



COVID-19 in the Middle East and North Africa

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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.

COMMITMENT	FULLFILMENT
TRANSPARENCY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All data online• Online analysis tool
RIGOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cutting-edge methodology<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questionnaire design• Sampling• Emphasis on data quality<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Software• Training
ETHICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity building• Unfiltered voices

Arab Barometer Wave VI Methodology

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

Arab Barometer Wave VI						
	PART I (2020)		PART II (2020)		PART III (2021)	
	Fielding Dates	# of Respondents	Fielding Dates	# of Respondents	Fielding Dates	# of Respondents
Tunisia	07. 24 – 07.28	1006	10.06 – 10.15	1002	03.06 – 03.16	1200
Morocco	07.28 – 08.04	1003	10.07 – 10.15	1005	03.24 – 04.05	1201
Algeria	08.15 – 09. 05	1007	10.12 – 10.19	1003	03.31 – 04.14	1204
Libya	08.15 – 09.29	720	10.19 – 10.27	1008	03.17 – 04.04	1002
Jordan	09.19 – 09.25	1005	10.06 – 10.30	1019	03.21 – 03.30	1212
Lebanon	09.29 – 10.09	1000	10.12 – 10.25	1000	03.25 – 04.03	1000
Iraq	NA	NA	NA	NA	03.12 – 03-27	1016
Kuwait	NA	NA	NA	NA	In Process	

Key Findings

- ❖ 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.

Key Findings

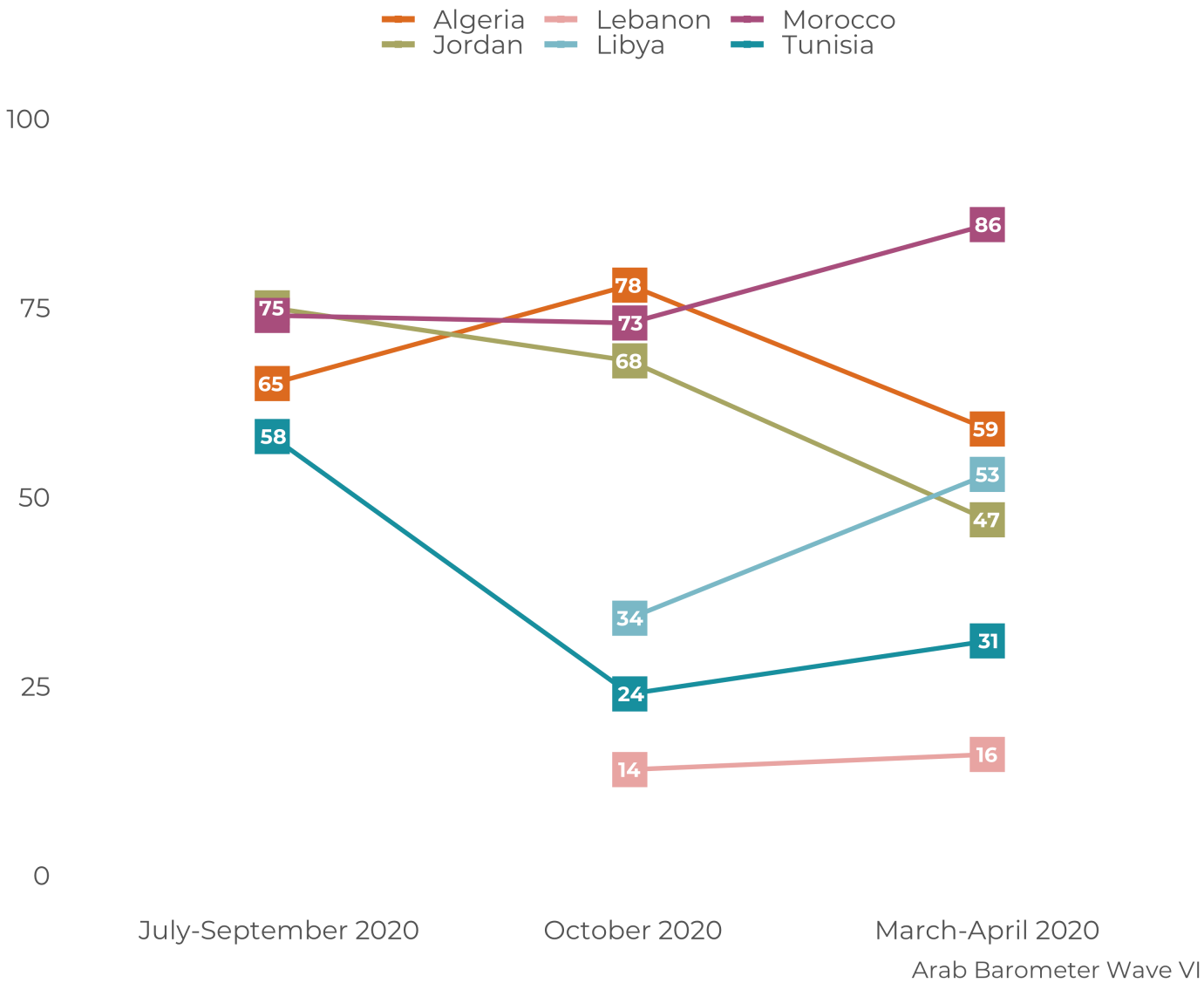
- ❖ Concern about the spread of COVID-19 is still high among citizens in surveyed MENA countries, though this concern has decreased in several countries.
- ❖ Among citizens who are vaccine hesitant, those who trust the government say they are more likely get the vaccine if were made available
- ❖ Citizens 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

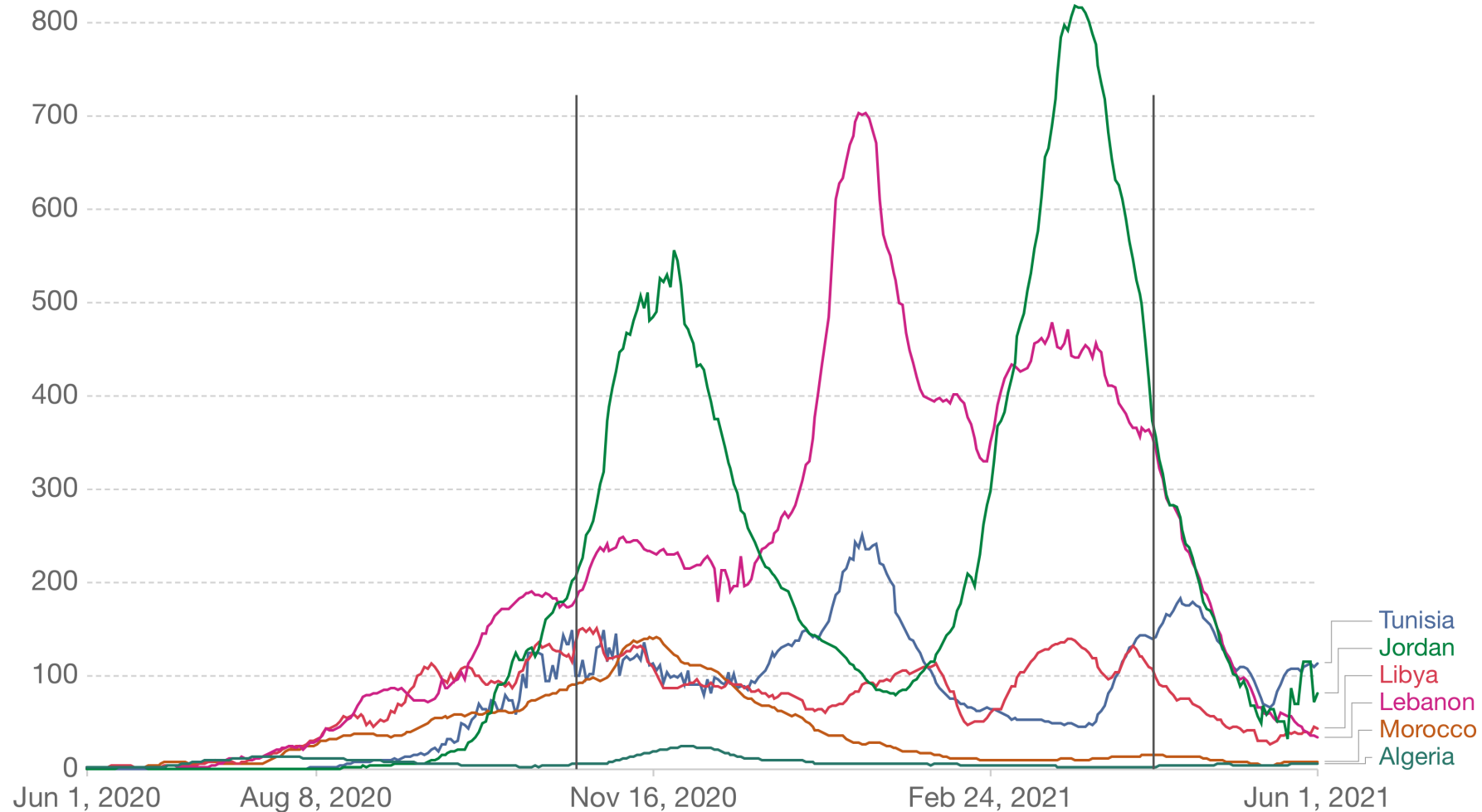
% saying very good or good



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

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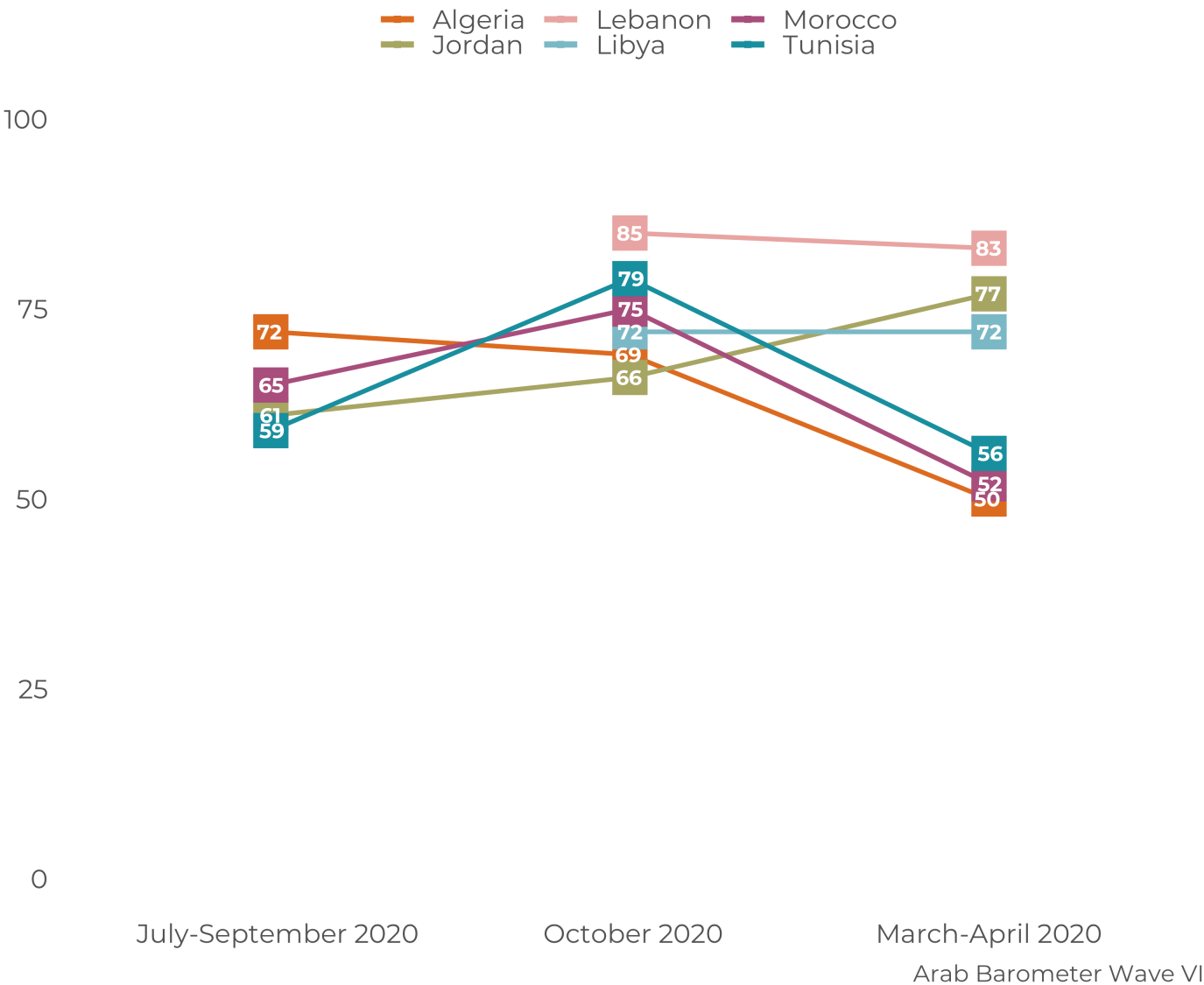
COVID-19 IN MENA: Health Concerns

