COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa

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Princeton University
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### About Arab Barometer

Arab Barometer is the longest standing and largest repository of publicly available data on citizens’ views in the Middle East and North Africa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITMENT</th>
<th>FULLFILMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| TRANSPARENCY | • All data online  
               • Online analysis tool |
| RIGOR        | • Cutting-edge methodology  
               • Questionnaire design  
               • Sampling  
               • Emphasis on data quality  
               • Software  
               • Training |
| ETHICS       | • Capacity building  
               • Unfiltered voices |
NEW MODE: Phone surveys to protect teams and respondents, mitigate risk, abide by laws

SAMPLE: Random Digit Dial (RDD) in all countries but Lebanon, used a recontact list based on sample of 350,000 phone numbers
   ❖ Minimum 90% mobile phone penetration rate

DESIGN: Shorter surveys, multiple iterations
   ❖ 2 surveys in 2020 (nationally representative in each of 6 countries, n=1000 each)
   ❖ 1 survey in 2021 (nationally representative in each of 8 countries, n=1000 each)

EFFECTS:
   ❖ Potential mode effects, non-response: No trends with Waves I-V
   ❖ Track opinions over time
Wave VI Fielding Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arab Barometer Wave VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART I (2020)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fielding Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citizens in surveyed MENA countries are judging COVID-19 responses of governments based on the ability to manage the healthcare crisis and the economic fallout of the pandemic.

- Performance rating is highest where citizens rate both health, economic response well (Morocco).
- Performance rating is lowest where citizens rate both health, economic response poorly (Lebanon, Tunisia).
- Performance rating is mixed where governments are doing well in one aspect, not as well on the other. Healthcare seems to count more than economy in Algeria and Jordan.
Concern about the spread of COVID-19 is still high among citizens in surveyed MENA countries, though this concern has decreased in several countries.

Among citizens who are vaccine hesitant, those who trust the government say they are more likely to get the vaccine if were made available.

Citizens deem the disruption of children’s education as one of the biggest challenges posed by COVID-19, and publics want more money invested in their education systems.

The pandemic stands to deepen economic inequality as job loss and inflation threaten economic security.
COVID-19 in MENA

Convergence to Divergence
Significant regional variation in government performance on pandemic response

Changes in evaluations of government performance in responding to COVID-19 outbreak

% saying very good or good

- Algeria
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Morocco
- Tunisia

July-September 2020: 75
October 2020: 78
March-April 2020: 86
COVID-19 in MENA

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

ourworldindata.org/covid-cases
COVID-19 IN MENA: Health Concerns
COVID-19 Concern

March-April 2021 MENA publics remain preoccupied with virus spread

Changes in extent of concern about COVID-19 spreading over the next 6 months
% saying very or somewhat concerned

- Algeria
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Jordan
- Libya
- Tunisia

July-September 2020
October 2020
March-April 2020

Arab Barometer Wave VI
Gendered effects

Women are more concerned than men and these gender-driven differences pervade a variety of issues.
Loss of life fuels citizens’ primary concern

Greatest cause for concern
% of citizens concerned about COVID-19 mostly fear:

- Illness, death of family
- Other citizens' transgressions
- Overwhelmed healthcare system
- Negative econ. impact
- Inadequate gov’t response
- Household income loss
- Other DNR

Lebanon:
- 57% Illness, death of family
- 2% Other citizens' transgressions
- 12% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 16% Negative econ. impact
- 2% Inadequate gov’t response
- 10% Household income loss
- 2% Other DNR

Jordan:
- 54% Illness, death of family
- 14% Other citizens' transgressions
- 8% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 14% Negative econ. impact
- 4% Inadequate gov’t response
- 4% Household income loss
- 2% Other DNR

Algeria:
- 43% Illness, death of family
- 18% Other citizens' transgressions
- 14% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 12% Negative econ. impact
- 7% Inadequate gov’t response
- 4% Household income loss
- 2% Other DNR

Tunisia:
- 38% Illness, death of family
- 13% Other citizens' transgressions
- 12% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 13% Negative econ. impact
- 4% Inadequate gov’t response
- 4% Household income loss
- 9% Other DNR

