabbarometer.org/surveys/covid-19-survey/

Key findings from wave 6

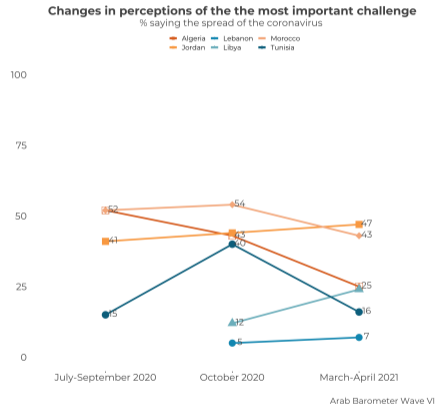
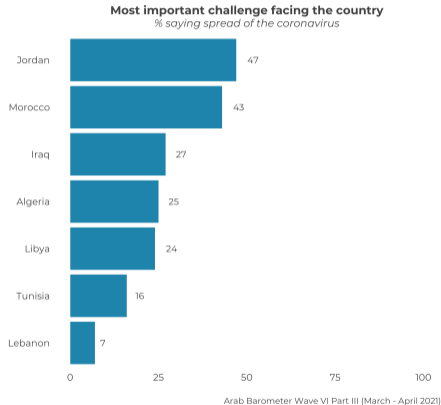
- ▶ The economy & COVID-19 were the most important challenges facing regional countries
- ▶ Despite large variation, minorities have a positive view of current economic conditions
- ▶ With the exception of two countries, minorities envision a more positive economic horizon & majorities fear loss of income
- ▶ Sizable proportions wish to emigrate, particularly among the educated youth
- ▶ Minorities trust the government across the region, & overwhelming majorities believe corruption is prevalent
- ▶ Perceptions of freedoms are declining in "more free" countries, with notable proportions supporting restrictions during emergencies
- ▶ Social Media is fast becoming the primary source for breaking news

Economic Conditions

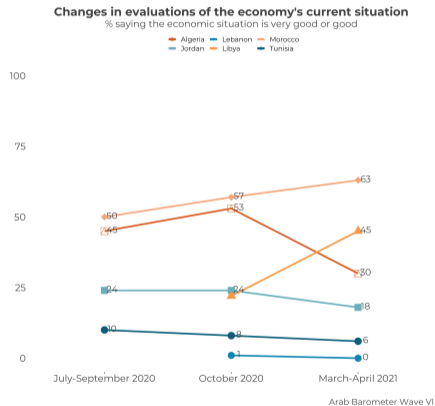
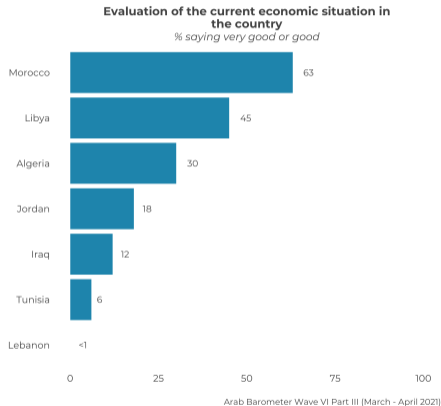
Economy, COVID-19 were most important challenges



Economy, COVID-19 were most important challenges



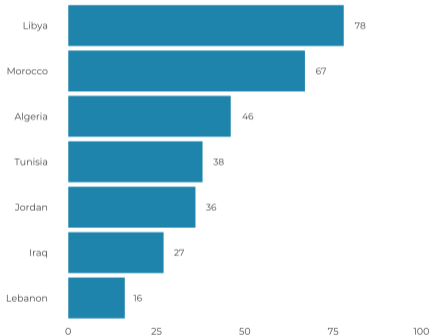
Minorities have a positive view of their economies



Predictions of relief vary & majorities fear loss of income

Prediction of economic situation in the country during the next 2-3 years

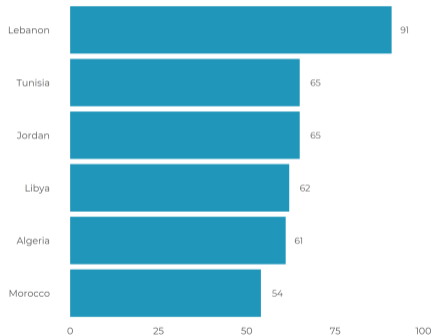
% saying it will be much or somewhat better



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March - April 2021)

Concern for losing main source of income in next 12 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned



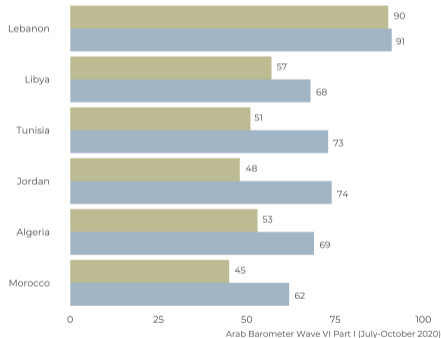
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)

