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The Regional Partnership for Culture and Development (RPCD) is a program of USAID's Office of Middle East Programs (OMEP). The goal of the RPCD is to gather and disseminate information that will improve development efforts in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The Annotated Bibliography Series is a biannual publication that highlights the most recent publications and studies covering issues in the MENA region in three focus areas: natural resources management, youth development and engagement, and democracy and governance. It includes syntheses, brief evaluations of the work and context, and detailed information on the author, date, and source. We welcome your comments on this publication or suggestions for inclusion in future Annotated Bibliographies at rpcdinfo@fhi360.org.

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The Costs of Youth Exclusion in the Middle East

This paper uses a new empirical methodology that benchmarks the costs of youth exclusion in Middle Eastern countries against a common hypothetical international “best-practice frontier” in which the overall costs of youth exclusion are comparable across countries. The authors argue that Middle Eastern countries could decrease youth exclusion by at least 60 percent if they were to use their available resources more efficiently. The report highlights the unsustainability of youth development programs in the region, and therefore recommends more investments in youth policy to best use the untapped potential of the younger generation.

Building upon methodology developed by the World Bank in 2003, this report provides a unique analysis of the costs of youth exclusion in the Middle East in country-specific examples. It is useful for youth and economic development specialists to develop a knowledgeable foundation for the youth exclusion effects and learn from other models.

<http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/document/detail/983/>

Chaaban, Jad. (2008). “The Costs of Youth Exclusion in the Middle East.” *Working Paper No. 7*. Middle East Youth Initiative. Web. 19 March 2012.

Late Marriage and Celibacy in the Middle East

This book chapter addresses the factors that encourage and discourage marriage among youth in the Middle East. It also identifies the main actors and policies involved in the debate on celibacy in the region, presenting at least two major organizations that aim to resolve the celibacy problem, but also to use the problem as a non-conventional vector of political expression. The article explores the impact of rising celibacy on the family construction process, the social distribution of roles, power structures based on age and gender, and reproduction issues in general.

The chapter is based on a thorough cultural analysis and is useful for researchers looking for a deep understanding of why celibacy is generally rejected in Muslim countries. The article efficiently explains how the celibacy question seems to characterize the political failure of Arab governments and societies, and how this social phenomenon can affect national, regional, and international integration processes. The material is only available in French.

<http://ifpo.revues.org/459>

De Bel-Air, Françoise. (2008). “Mariage tardif et célibat au Moyen-Orient : quels enjeux ?” en *Les métamorphoses du mariage au Moyen-Orient*, Presses de l’Ifpo. Web 19 March 2012.

A Practitioner's Guide for Social Entrepreneurs in Egypt and the Arab Region

This guide to social entrepreneurship in Egypt and the Arab region starts by describing how entrepreneurs work alone and how they work with other actors, including volunteers and the greater community. The author then outlines successful implementation methods for initial project ideas, and concludes with strategies on effective communication. The article offers tips and suggestions for new entrepreneurs as well as persons with established projects interested in growing their enterprises.

This unique guide emerged from the actual experience of the authors and other entrepreneurs across the region. It is useful not just for entrepreneurs, but also for development practitioners to learn more about fundraisers' attitudes and challenges, as well as the variables needed for successful development projects. The author, Ehaab Abdou, is a social innovator who specializes in the development of Egyptian youth.

http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/gerhart/Documents/Practitioner's_Guide.pdf

Abdou, Ehaab. (2010). *A Practitioner's Guide for Social Entrepreneurs in Egypt and the Arab Region*. John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, The American University in Cairo. Web. 19 March 2012.

The Effects of a Very Young Age Structure in Yemen: A Country Case Study

This report examines the relationship between demographics and development in the case of Yemen. It demonstrates the country's development challenges, with special focus on issues of security, governance, economic development, climate change, and gender, and their effects on youth. The article analyzes national policies on population and reproductive health as they have an effect on key demographic trends, such as marriage age, contraceptive use, and family size. The report also summarizes the activities of NGOs in the population sector, and it concludes by reviewing the opportunities and strategies for Yemen.