Morocco:
- 33% Illness, death of family
- 22% Other citizens' transgressions
- 9% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 17% Negative econ. impact
- 3% Inadequate gov’t response
- 3% Household income loss
- 13% Other DNR

Libya:
- 21% Illness, death of family
- 29% Other citizens' transgressions
- 23% Overwhelmed healthcare system
- 5% Negative econ. impact
- 16% Inadequate gov’t response
- 2% Household income loss
- 5% Other DNR

Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March-April 2021)
March-April 2021 MENA publics are between eager and “eh”
Vaccine hesitancy by age and education

**Likelihood of getting the vaccine if available**
% saying it is very or somewhat likely by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>18-29</th>
<th>30+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Likelihood of getting the vaccine if available**
% saying it is very or somewhat likely by education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Higher</th>
<th>Max Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March - April 2021)
Vaccination: government trust is key

In countries where vaccine hesitancy is high citizens who trust the government are more likely to get vaccinated.
Three trends among MENA publics preoccupied with virus spread

Changes in extent of concern about COVID-19 spreading over the next 6 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned

- Algeria
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Jordan
- Libya
- Tunisia

Concentration Constant  Concern Decreasing  Concern Increasing

0  25  50  75  100


Arab Barometer Wave VI
Increased concern in Jordan appears alongside deterioration across multiple COVID-affected conditions.
Algeria and Tunisia

Decreased concern appears to be happening where there is a realignment of priorities in which economy is taking precedence.
Relief aid, coupled with vaccine rates, helps explain decreased concern, support of government performance on COVID in Morocco
Lebanon and Libya

Consistently high concern in places where healthcare (among other things) are in crisis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Satisfaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March-April 2021)*
Government performance intimately tied to healthcare

Changes in ratings of the healthcare system and government’s COVID-19 response

% of citizens saying
- Govt COVID response very good or good
- Satisfied with healthcare system

Algeria
- July-Sept 2020: 65%
- Oct 2020: 53%
- Mar-Apr 2021: 59%
- July-Sept 2021: 47%

Jordan
- July-Sept 2020: 75%
- Oct 2020: 66%
- Mar-Apr 2021: 37%
- July-Sept 2021: 47%

Lebanon
- July-Sept 2020: 13%
- Oct 2020: 17%

Libya
- July-Sept 2020: 74%
- Oct 2020: 72%
- Mar-Apr 2021: 86%

Morocco
- July-Sept 2020: 74%
- Oct 2020: 57%
- Mar-Apr 2021: 52%

Tunisia
- July-Sept 2020: 96%
- Oct 2020: 85%
- Mar-Apr 2021: 71%
COVID-19 IN MENA: Impacts on Education
Unanimous agreement on negative impacts of COVID-19 on education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% saying extremely or moderately negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arab Barometer Wave VI Part I (July-October 2020)
Report cards for education systems

Remote learning gives parents birds' eye view of education

Changes in satisfaction with the education system

% saying completely satisfied or satisfied

- Algeria
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Jordan
- Libya
- Tunisia

July-September 2020: 54
October 2020: 51
March-April 2020: 24

Arab Barometer Wave VI
MENA publics want more money for education

**Citizens' preferences for government spending**
% saying the top spending priority should be

- **Healthcare**
- **National security**
- **Environment**
- **Education**
- **Roads**
- **DNR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>National security</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Roads</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Citizens' preferences for foreign aid**
% saying they prefer aid to be dedicated to

- **Education**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Women's rights**
- **Civil society**
- **Civil rights**
- **Environment**
- **DNR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Women's rights</th>
<th>Civil society</th>
<th>Civil rights</th>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>DNR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disruption of education seen as significant fallout

Disruption of children's education is seen as the biggest pandemic-induced challenge in Libya, Jordan, and Morocco.
COVID-19 IN MENA:
Economic Effects and Inequality
Pandemic stands to deepen economic inequality
Unequal effects of COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19 on citizens who are poor
% saying the impact is more harmful