Fear of income loss most acute among low-earners, women

Concern for losing main source of income in next 12 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned by income

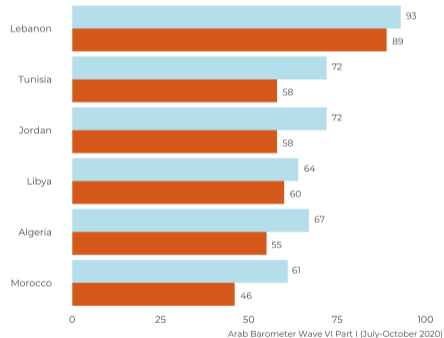
■ Can cover expenses ■ Cannot cover expenses



Concern for losing main source of income in next 12 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned by gender

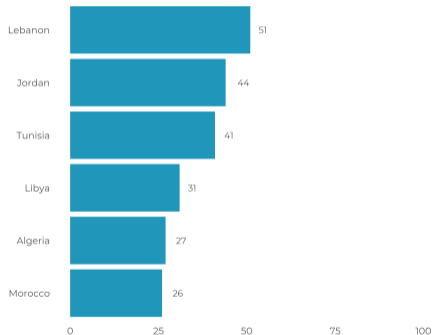
■ Female ■ Male



The economic situation is impacting food consumption

Having to rely on less preferred and less expensive foods in the past 7 days

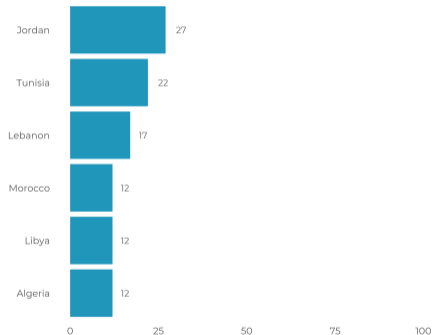
% saying every day or most days



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part II (October 2020)

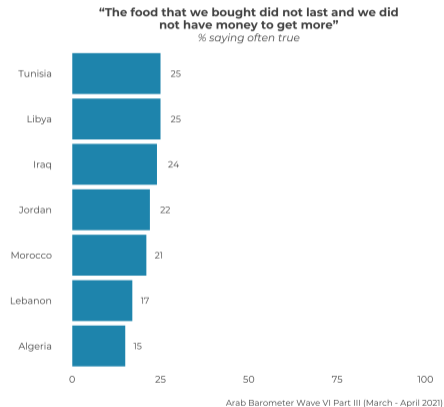
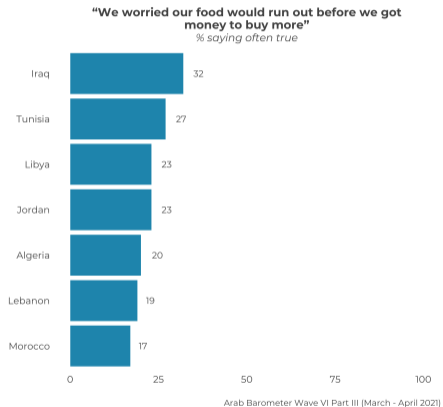
Needing financial support for getting food in the past 7 days

% saying every day or most days



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part II (October 2020)

Food security is a pressing concern ...

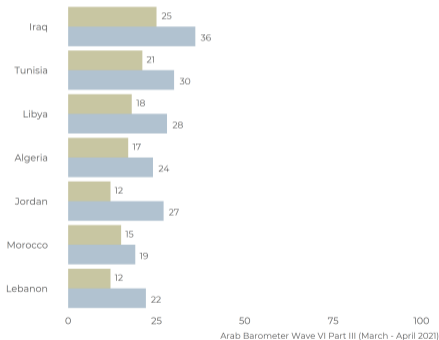


... particularly among the most vulnerable segments ...

"We worried our food would run out before we got money to buy more"

% saying often true by income

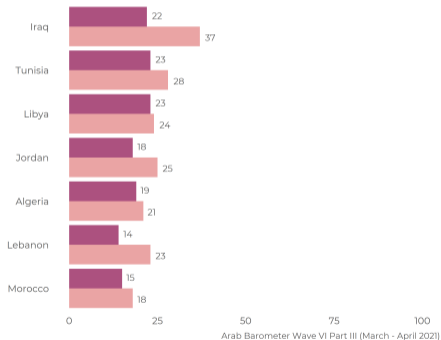
■ Can cover expenses ■ Cannot cover expenses



"We worried our food would run out before we got money to buy more"

% saying often true by education

■ Higher ■ Max Secondary

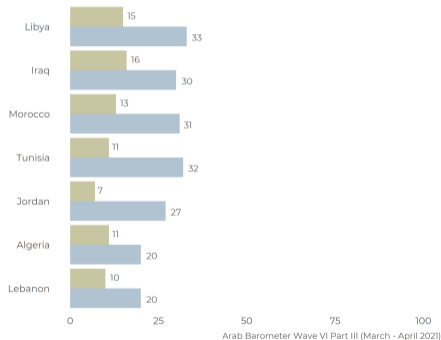


... those earning less and with lower levels of education

"The food that we bought did not last and we did not have money to get more"