A wide range of readers may benefit from the report: it addresses recommendations to the United States government, the government of Yemen, other donors, and in-country civil society actors. This article follows a report titled *The Shape of Things to Come: The Effects of Age Structure on Development*, which provides an in-depth analysis of the influence of the youth bulge on development.

http://www.populationaction.org/Publications/Report/The_Shape_of_Things_to_Come_Yemen/Yemen_CCS.pdf

Leahy Madsen, Elizabeth. (2010). *The Effects of a Very Young Age Structure in Yemen: A Country Case Study*. Population Action International. Web. 19 March 2012.

Analytical Report of the National Youth Survey: Towards A National Strategy for Iraqi Youth

This report analyses the findings of the 2009 Iraqi Youth and Adolescence Survey (NYS2009). It includes recommendations on institutional considerations to formulate a national strategy for Iraqi youth, as well as steps toward youth empowerment. It focuses on four aspects of the youth national strategy: society, identity, production, and health. These aspects target civil engagement and participation, education, labor, information technology, media, culture, behaviors, psychology, and reproductive health. Actionable interventions are proposed as a framework for a youth strategy, and grouped according to the strategic objective indicators, policies and procedures involved.

This analysis is useful for youth and policy specialists in assessing the implementation of the World Program of Action for Youth in Iraq's national framework. It gives a solid basis to start a national participatory dialogue among different players to create the Youth National Strategy. The article emphasizes guiding principles, required elements, and the scope to achieve this goal. The chief writer, Mr. Al-Alak, leads the Iraq Central Statistical Organization.

<http://www.iauiraq.org/documents/1451/analytical%20report-executive%20summary.pdf>

Al-Alak, Mehdi. (2011). *Analytical Report of the National Youth Survey: Towards A National Strategy for Iraqi Youth*. United Nations Population Fund. Web. 19 March 2012.

Youth Activism and Public Space in Egypt

This report explores youth civic engagement on the pathway to the revolution in Egypt. It provides three illustrative examples of youth-led organizations that drove the understanding of citizenship pre-and post-January 2011. The article gives a deep focus to the role played by the social media tools in providing public spaces for youth engagement. Specific examples of the efficacy of these tools and how they could lead to offline participation are highlighted, and consider the limitations involved. The authors advocate expanding the access of excluded groups to the Internet and social media, and envision using social media in addressing other issues.

Based on news and interviews, the article provides a well-studied overview of how youth in Egypt formed their public spaces early in 2011. This article is useful for specialists in youth and civil engagement to better understand what led to building of consciousness and discontent toward the former regime. It provides a seminal to study the impact of social media and track future developments. The authors are researchers at the American University in Cairo's John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement.

[http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/gerhart/Documents/Youth Activism and Public Space in Egypt.pdf](http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/gerhart/Documents/Youth%20Activism%20and%20Public%20Space%20in%20Egypt.pdf)

El-Taraboulsi, Sherine, Colleen Hammelman, Betsy Mesard, and Rania Helmy, et al. (2011). *Youth Activism and Public Space in Egypt*. John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, The American University in Cairo. Web. 19 March 2012.

Describing the Lebanese Youth: A National and Psycho-Social Survey

This survey profiles the socio-demographic, socio-cultural, and social-psychological status of the Lebanese youth. Through a representative sample, the data illustrates the situation in Lebanon with regard to education, employment, marital status, usage of Internet and language among youth. It explores youths' identities, attitudes, and values. The author finds a highly heterogeneous population, viewing this heterogeneity as a potential cause for conflict. The report recommends more in depth research to explore the reasons behind this multicultural orientation.