Jordan: 83
Iraq: 71
Tunisia: 66
Morocco: 60
Algeria: 59
Lebanon: 54
Libya: 47

Citizen's perceived impact of COVID-19 on migrants or refugees
% saying COVID-19's effect on this group was more harmful than it was on others

Iraq: Migrants 59, Refugees 9
Algeria: Migrants 55, Refugees 9
Tunisia: Migrants 52, Refugees 9
Jordan: Migrants 52, Refugees 9
Lebanon: Migrants 45, Refugees 9
Libya: Migrants 41, Refugees 9
Morocco: Migrants 38, Refugees 9

Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March - April 2021)
Effect of COVID on employment

Effect of COVID-19 spread on employment status

% saying work from home with no serious interruption by gender

Female | Male
--- | ---
Lebanon | 12 | 23
Morocco | 12 | 18
Libya | 7 | 11
Tunisia | 5 | 8
Iraq | 5 | 6
Algeria | 7 | 8
Jordan | 3 | 8

Effect of COVID-19 on jobs of those employed before the pandemic

% saying COVID-19 caused

- Permanent job loss
- Temporary job interruption
- Work from home
- No effect on job
- DNR

Lebanon
- Permanent job loss: 19
- Temporary job interruption: 41
- Work from home: 19
- No effect on job: 20
- DNR: 1

Tunisia
- Permanent job loss: 14
- Temporary job interruption: 34
- Work from home: 8
- No effect on job: 43
- DNR: 1

Jordan
- Permanent job loss: 20
- Temporary job interruption: 33
- Work from home: 4
- No effect on job: 43
- DNR: 1

Morocco
- Permanent job loss: 8
- Temporary job interruption: 33
- Work from home: 17
- No effect on job: 41
- DNR: 1

Iraq
- Permanent job loss: 5
- Temporary job interruption: 45
- Work from home: 6
- No effect on job: 44
- DNR: 1

Algeria
- Permanent job loss: 4
- Temporary job interruption: 37
- Work from home: 7
- No effect on job: 52
- DNR: 1

Libya
- Permanent job loss: 2
- Temporary job interruption: 29
- Work from home: 10
- No effect on job: 59
- DNR: 1

Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March - April 2021)
Job loss and difficulty covering expenses go hand-in-hand

**Effect of COVID-19 spread on employment status**

*% saying permanent job loss by income*

- Jordan: Can cover expenses - 11, Cannot cover expenses - 23
- Lebanon: Can cover expenses - 10, Cannot cover expenses - 22
- Tunisia: Can cover expenses - 8, Cannot cover expenses - 18
- Morocco: Can cover expenses - 6, Cannot cover expenses - 11
- Iraq: Can cover expenses - 5, Cannot cover expenses - 6
- Algeria: Can cover expenses - 4, Cannot cover expenses - 5
- Libya: Can cover expenses - 2, Cannot cover expenses - 3

**Effect of COVID-19 spread on employment status**

*% saying temporary job interruption by income*

- Iraq: Can cover expenses - 46, Cannot cover expenses - 43
- Lebanon: Can cover expenses - 32, Cannot cover expenses - 45
- Algeria: Can cover expenses - 37, Cannot cover expenses - 38
- Morocco: Can cover expenses - 28, Cannot cover expenses - 39
- Tunisia: Can cover expenses - 27, Cannot cover expenses - 38
- Jordan: Can cover expenses - 27, Cannot cover expenses - 35
- Libya: Can cover expenses - 26, Cannot cover expenses - 33
Government economic response leaves publics wanting
Government performance intimately tied to economy

Changes in evaluations of government's management of inflation and government's COVID-19 response

% of citizens saying
- Gov't COVID response very good or good
- Gov't performance keeping prices down very good or good

Algeria
- Oct 2020: 78
- Mar-Apr 2021: 64

Jordan
- Oct 2020: 68
- Mar-Apr 2021: 47

Lebanon
- Oct 2020: 14
- Mar-Apr 2021: 16

Libya
- Oct 2020: 57
- Mar-Apr 2021: 33

Morocco
- Oct 2020: 73
- Mar-Apr 2021: 56

Tunisia
- Oct 2020: 24
- Mar-Apr 2021: 31

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