Youth in MENA

Findings from the Fifth Wave of the Arab Barometer

Amaney Jamal, Michael Robbins, & Salma Al-Shami

Princeton University

August 12, 2020



About Arab Barometer

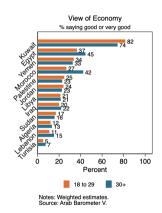
- 5 waves, 15 countries, 50 nationally representative surveys, over 70,000 interviews
- Multi-topic surveys developed in close collaboration with our steering committee & regional partners
- ► Face-to-face interviews implemented on area probability samples of adults aged 18 and above
- Data allow for demographic comparisons and trend analysis
- Local partners in each country carry out fieldwork
- ► All data are publicly available for download (Sept 30 for wave 5) and free of charge at www.arabbarometer.org

Key findings

- Youth economic frustration across MENA is increasing
- ➤ Youth have little trust in governments, which are widely viewed as being corrupt, leading to a potential crisis of legitimacy in the region
- ► However, views of youth differ relatively little from older generations in this regard
- Youth are more likely to want to emigrate and to participate in informal politics
- Arab publics, including youth, generally affirm women's equal rights but less accepting of their equal roles in society

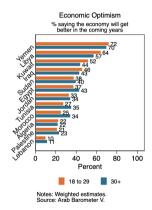
Economic Challenges in MENA

Views of the economy

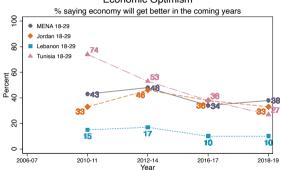


View of Economy % saying it is good or very good 9 Percent 40 MENA 18-29 Jordan 18-29 Lebanon 18-29 ▲ Tunisia 18-29 0 2010-11 2012-14 2016-17 2018-19 2006-07 Year

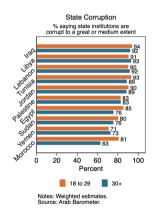
Falling economic optimism

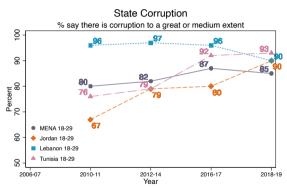


Economic Optimism

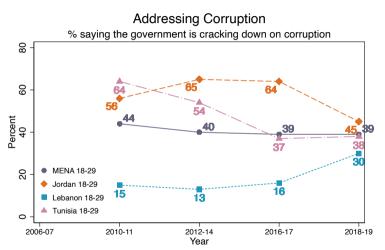


Widespread concern about corruption



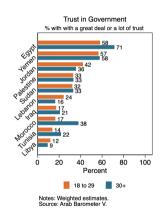


Few believe government is tackling corruption

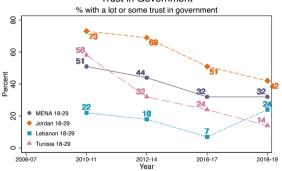


Institutional Trust & Government Performance

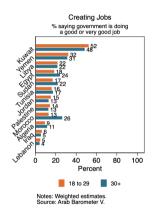
Declining trust in government

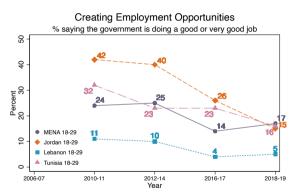


Trust in Government

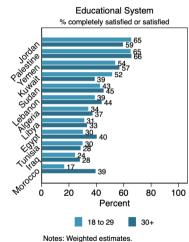


Frustration over job creation

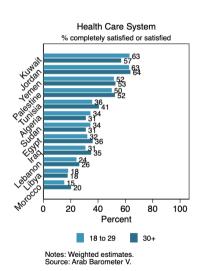




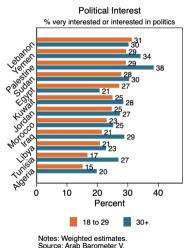
Education and health services

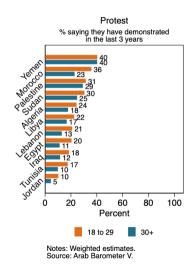


Notes: Weighted estimates. Source: Arab Barometer V.



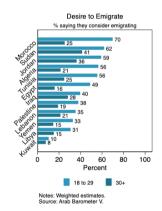
Lower interest in politics but embrace of protest

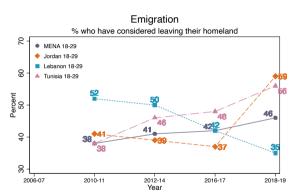




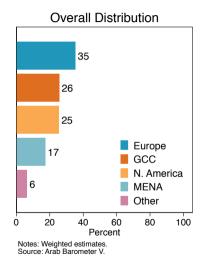
Emigration

Youth increasingly likely to want to emigrate





Preferred destination & reasons vary

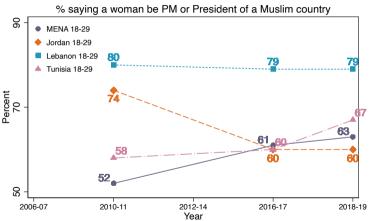


- ► 58% want to emigrate for economic reasons
- ► 13% want to emigrate due to corruption
- A third are willing to leave even without the necessary papers.

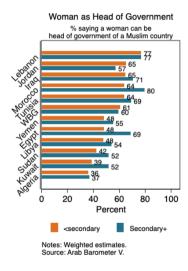
Women's Rights and Roles

Most say women can be head of state

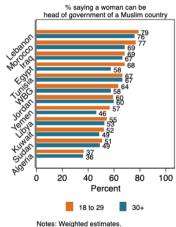




Difference by education but not age

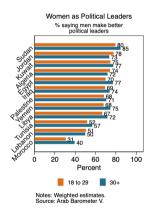


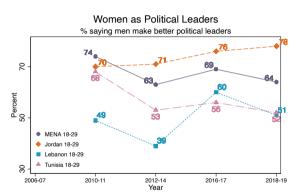
Woman as Head of Government



Source: Arab Barometer V.

Most say men make better political leaders





Amaney Jamal, PhD Principal Investigator, Arab Barometer Email: ajamal@princeton.edu