% saying often true by income

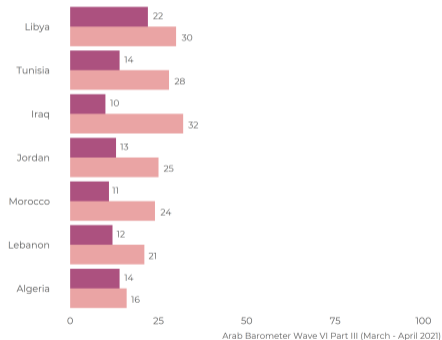
■ Can cover expenses ■ Cannot cover expenses



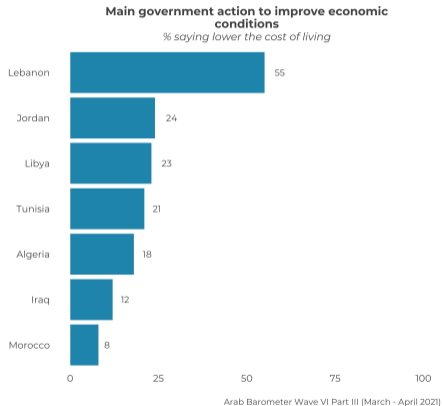
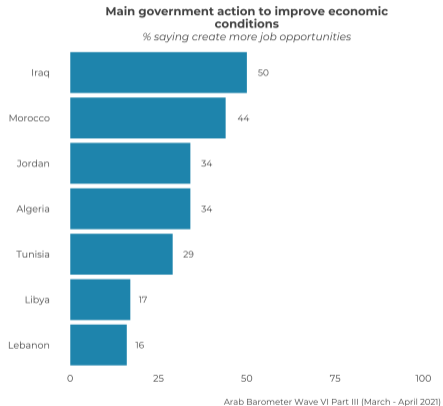
"The food that we bought did not last and we did not have money to get more"

% saying often true by education

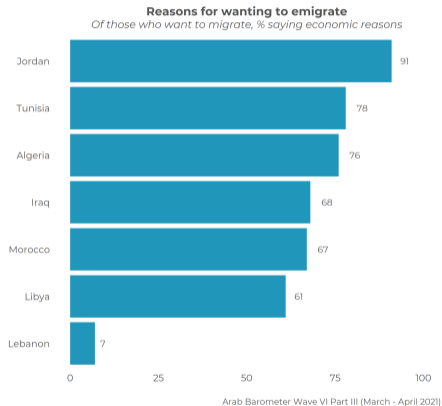
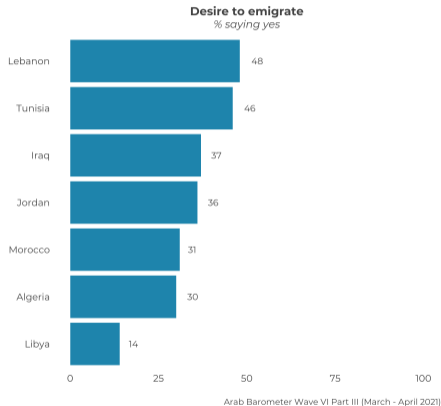
■ Higher ■ Max Secondary



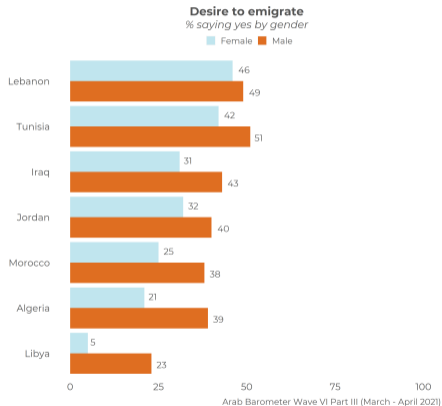
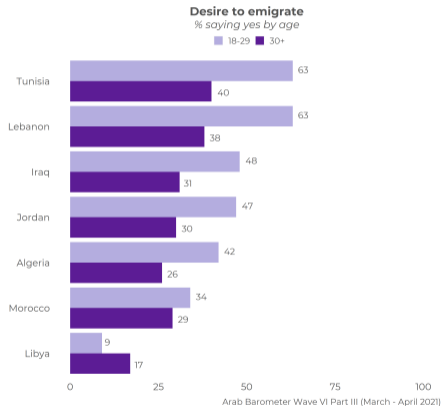
Citizens favor prioritizing job creation and price control