COVID-19 Concern

March-April 2021 MENA
publics remain preoccupied
with virus spread

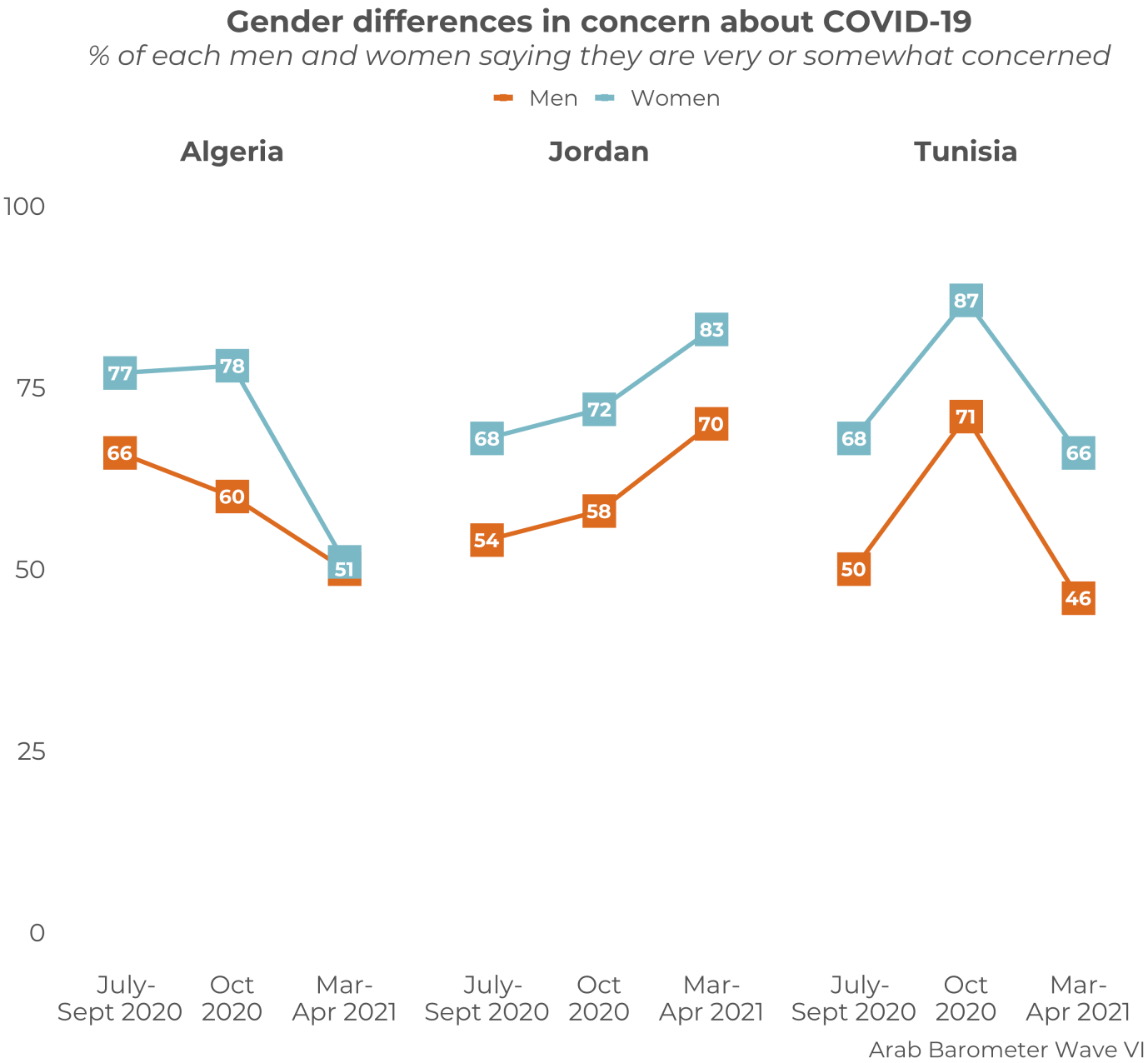
Changes in extent of concern about COVID-19 spreading over the next 6 months

% saying very or somewhat concerned

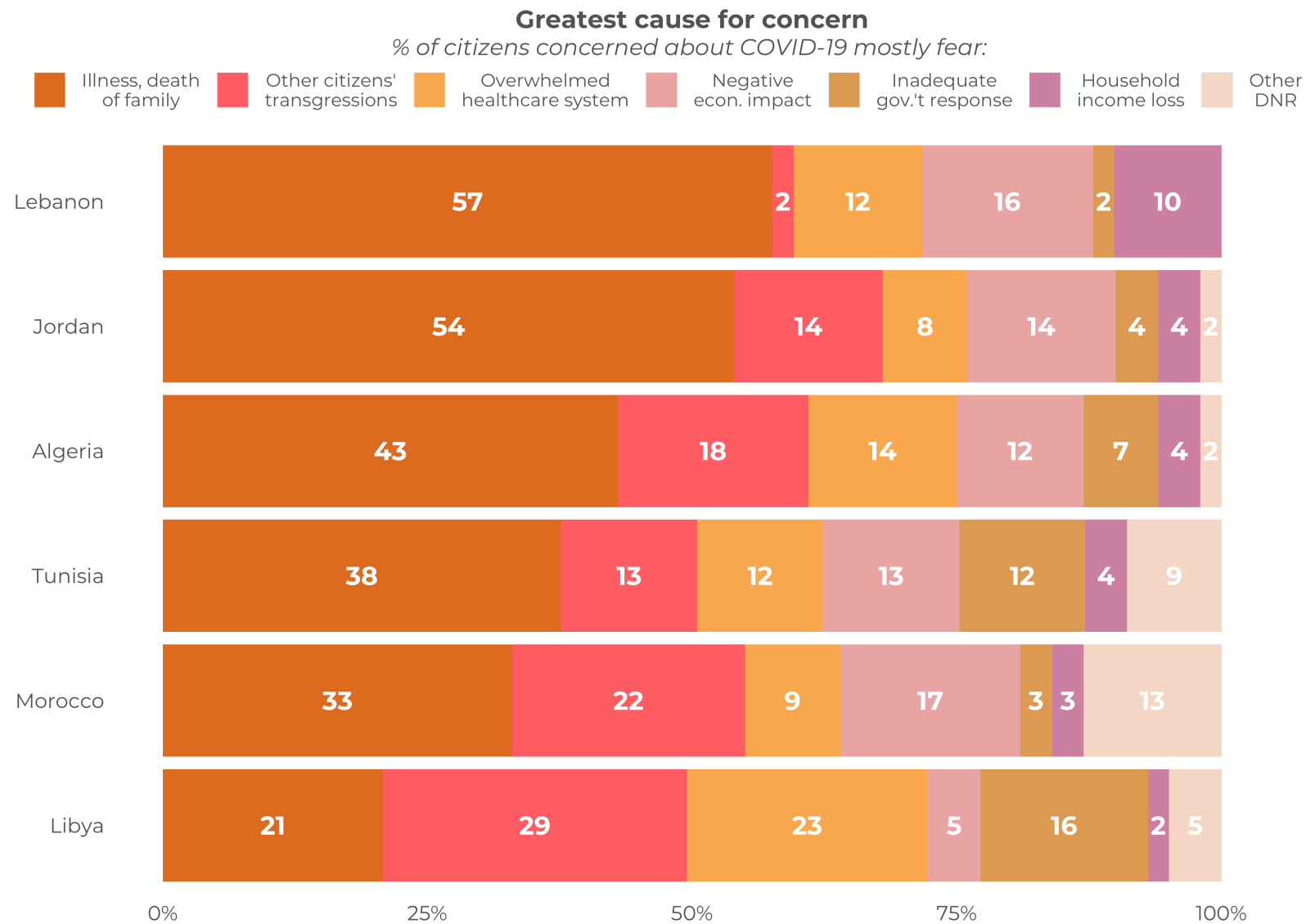


Gendered effects

Women are more concerned than men and these gender-driven differences pervade a variety of issues

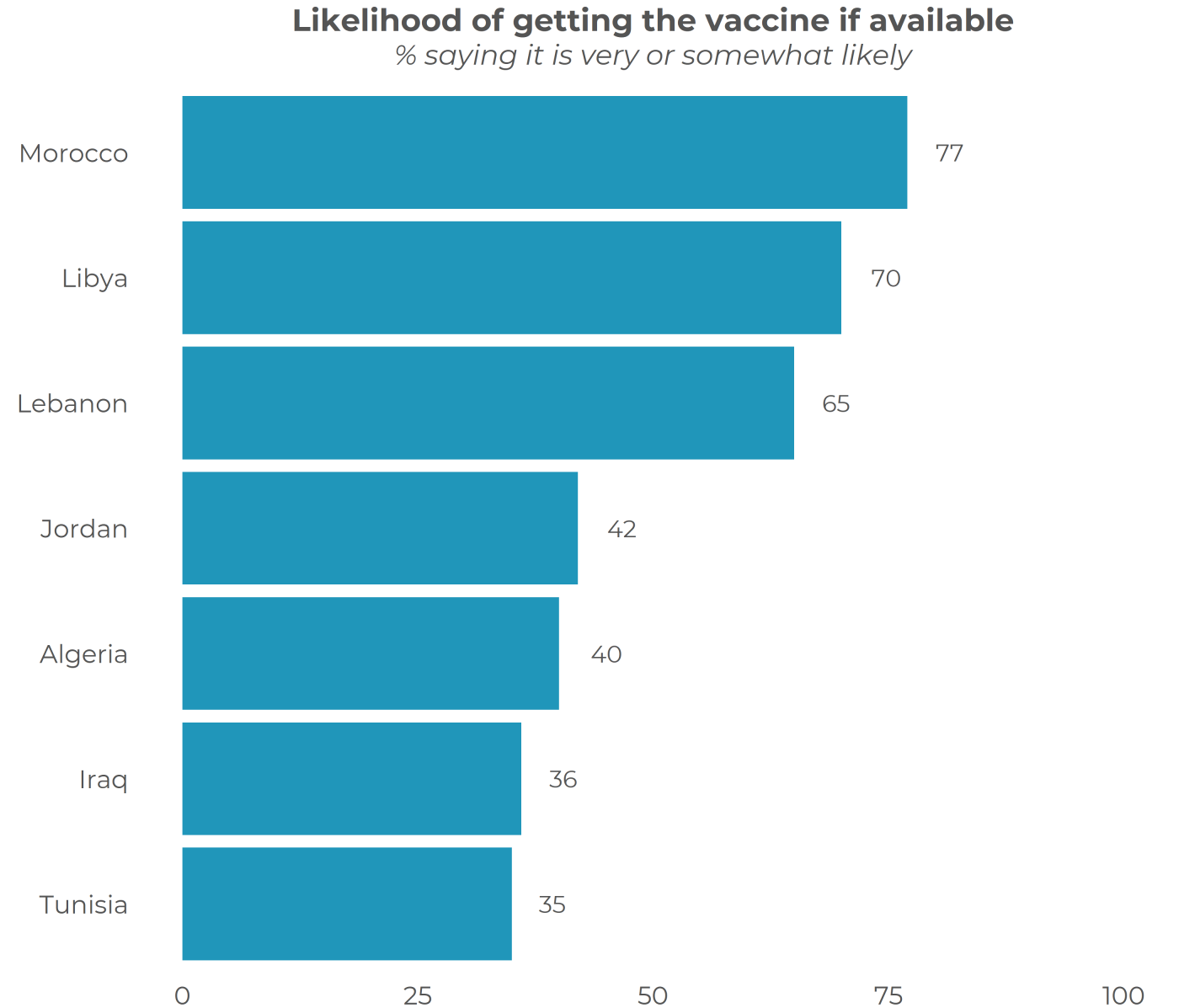


Loss of life fuels citizens' primary concern

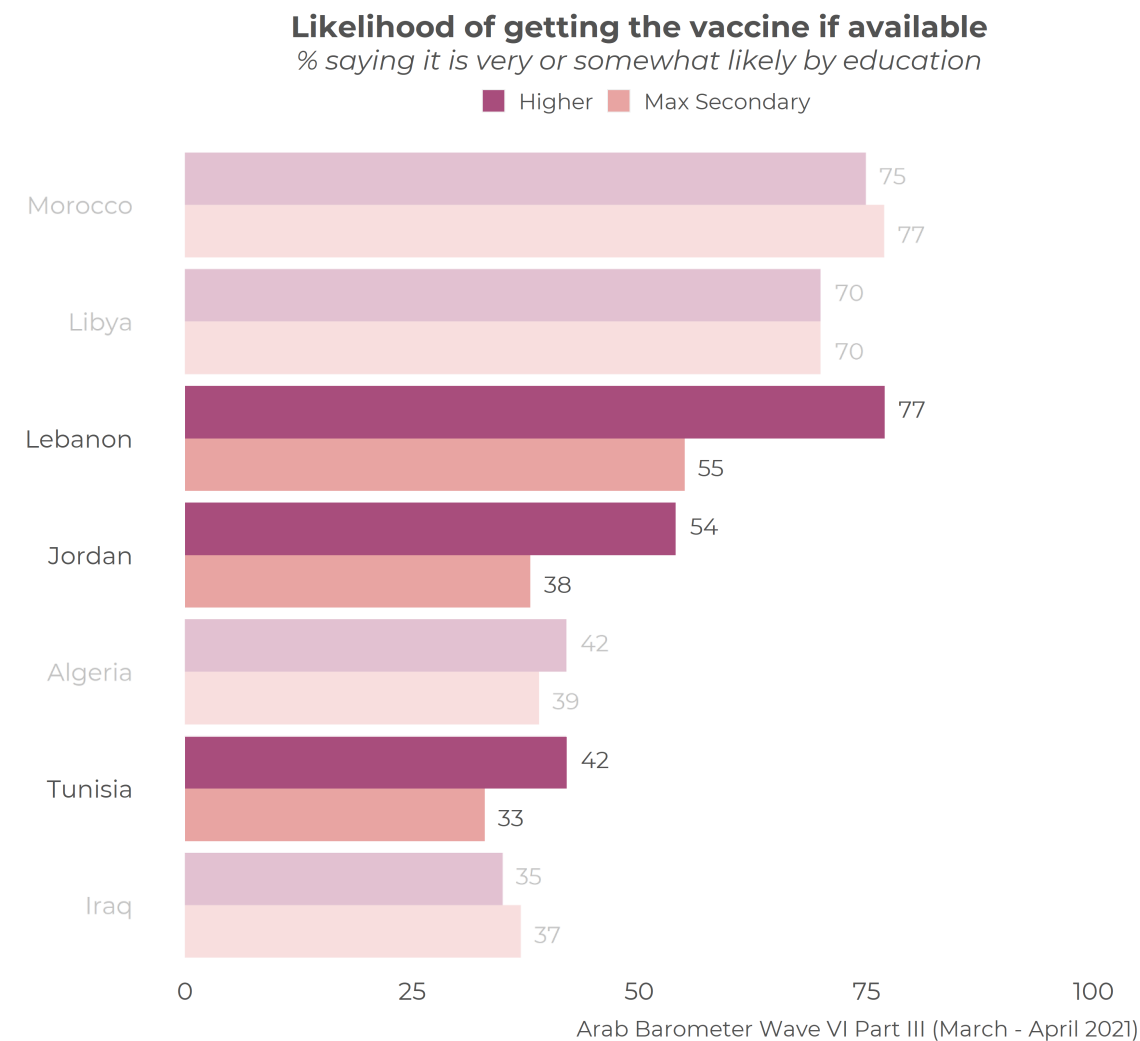
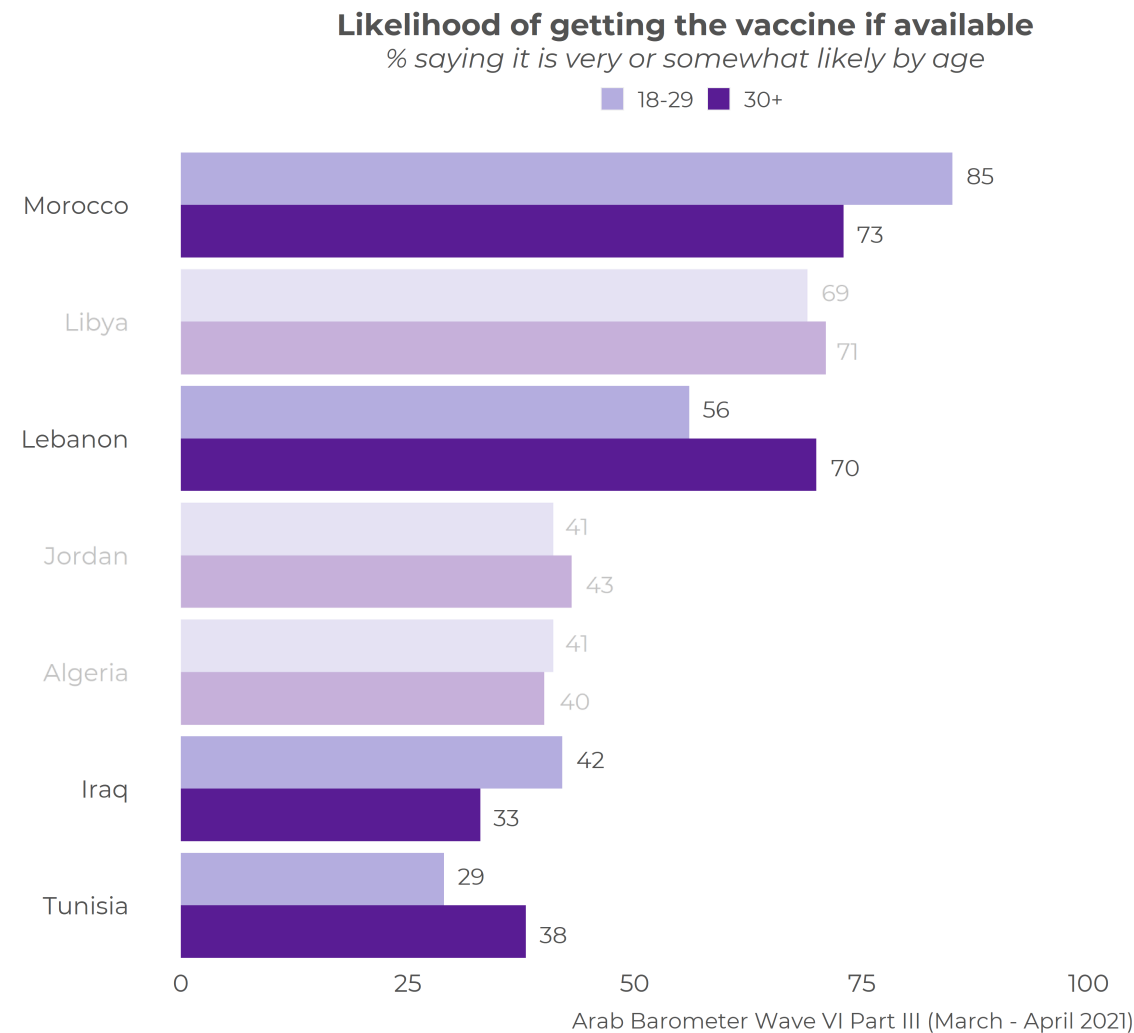