This report is useful for those planning and implementing program approaches that could relieve the inter-communal tensions in Lebanon and promote positive relations. The study identifies divergent conditions of youth in the different areas of Lebanon. The author, Charles Harb, is associate professor of psychology at the American University in Beirut.

http://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/public_policy/arab_youth/Documents/working_paper_series/ifi_wps03_ay_Harb.pdf
Harb, Charles. (2010). *Describing the Lebanese Youth: A National and Psycho-Social Survey*. Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, The American University of Beirut. Web. 19 March 2012.

Graduate Unemployment in the Maghreb

This report examines the effects of rapid population growth and investment in education in the Maghreb region on young graduates. It argues that a large percentage of young graduates are not equipped with specific qualifications to meet the needs of the job market. The report compares Moroccan, Tunisian, and Algerian efforts to reduce unemployment with specific focus given to young graduates. The author proposes recommendations to address the challenges of graduate employment through reforms that emphasize quality rather than quantity of employment.

As a policy brief, the article provides an overview of unemployment issues in the Maghreb region and methods of combating the challenges faced by young graduates. It is useful for youth, education, and employment specialists to better understand the possible reasons that led to youth unemployment and how to target these challenges in a sustainable and efficient manner.

<http://www.gmfus.org/archives/graduate-unemployment-in-the-maghreb>
Ben Jaballah, Ghazi. (2011). *Graduate Unemployment in the Maghreb*. German Marshall Fund of the United States. Web. 19 March 2012.

Youth Exclusion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: The Impact of Social, Economic and Political Forces

This paper examines the impact of social, economic and political forces on the exclusion of youth from the society in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It looks at the dimensions of the transition to adulthood—education, employment, and family formation—as they are linked to one another. The authors demonstrate that inadequate schooling leads to a lack of acquired skills to meet the needs of the labor market and find employment, and that without proper employment youth are unable to achieve independence and financial stability to form a family. The discussion also looks at the civic participation and role of Palestinian youth in a conflict-affected area. It concludes by providing policy recommendations.

Written by researchers experienced on issues related to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, this article provides a snapshot of youth exclusion in the West Bank and Gaza with a focus on the challenges in youth transition to adulthood. It is useful for youth specialists to better understand the underlying challenges of Palestinian youth exclusion and possible solutions to engage youth, as well as the interrelated nature of the dimensions of youth transition.

<http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/document/detail/1525/>

Sayre, Edward, and Samia Al-Botmeh. (2009). "Youth Exclusion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: The Impact of Social, Economic and Political Forces." *Working Paper No. 10*. Middle East Youth Initiative. Web. 19 March 2012.

Youth, Service and Pathways to Democracy in Egypt

The paper explores the motives of Egyptian youth volunteerism and the evolution of religious and civic culture into youthful participation. The paper focuses on the role and activities of one of the youth-led social service organizations "Resala" and how it affected youth engagement pre- and post-January 2011. The report concludes by providing further questions for research that can help building on these experiences, and translate community engagement into more direct citizenship actions.

This paper supplements an understanding of the evolution of youth participation toward political change in Egypt. It is useful for youth and civil engagement specialists, as well as researchers, to further develop the findings to learn how effective citizenship could be moved forward in Egypt by young experienced volunteers. The paper highlights some characteristics of the youth engaged in volunteerism, and draws the relationship between religion and political practice.

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/research/gerhart/Documents/Youth and Democracy working paper Cover.pdf>

Lethem Ibrahim, Barbara, and Leah Hunt-Hendrix. (2011). *Youth, Service and Pathways to Democracy in Egypt*. John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, The American University in Cairo. Web. 19 March 2012.

The Key to a Peaceful Iraq: Educating and Enfranchising Iraqi Youth

This article provides recommendations for a peaceful Iraq through youth development. It includes other examples from conflict zones where peace building efforts were led or capitalized upon by youth. The article identifies the post-2003 issues for Iraq youth as poor education and health care, exploitation, poverty, lack of employment, trauma disorders, rebellious and violent behavior, and the growing identity crisis. The authors propose concrete actions by the Kurdish and Iraqi governments, national and international NGOs, and international organizations.