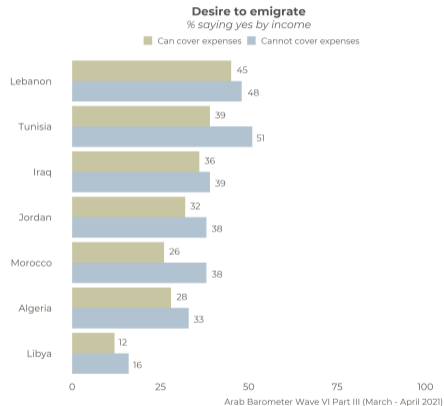
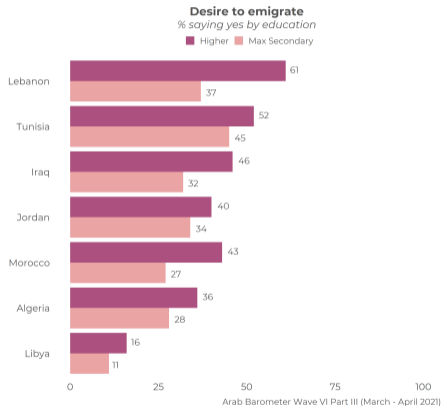
Substantial proportions wish to emigrate ...



... especially young males ...

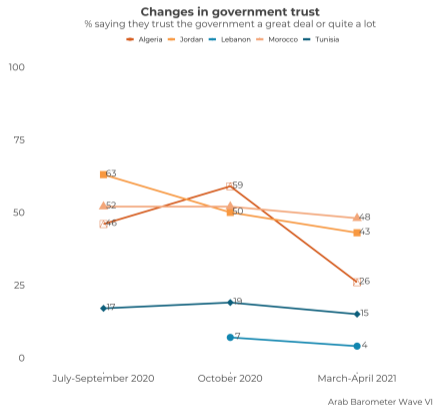
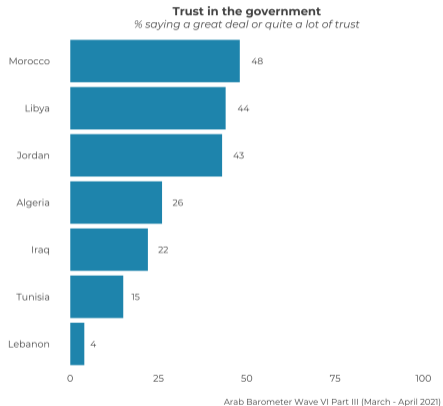


... who are educated and cannot meet their expenses



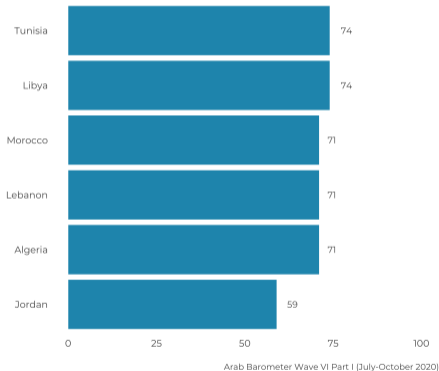
Views of Government

Trust in government low and declining

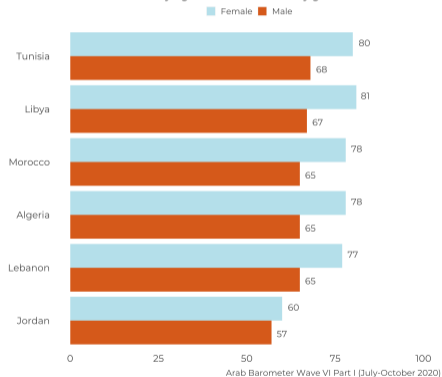


COVID-19 widely viewed as a national security threat

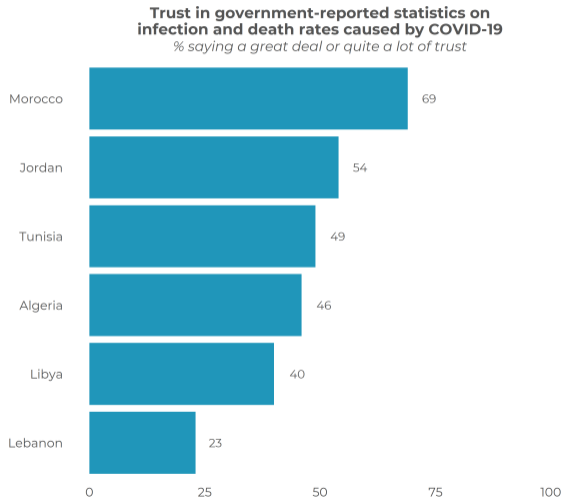
COVID-19 as a threat to national security
% saying it is a critical threat



COVID-19 as a threat to national security
% saying it is a critical threat by gender



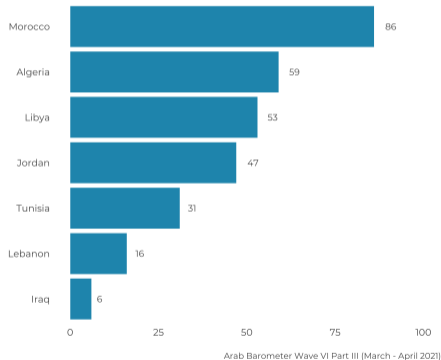
But trust in government COVID-19 statistics varies