Vaccine hesitancy

March-April 2021 MENA publics
are between eager and “eh”

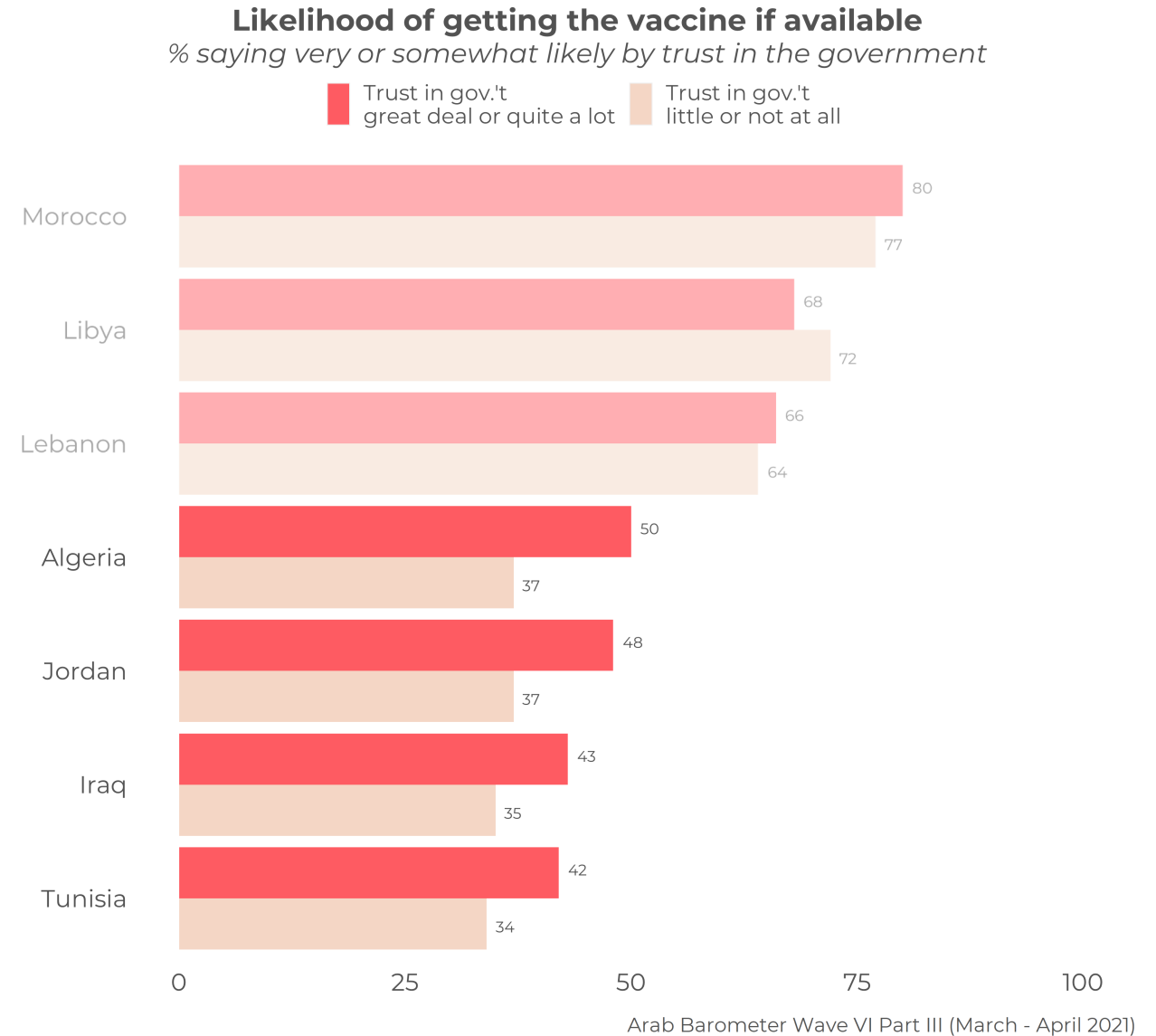


Vaccine hesitancy by age and education



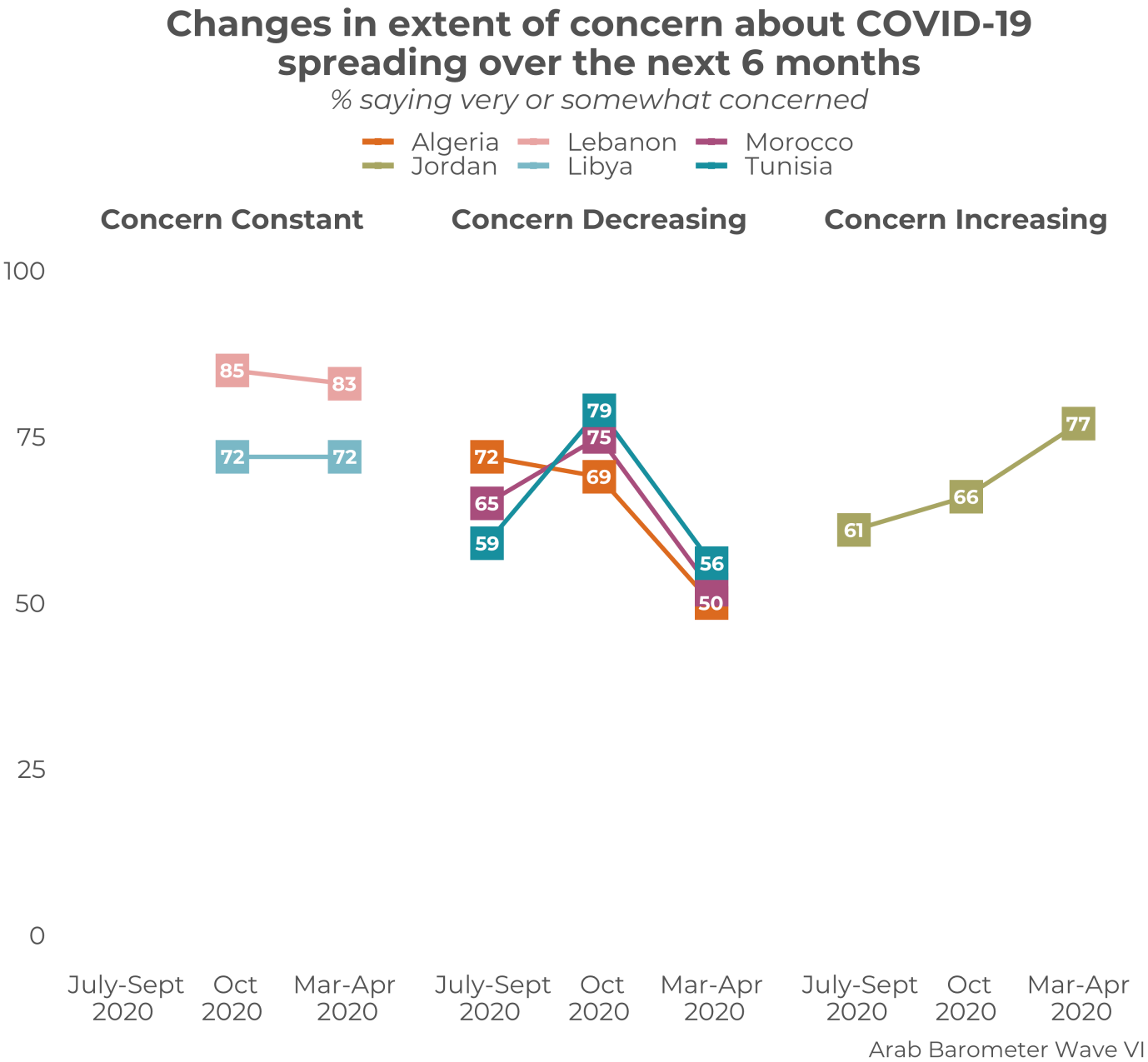
Vaccination: government trust is key

In countries where vaccine hesitancy is high citizens who trust the government are more likely to get vaccinated



COVID-19 Concern

Three trends among MENA publics preoccupied with virus spread

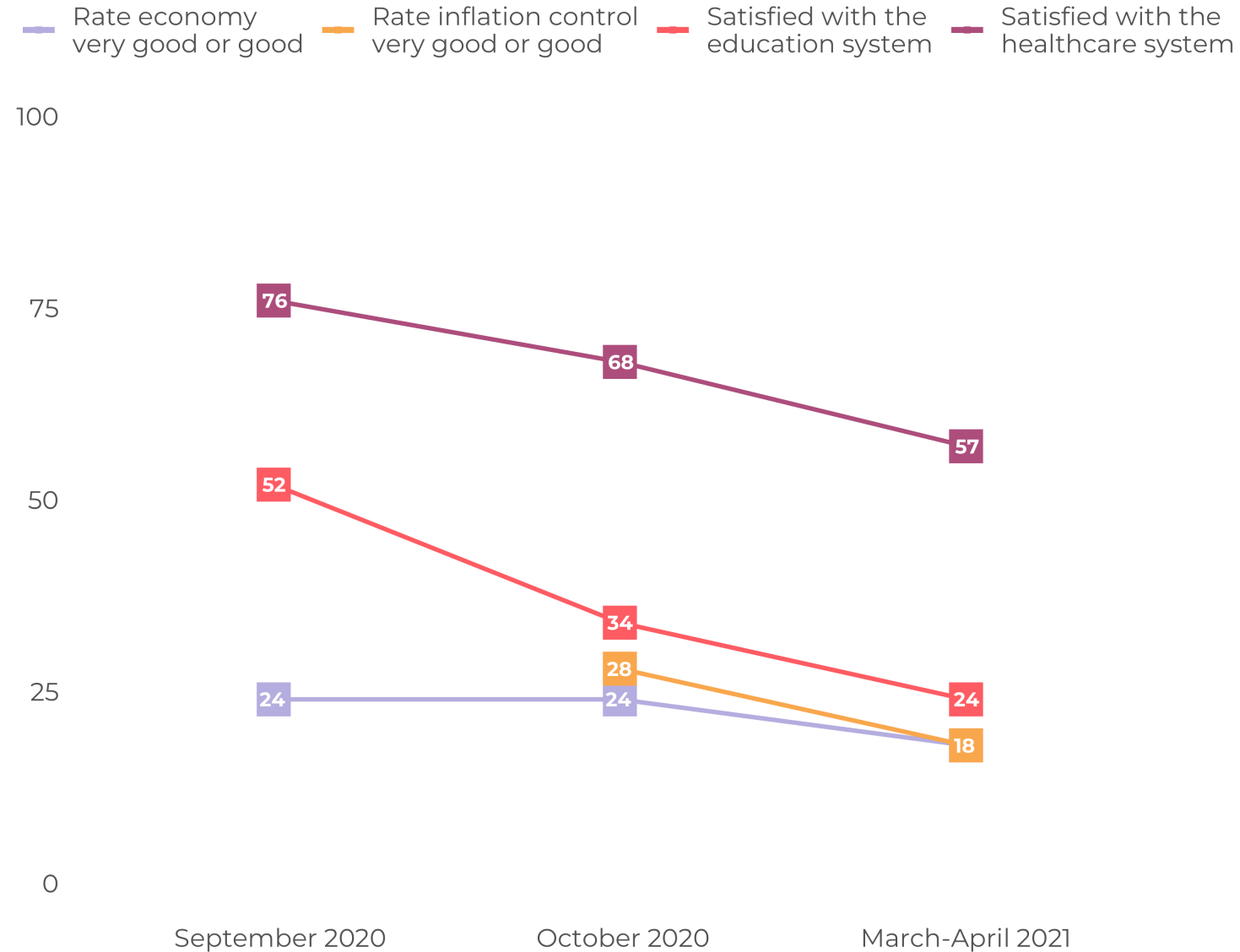


Jordan

Increased concern in Jordan appears alongside deterioration across multiple COVID-affected conditions