As do evaluations of government response to COVID-19

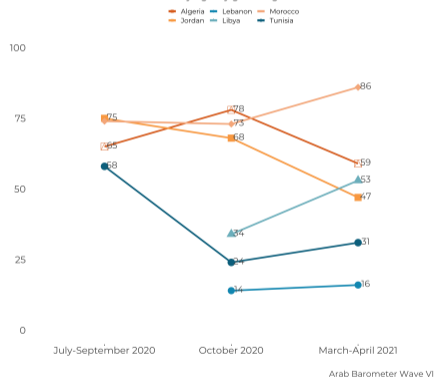
Evaluation of government performance in responding to COVID-19 outbreak

% saying very good or good

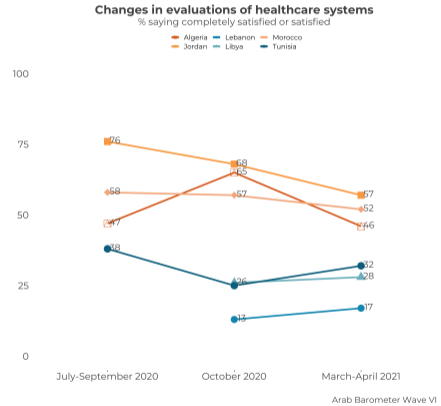
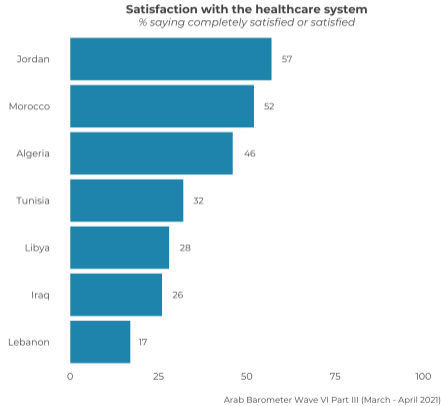


Changes in evaluations of government response to COVID-19

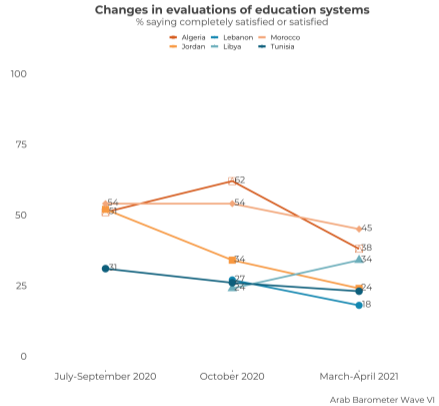
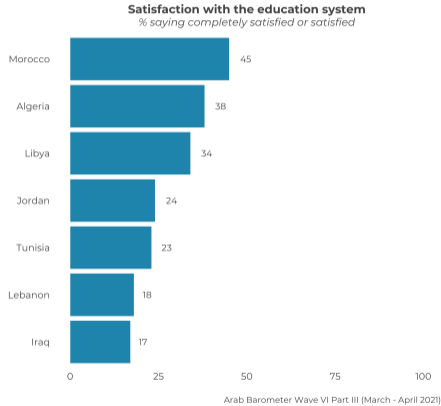
% saying very good or good



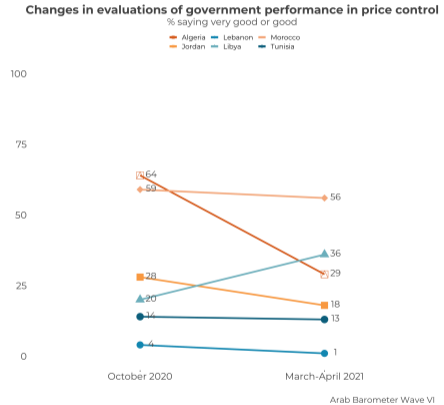
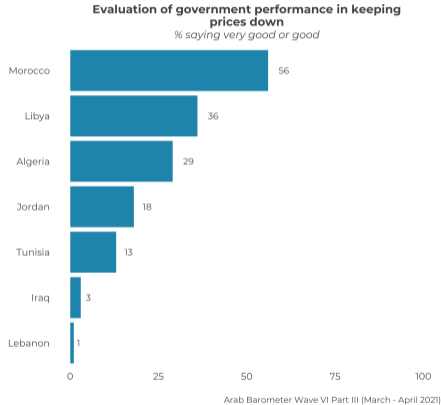
Evaluations of healthcare systems vary ...