Jordan: Declining health, economic conditions

% of Jordanians saying they



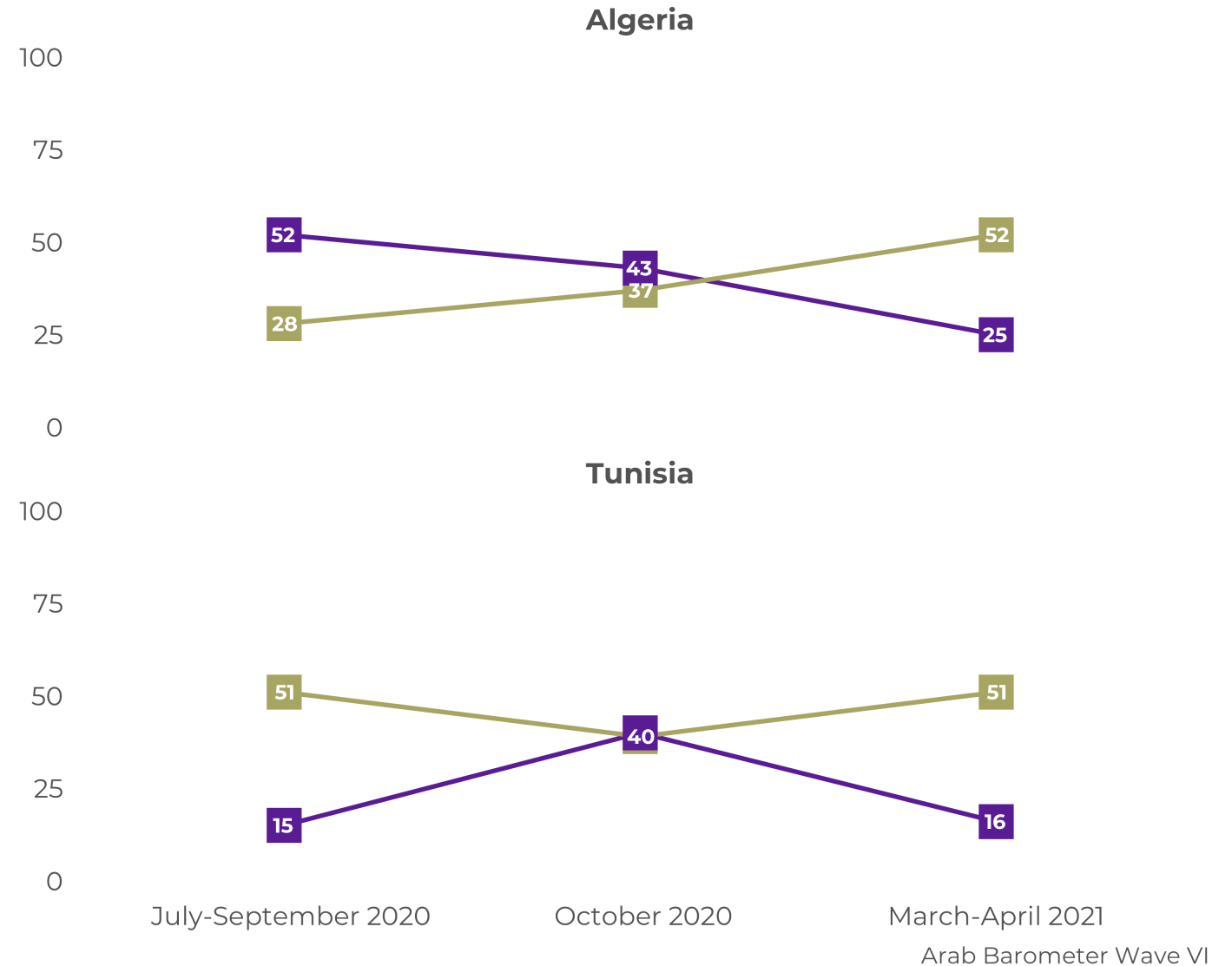
Arab Barometer Wave VI, Jordan

Algeria and Tunisia

Decreased concern appears to be happening where there is a realignment of priorities in which economy is taking precedence

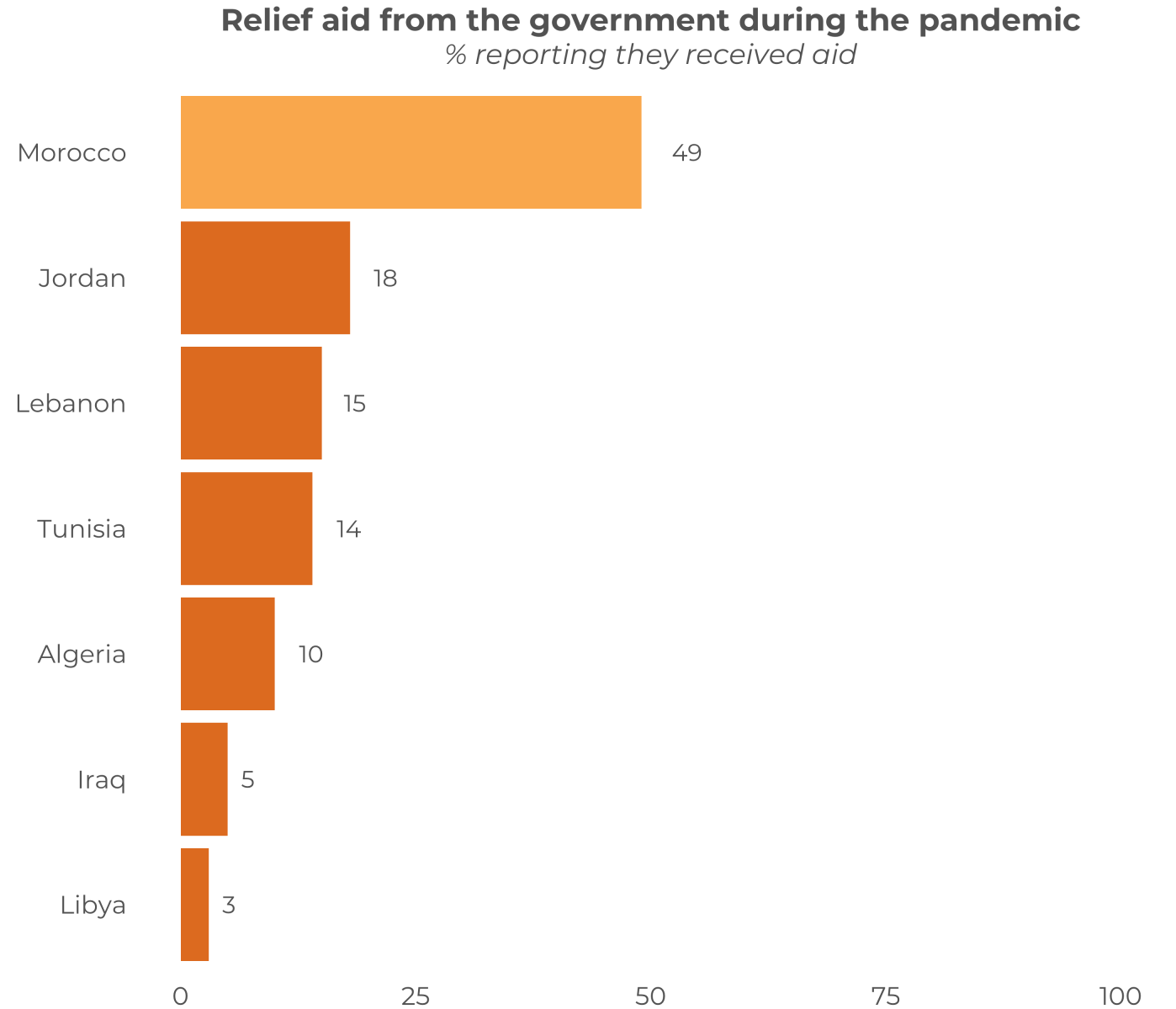
Changes in most important challenges confronting the country
% of citizens saying

COVID-19 Economic situation



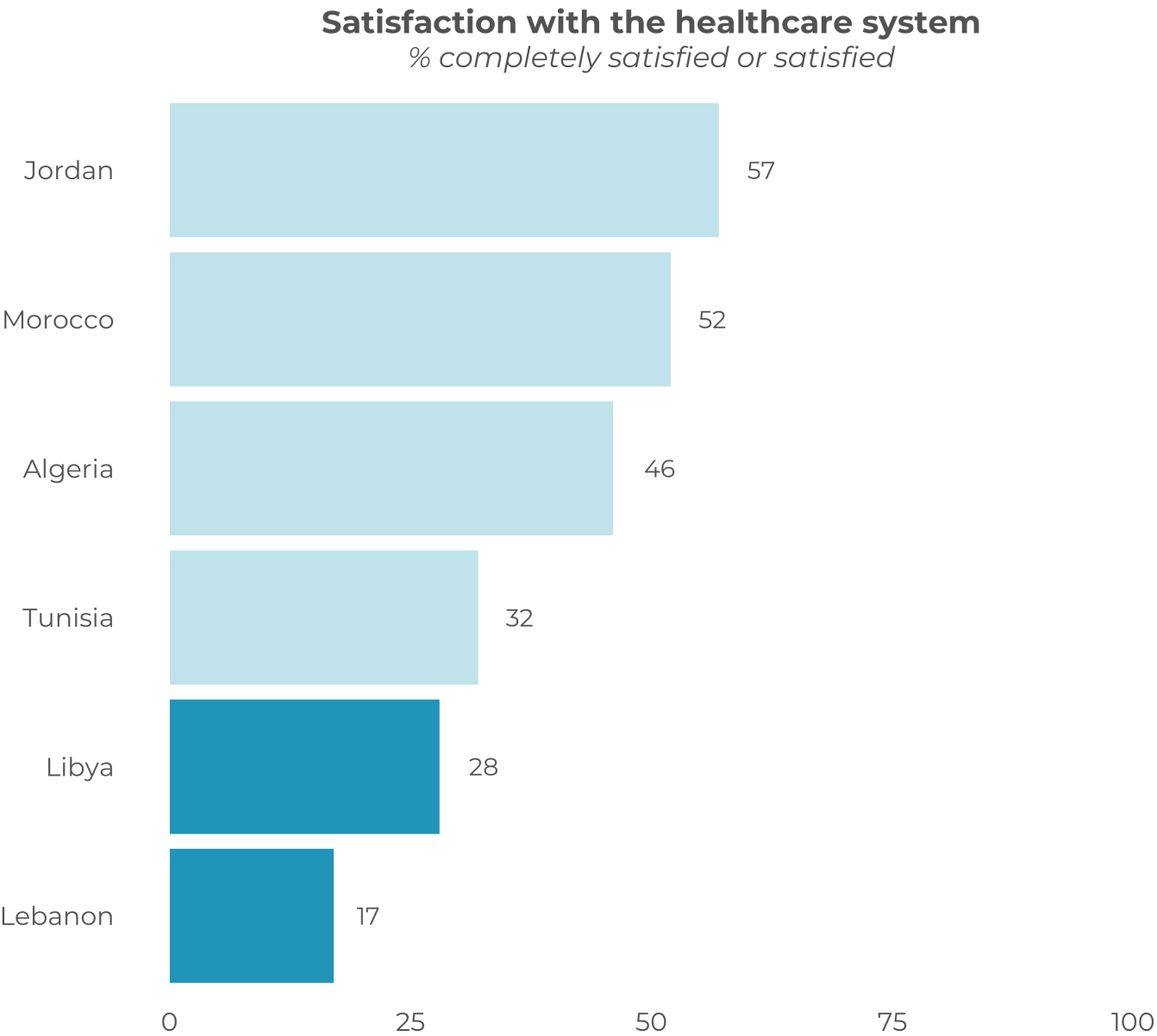
Morocco

Relief aid, coupled with vaccine rates, helps explain decreased concern, support of government performance on COVID in Morocco

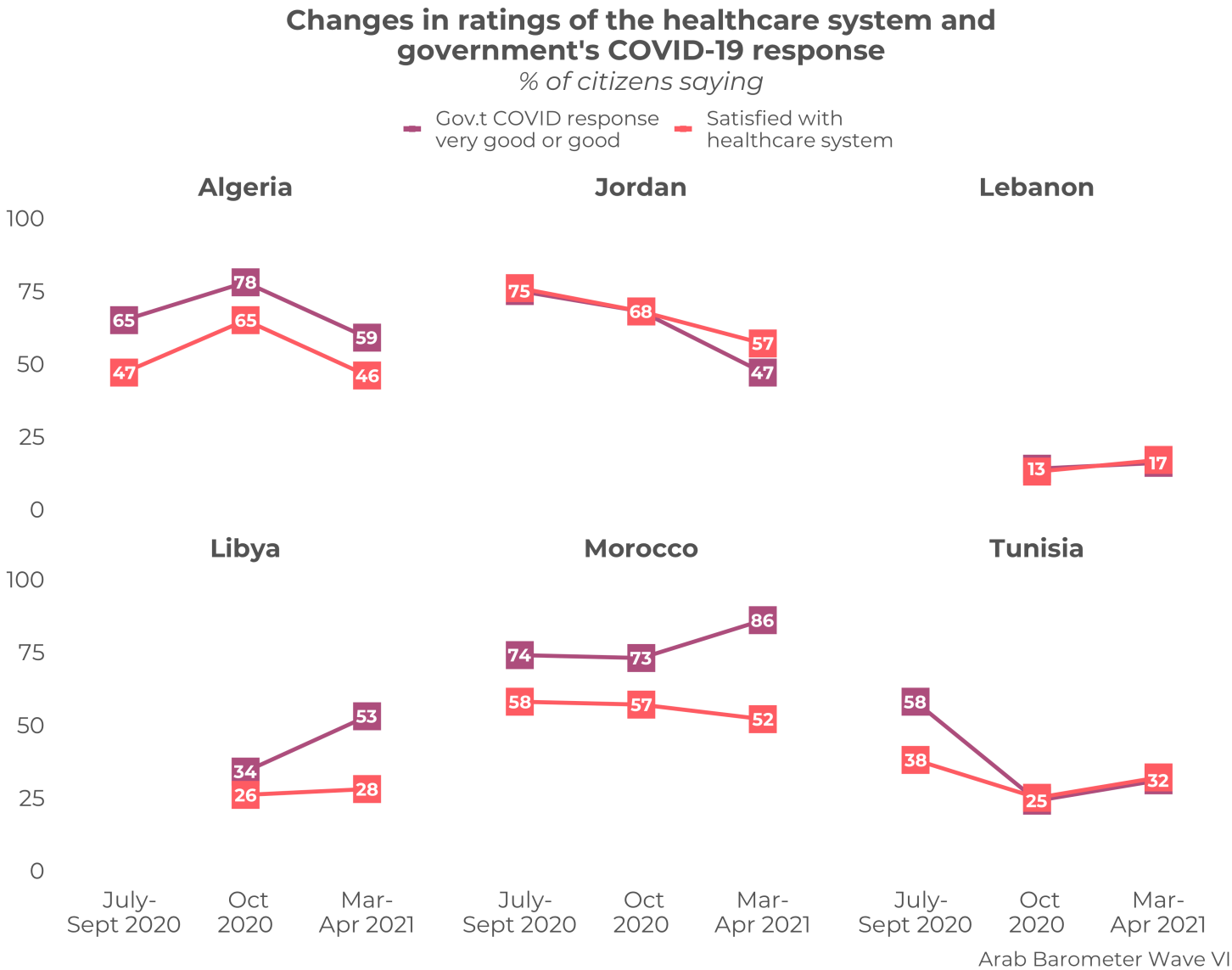


Lebanon and Libya

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



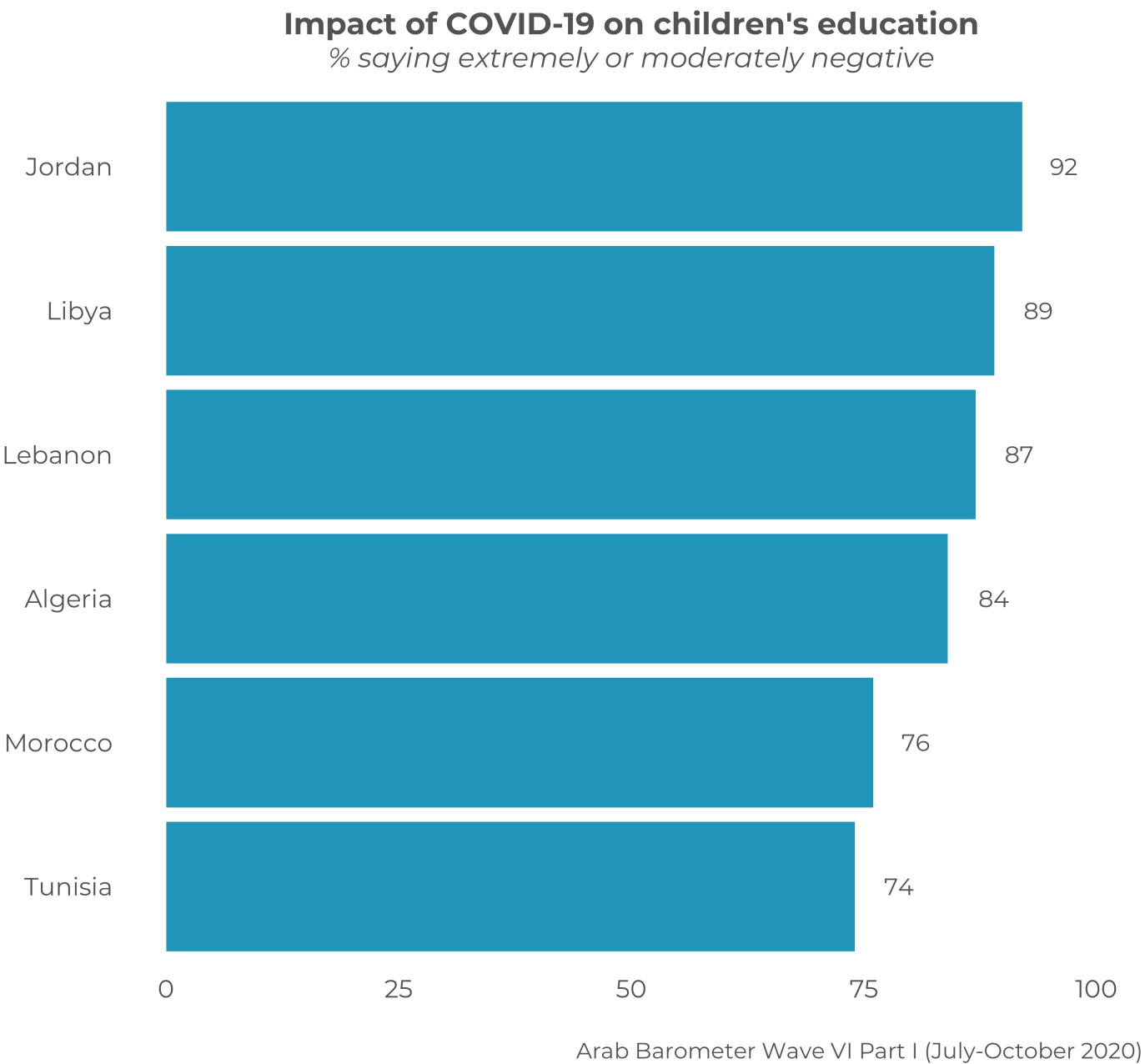
Government performance intimately tied to healthcare



COVID-19 IN MENA: Impacts on Education

Pandemic & education

Unanimous agreement on negative impacts of COVID19 on education

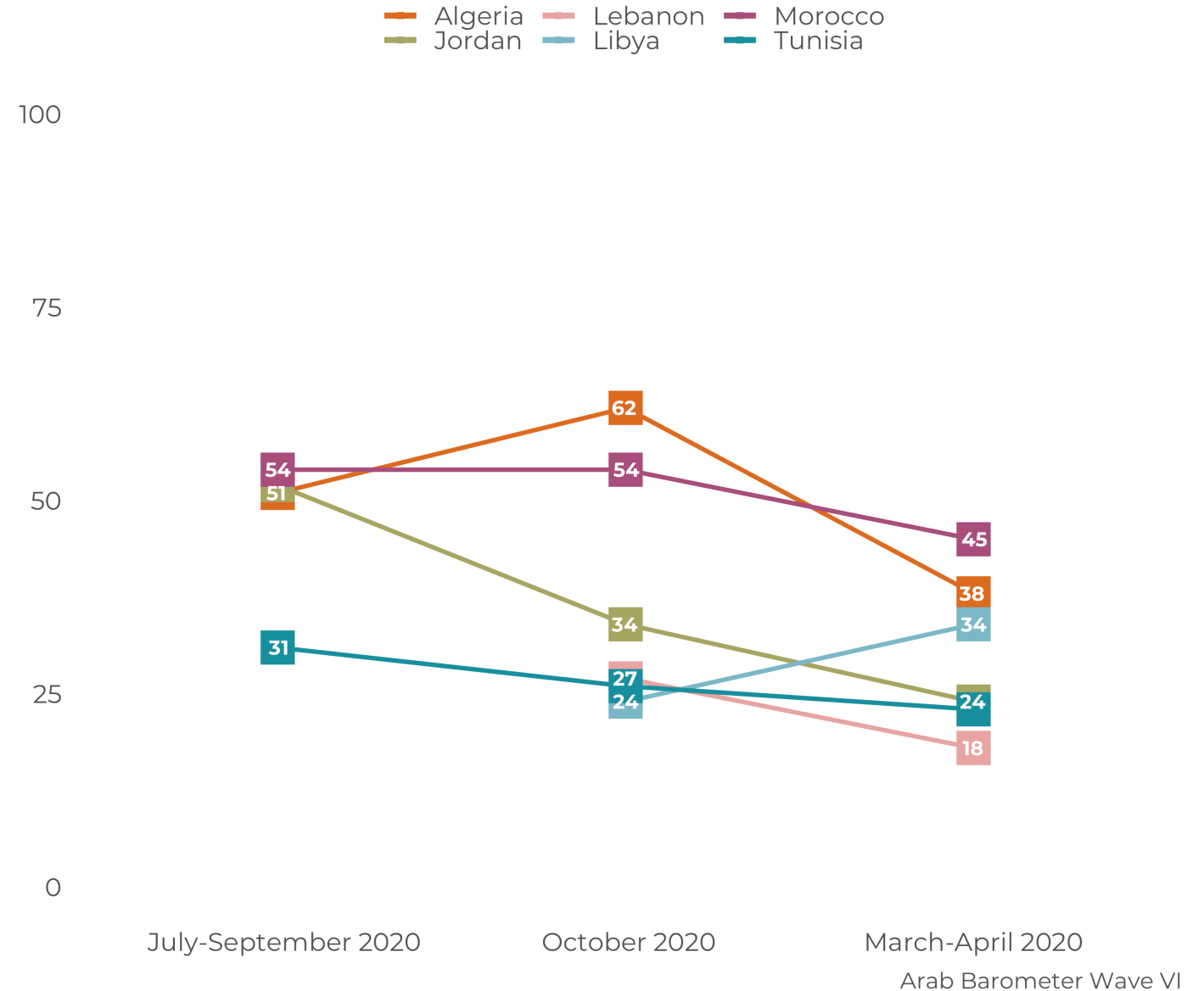


Report cards for education systems

Remote learning gives parents birds' eye view of education

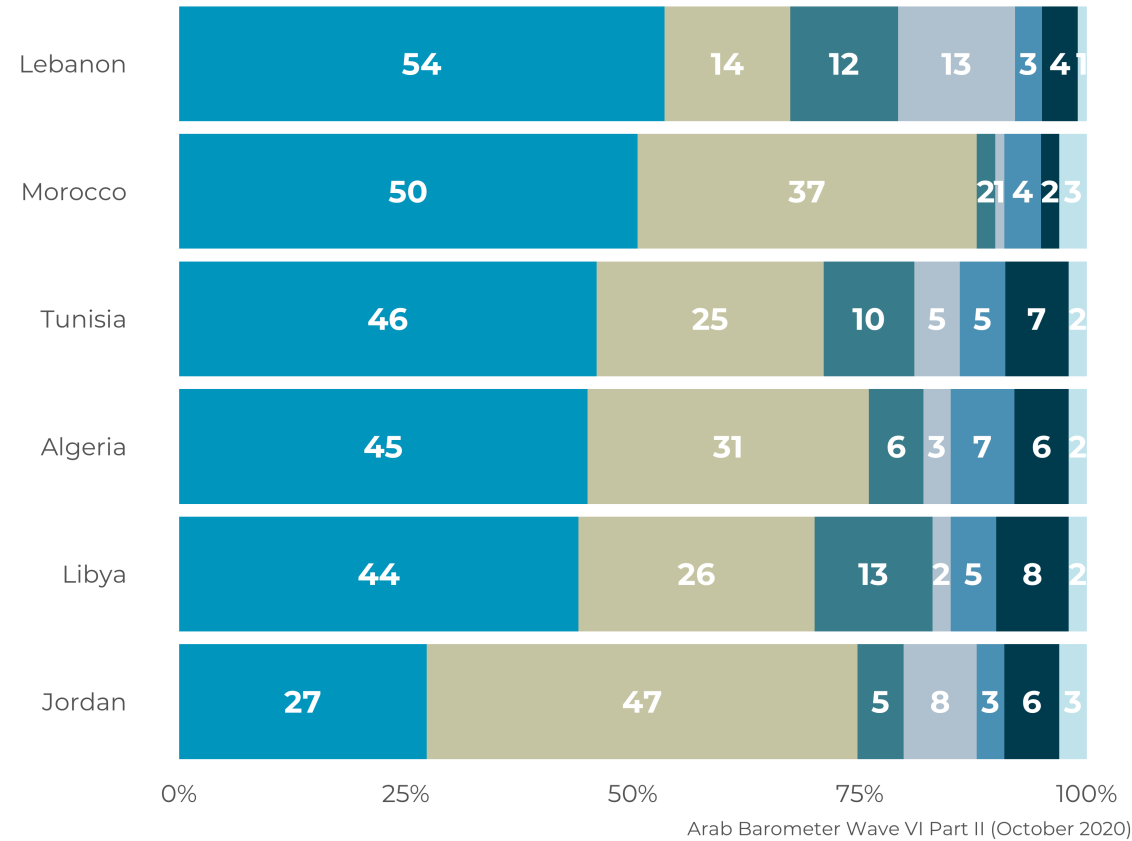
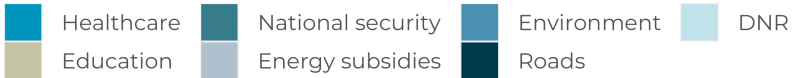
Changes in satisfaction with the education system