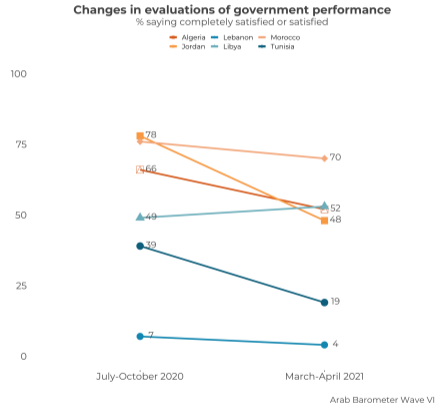
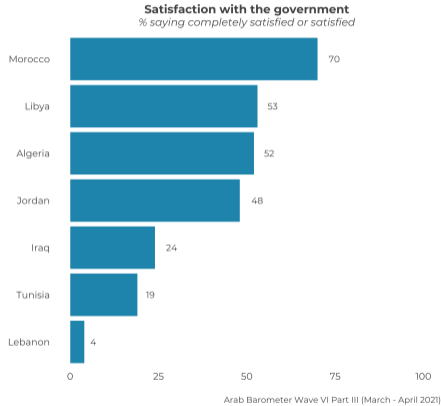
... as do evaluations of education systems ...



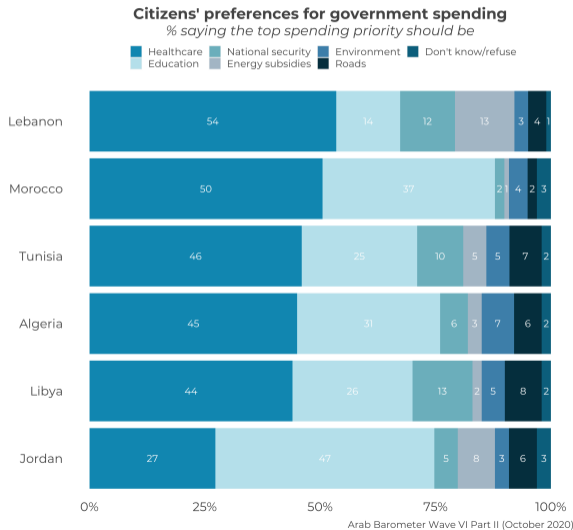
... and evaluations of price control ...



... and evaluations of government performance overall



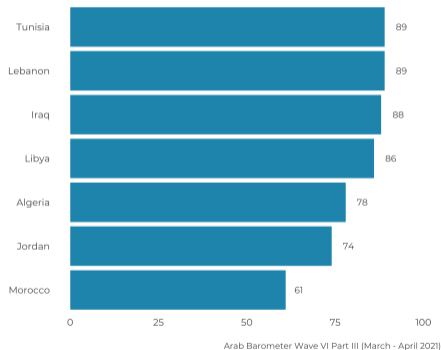
Citizens prioritize healthcare and education spending



Perceptions of corruption are high ...

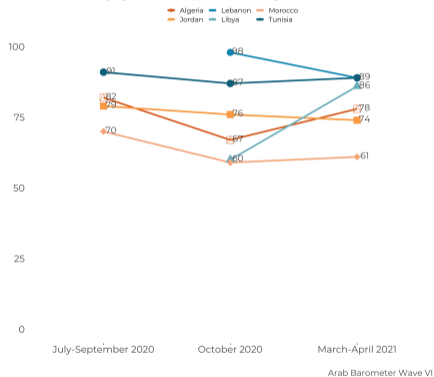
Corruption in state institutions and national agencies

% saying it is prevalent to a large or medium extent



Changes in perceptions of corruption

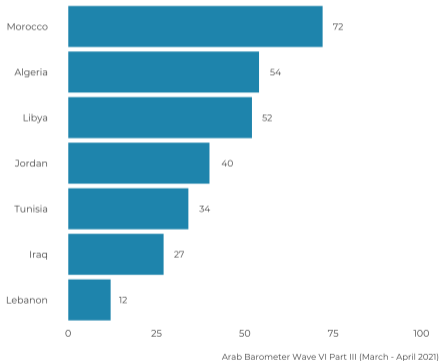
% saying corruption is prevalent to a large or medium extent



... and perceptions of anti-corruption vary greatly

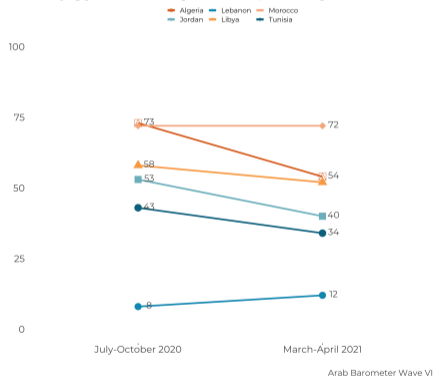
Government cracking down on corruption

Among those who say there is corruption, % saying to a large or medium extent



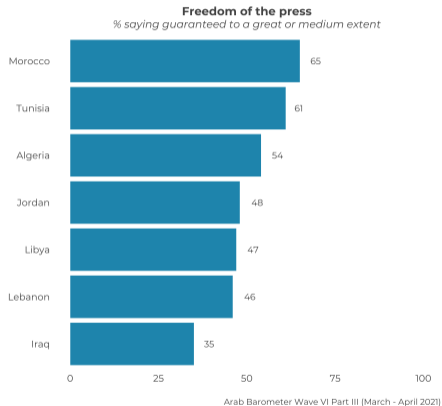
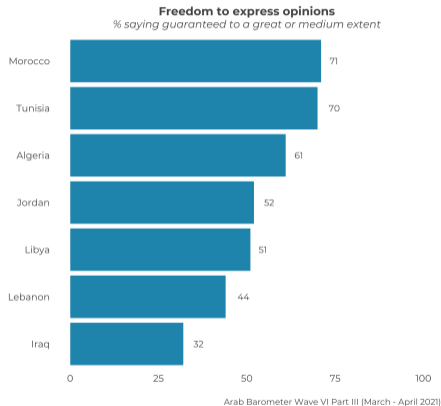
Changes in perceptions of anti-corruption

% saying government cracking down on corruption to a large or medium extent



Views of Freedoms

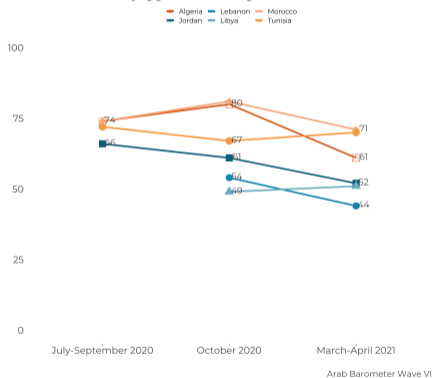
Perceptions of freedoms are lower in "more free" countries ...



... and declining across the survey period

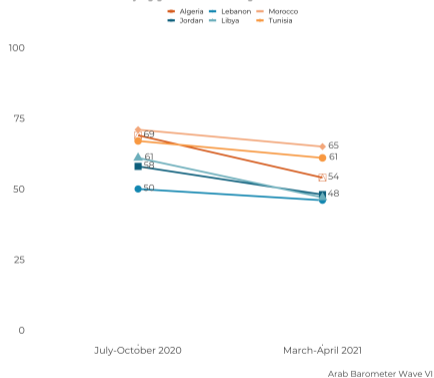
Changes in perceptions of freedom of expressing opinions

% saying guaranteed to a large of medium extent



Changes in perceptions of freedom of the press

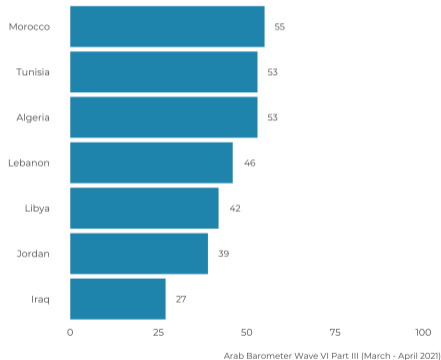
% saying guaranteed to a large of medium extent



Including the freedom to participate in protests

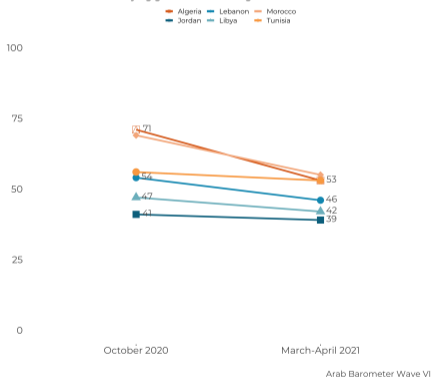
Freedom to participate in peaceful protests and demonstrations

% saying guaranteed to a great or medium extent



Changes in perceptions of freedom to participate in protests

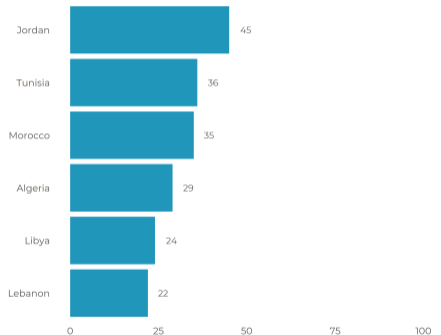
% saying guaranteed to a large or medium extent



Notable proportions favor restrictions during emergency 1/2

Government monitoring and tracing citizen's movement

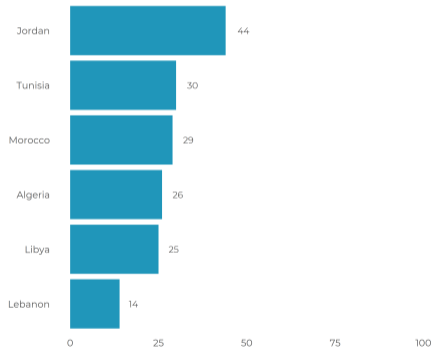
% saying always justifiable in times of emergency



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)