% saying completely satisfied or satisfied

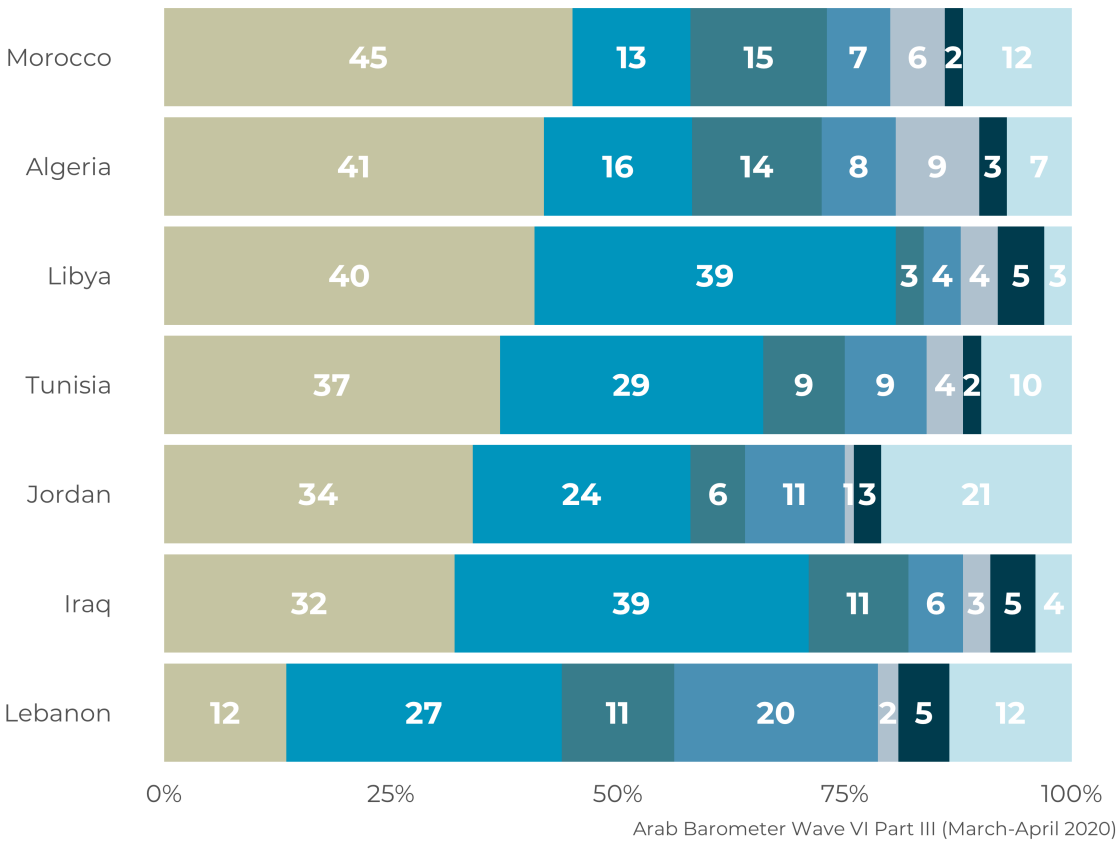


MENA publics want more money for education

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

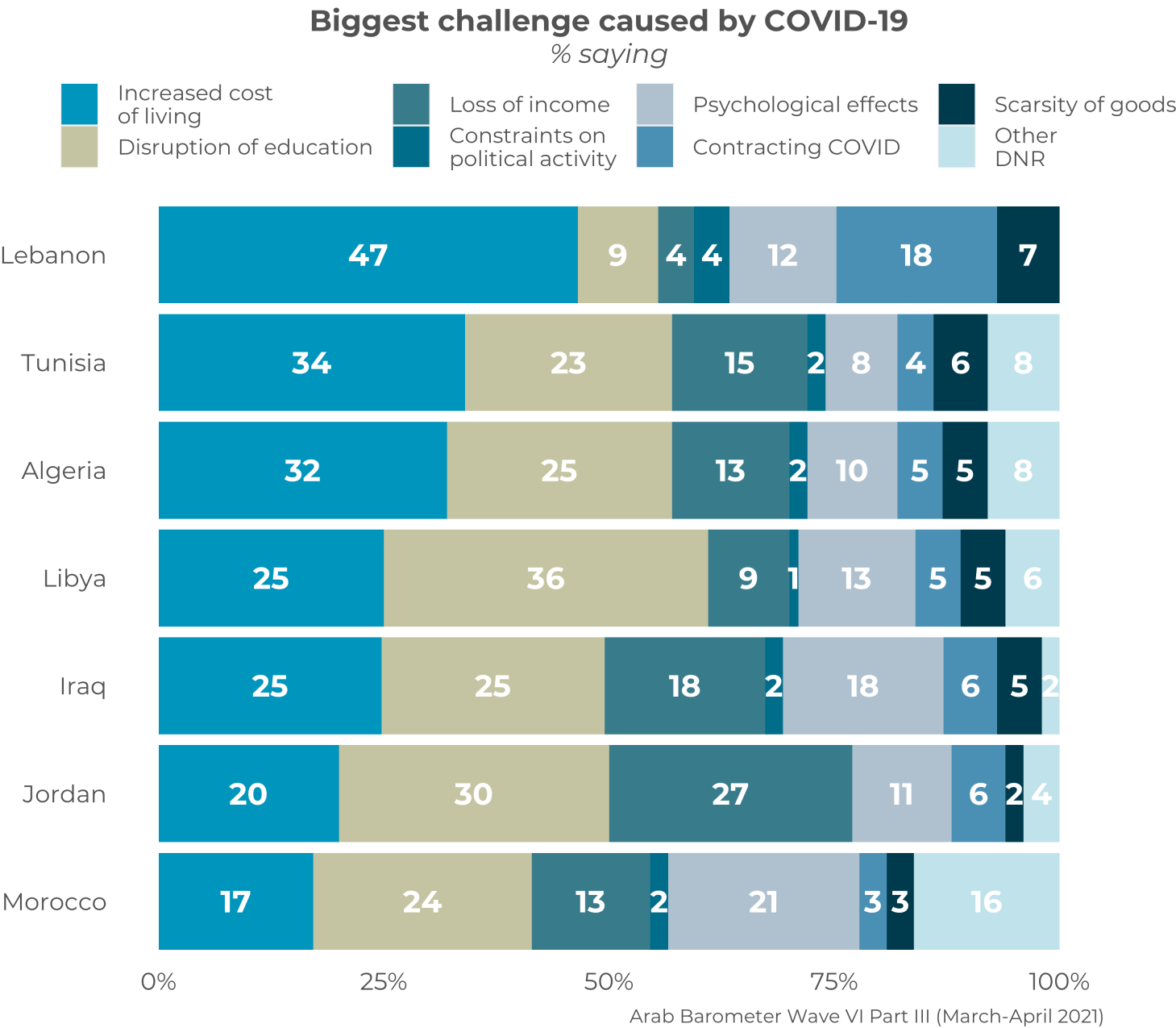


Citizens' preferences for foreign aid
% saying they prefer aid to be dedicated to



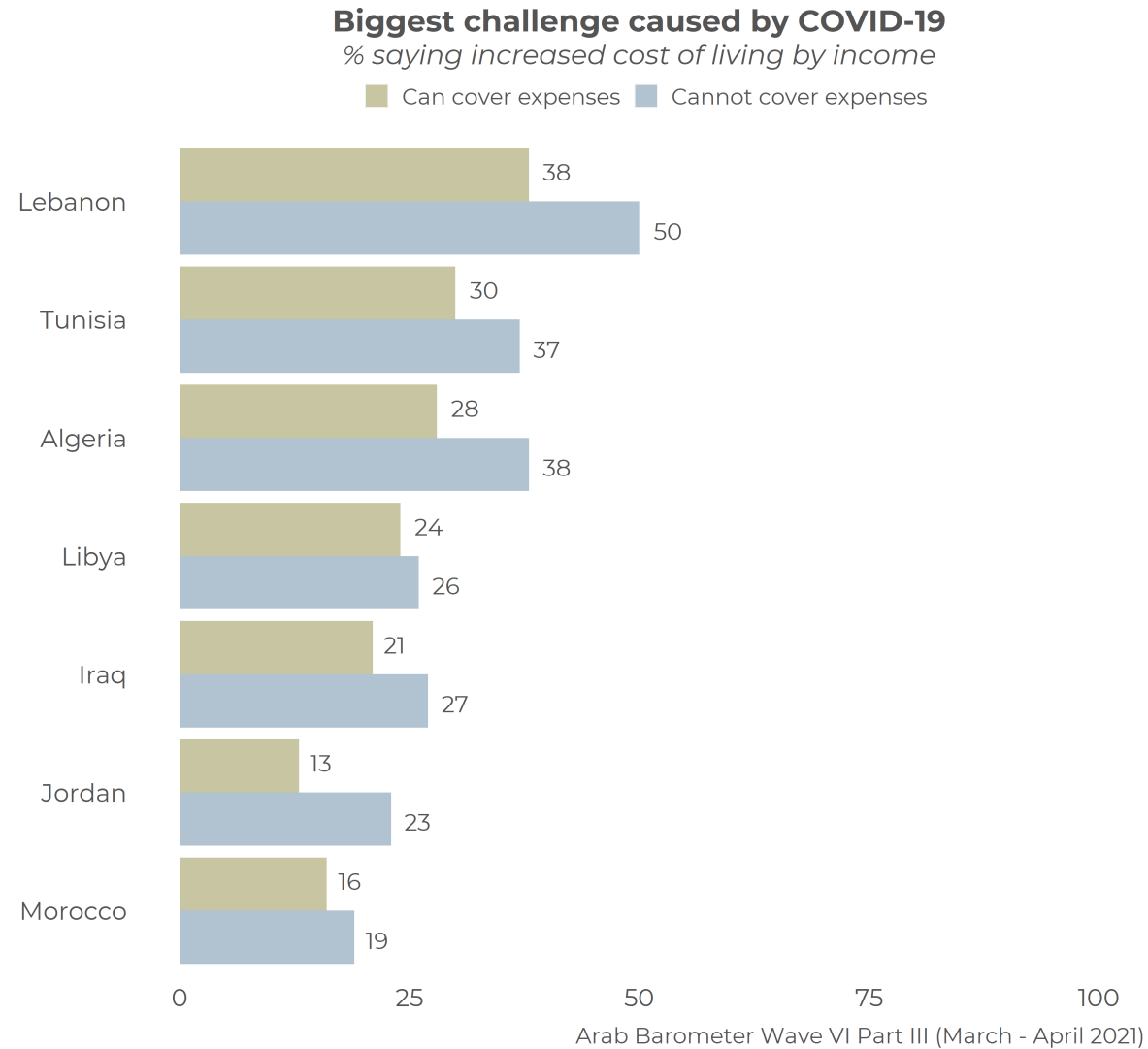
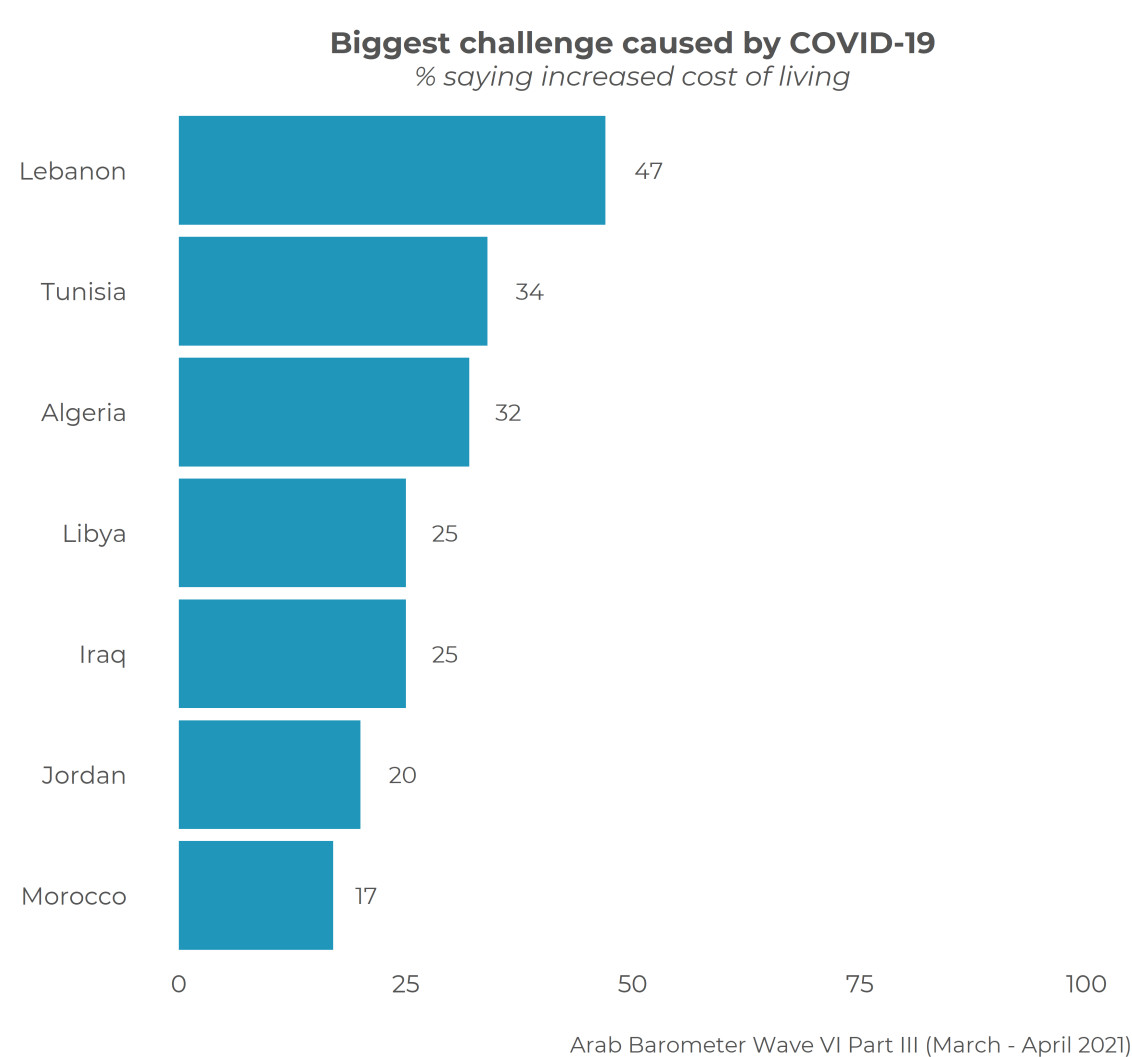
Disruption of education seen as significant fallout

Disruption of children's education is the seen as the biggest pandemic-induced challenge in Libya, Jordan, and Morocco



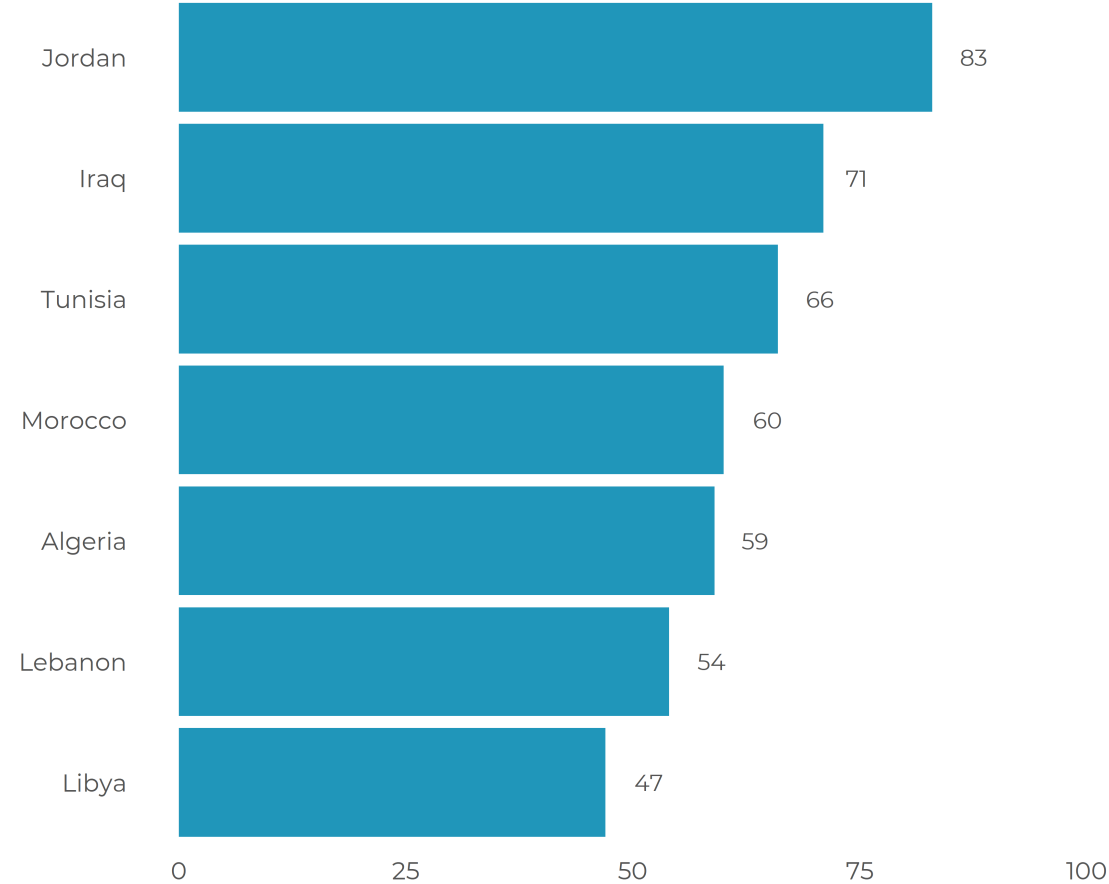
COVID-19 IN MENA: Economic Effects and Inequality

Pandemic stands to deepen economic inequality



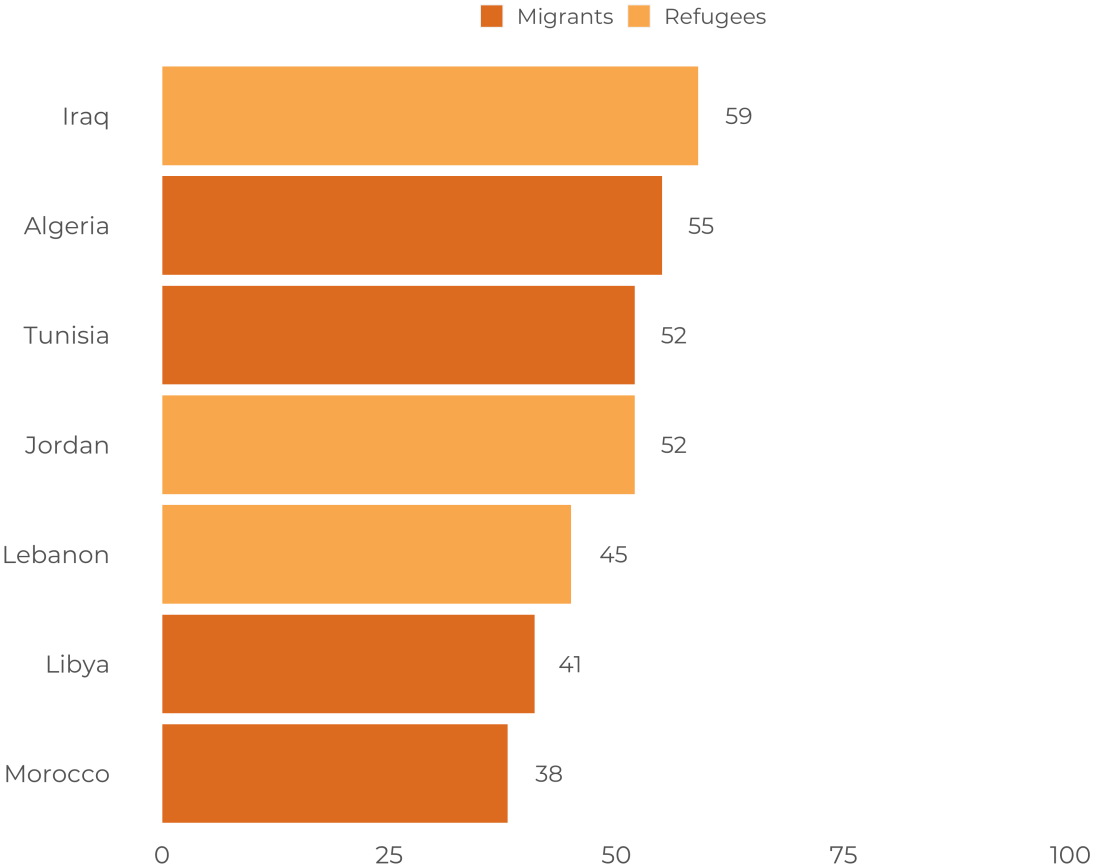
Unequal effects of COVID-19

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



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

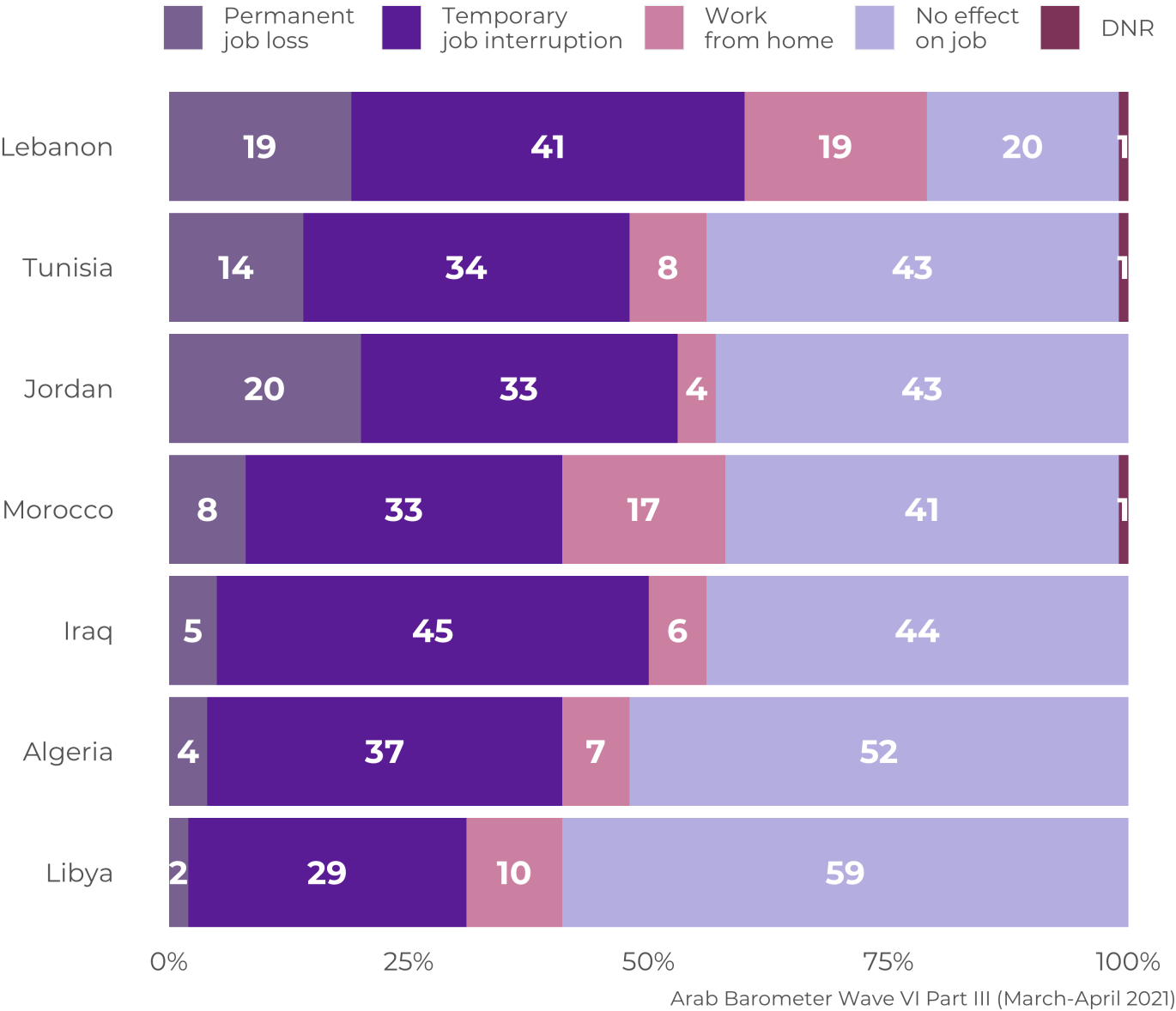
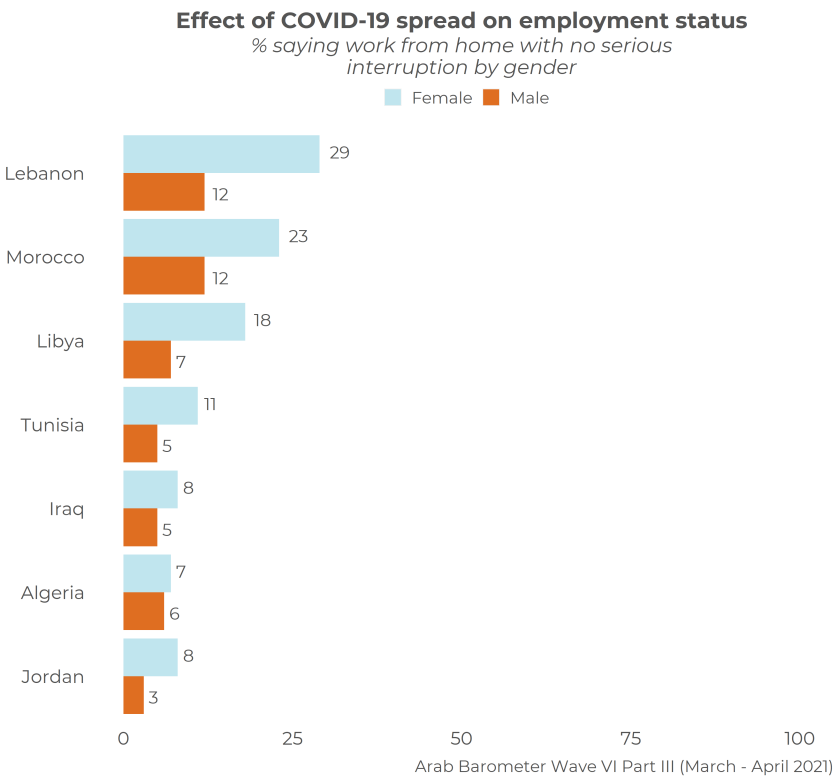
Citizen's perceived impact of COVID-19 on migrants or refugees
% saying COVID-19's effect on this group was more harmful than it was on others



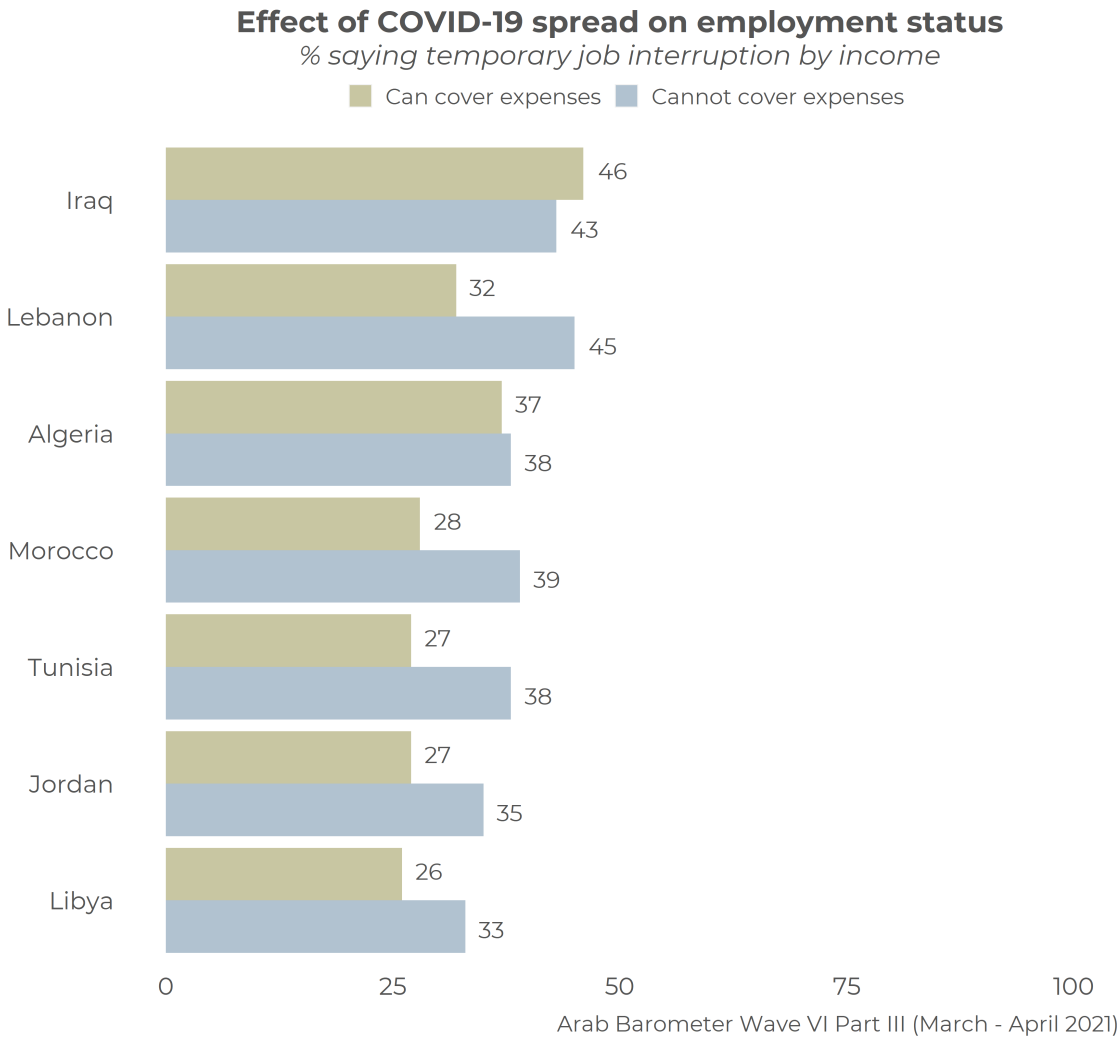
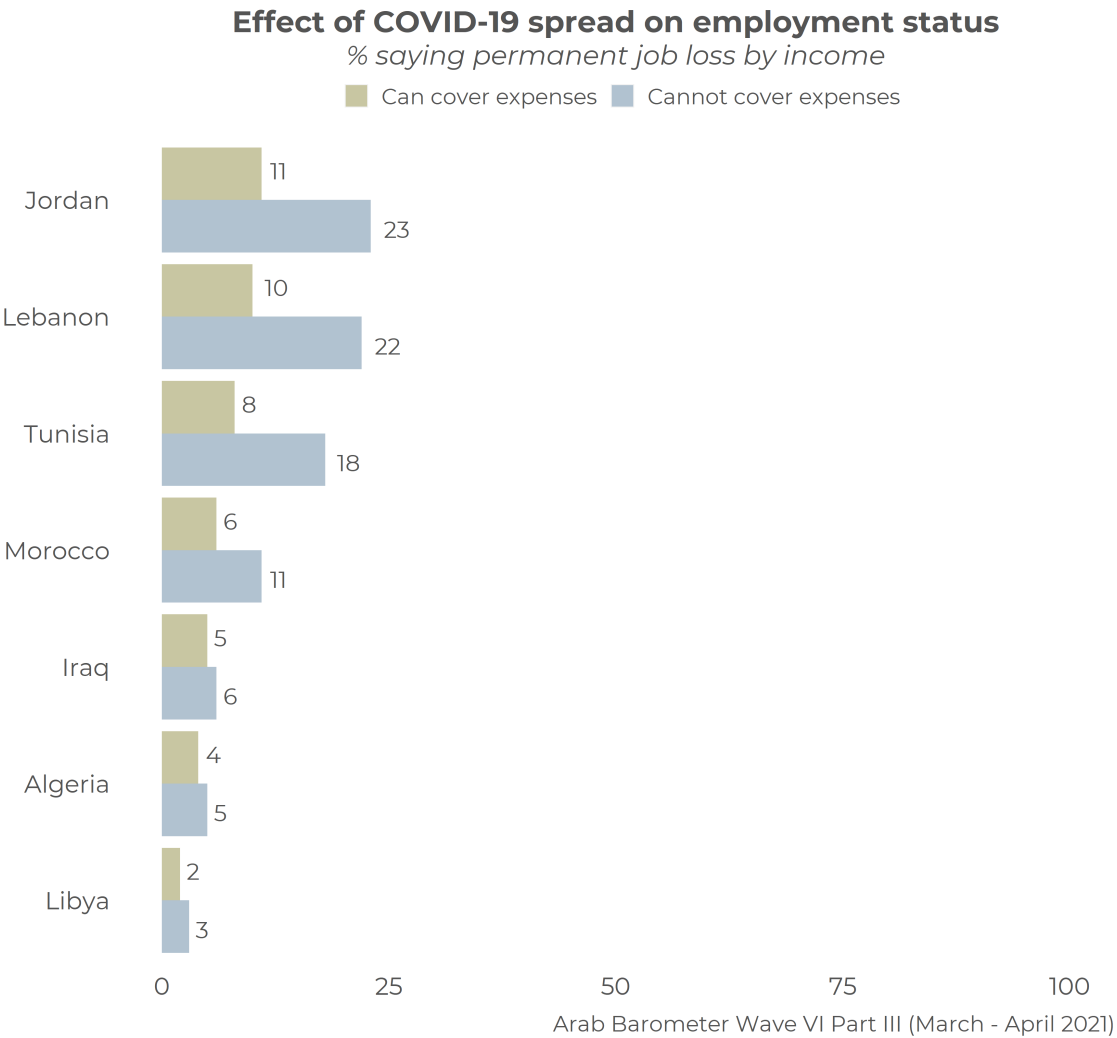
Arab Barometer Wave VI Part III (March-April 2021)