Government censoring the media

% saying always justifiable in times of emergency

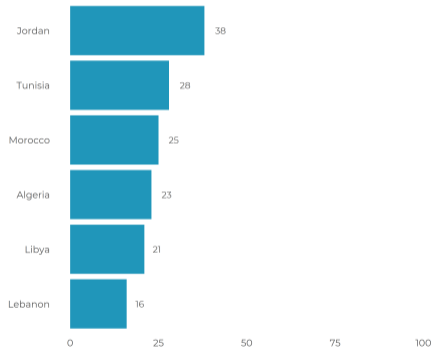


Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)

Notable proportions favor restrictions during emergency 2/2

Government limiting freedom of movement

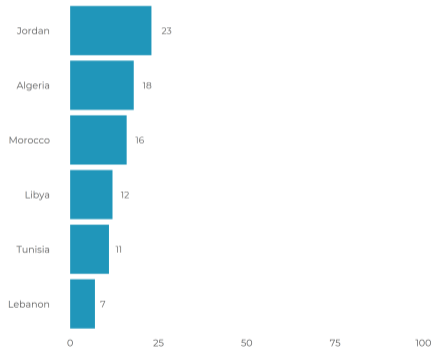
% saying always justifiable in times of emergency



Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)

Government limiting freedom of speech

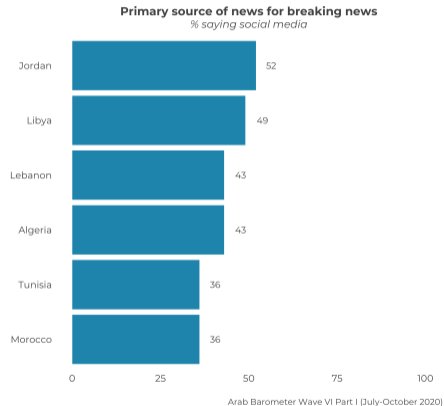
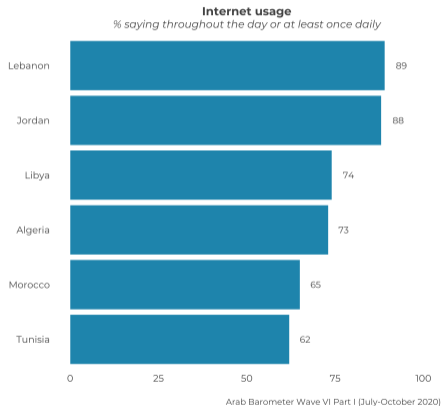
% saying always justifiable in times of emergency



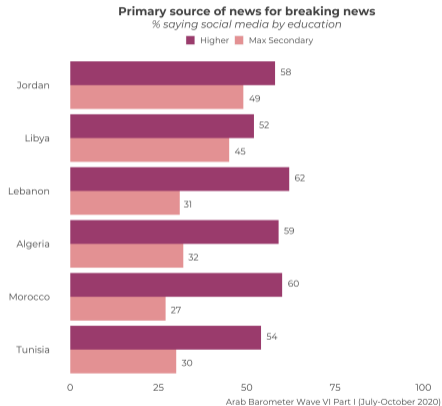
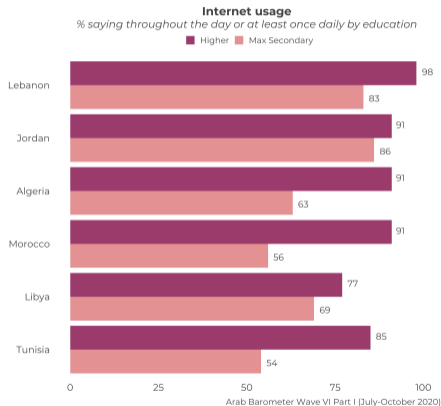
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)

Media Consumption

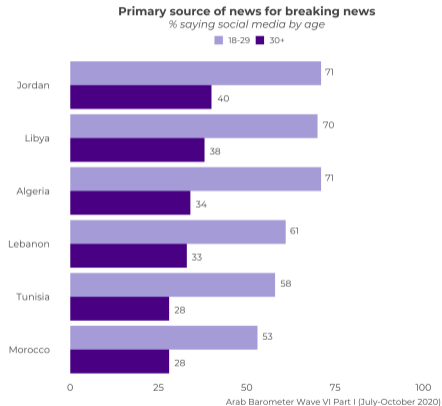
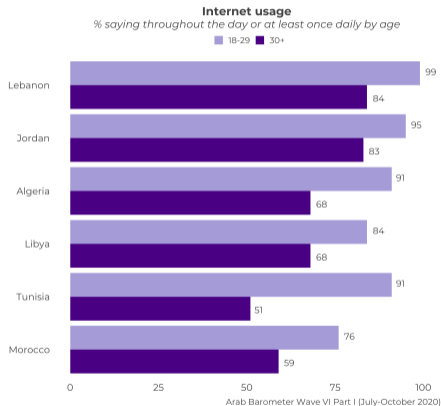
Majorities are using the internet daily ...



... relying on social media for breaking news ...



... especially the educated youth





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