Effect of COVID on employment

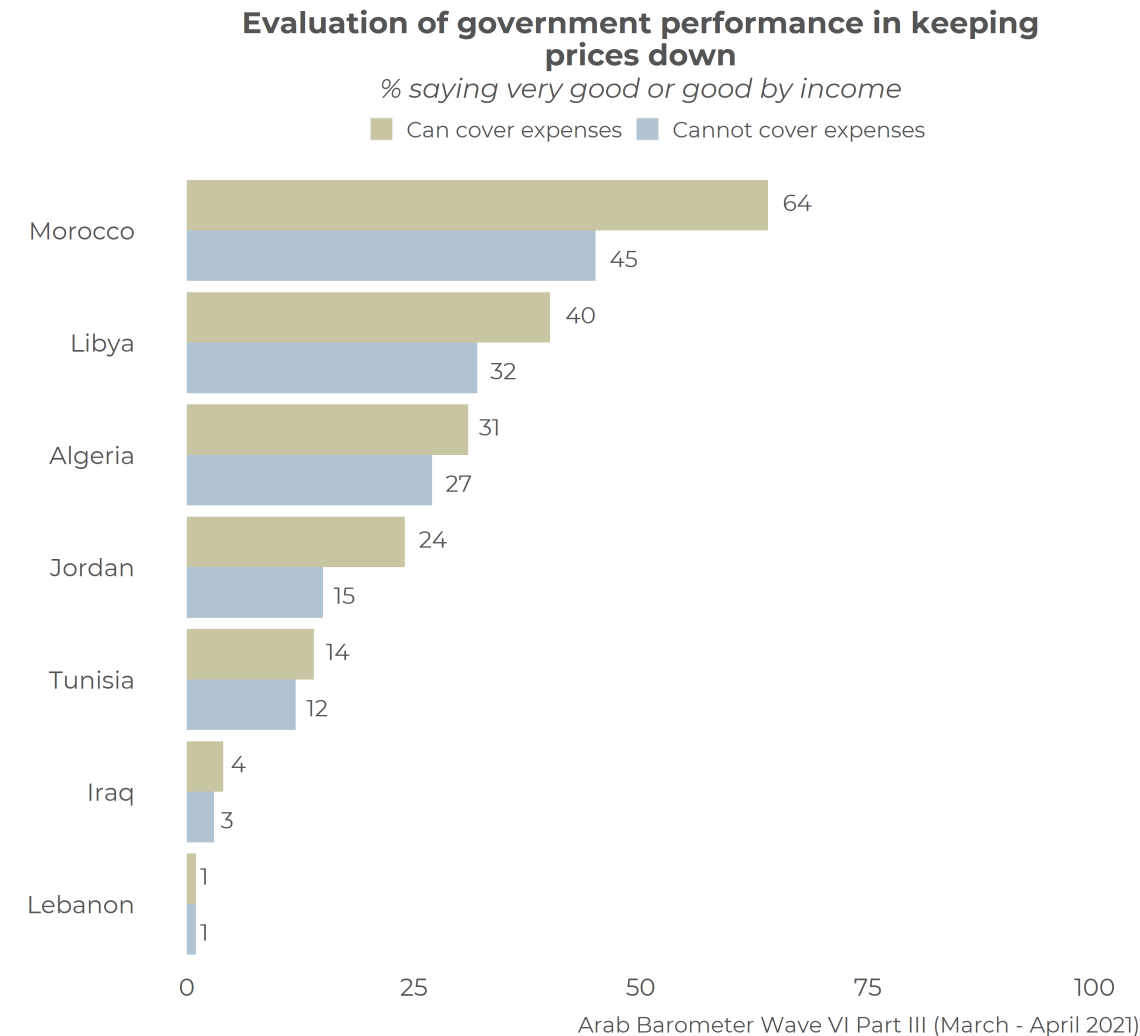
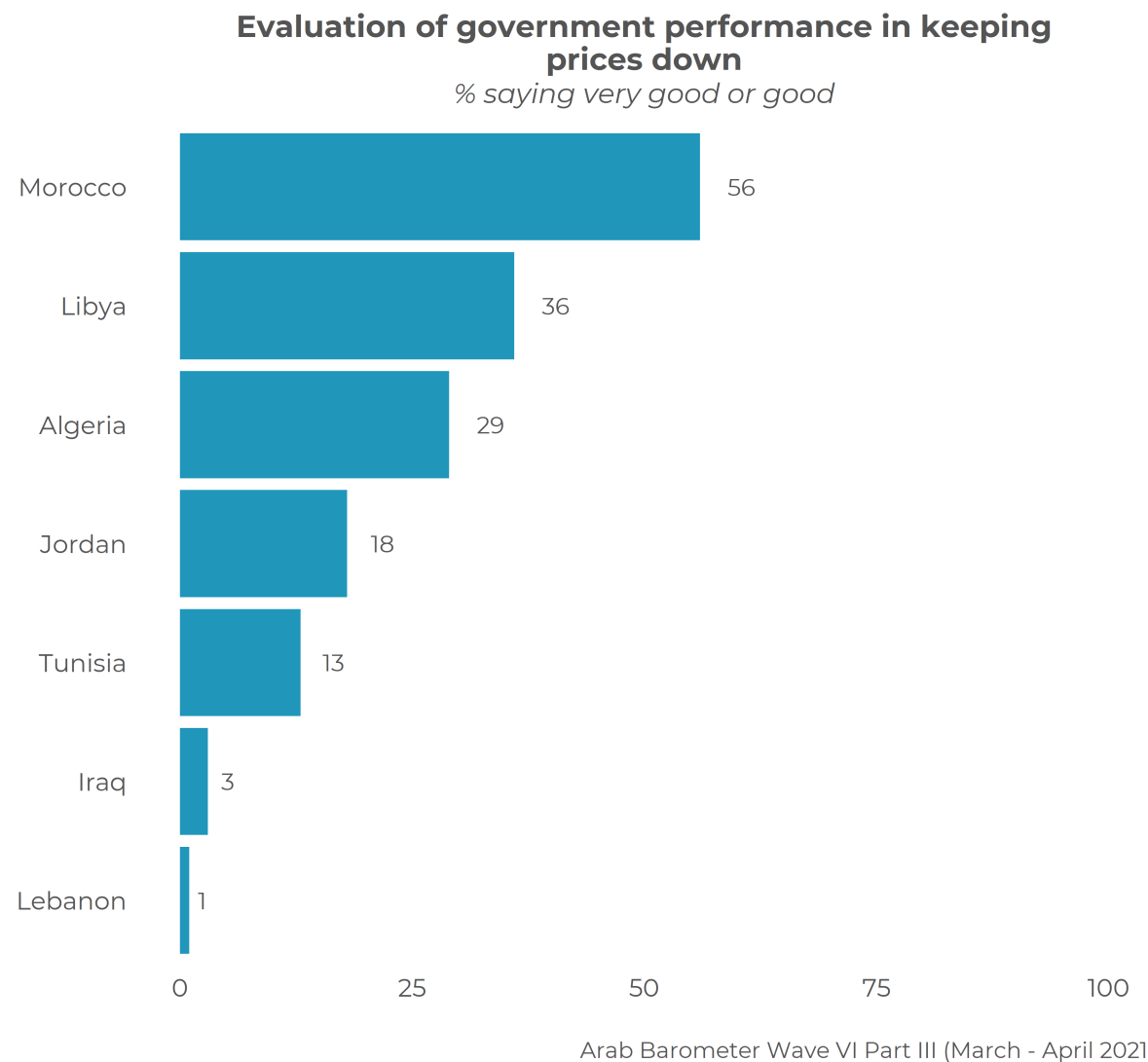
Effect of COVID-19 on jobs of those employed before the pandemic
% saying COVID-19 caused



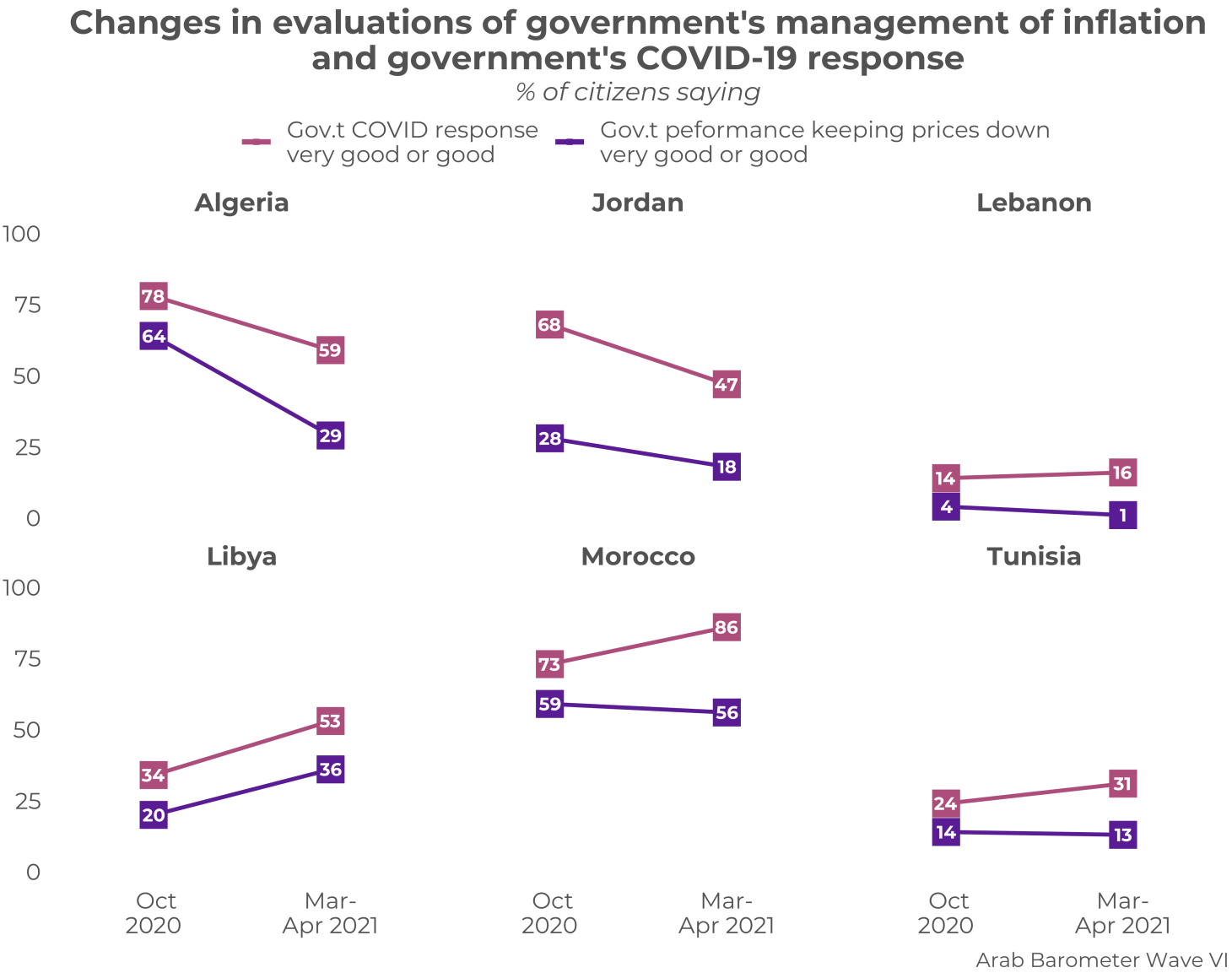
Job loss and difficulty covering expenses go hand-in-hand



Government economic response leaves publics wanting



Government performance intimately tied to economy



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