Research for this report was gathered from 64 community conflict assessments, as well as extant policy, NGOs, media, and research reports. The recommendations presented useful for youth and peace building specialists to better understand the effects of conflict on Iraq youth and develop programs that target these issues. The authors are researchers at the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University.

<http://www.cicr-columbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/The-Key-to-a-Peaceful-Iraq-Educating-and-Enfranchising-Iraqi-Youth-April-2009.pdf>

Hanna, Dina and Thomas Hill. (2009). *The Key to a Peaceful Iraq: Educating and Enfranchising Iraqi Youth*. Center for International Conflict Resolution. Web. 19 March 2012.

Egypt Human Development Report 2010: Youth in Egypt: Building Our Future

This report assesses Egypt's progress on Millennium Development Goal indicators such as access to services, income and deprivation, gender, employment, civic participation, family life, leisure and security of youth. The report explores the challenges facing youth, and provides recommendations to overcome them in order to include youth into mainstream society. It proposes the creation of a National Youth Well-Being Index to oversee the progress of the youth situation in Egypt, which could work as an alarm for policymakers to update and integrate an action plan for youth inclusion.

This report is recommended for specialists and policymakers working with youth issues in Egypt as it provides an in-depth analysis of all aspects of youths' lives. It sets the stage for cross-sectoral interventions on education, employment, and poverty, as well as legislative and program actions that address gender discrimination. The authors make careful use of charts and tables to illustrate trends. A total of 26 authors contributed to this report, which was led by Heba Handoussa, managing director of the Economic Research Forum.

http://www.undp.org/Portals/0/EHDR_2010/NHDR_2010_english.pdf

Handoussa, Heba. (2010). *Egypt Human Development Report 2010 Youth in Egypt: Building our Future*. United Nations Development Programme. Web. 19 March 2012.

Youth Exclusion in Yemen: Tackling the Twin Deficits of Human Development and Natural Resources

This paper tracks the pathways that lead to the lack of opportunities for Yemeni youth to become positive contributors to the society. It uses a life-cycle approach to identify causes for youth exclusion in education, employment, and family formation. The authors argue that youth exclusion is highly gendered and regionalized in Yemen, and describes human development and natural resources as its twin shortfalls. The study concludes with three main recommendations for policymakers: the use of holistic development approaches to target youth, a focus on improving women's and girls' participation, and a move from large-scale projects to micro-institutional interventions. Development assistance from neighboring Gulf countries and open migration policies with respect to Yemeni labor are both suggested.

A well-structured analysis of the effects of the youth bulge in Yemen, the report gives a thorough overview of the human development challenges faced in the country. Recommended for policymakers and donors' officers, this study gives baseline data and analysis for future sustainable programs, and interventions. The writers Barsoum and Assaad are specialists in youth and development issues.

<http://www.shababinclusion.org/content/document/detail/1510/>

Assaad, Ragui, Ghada Barsoum, Emily Cupito, and Daniel Egel. "Youth Exclusion in Yemen: Tackling the Twin Deficits of Human Development and Natural Resources." Working paper No. 9. *Middle East Youth Initiative* (2009). Web. 19 March 2012.

A Situational Analysis of Girls Education in Iraq

This report describes the situation of Iraqi girls' education, and lists factors negatively affecting the schooling system's quality and access for girls. It gives a brief history of girls' education in Iraq, and presents a detailed list of best practices from other countries that can be implemented to promote girls' education. The study concludes with two sets of exhaustive recommendations for national and local government entities, as well as development organizations, for future programming to improve girls' participation in education in Iraq.

This analysis is based on available data and a small-scale survey with 80 Iraqi girls to assess their experiences and views on education. Although it does not cover a statistically valid sample, it offers insights into the multiple reasons that contribute to girls' drop out from school. This study is useful mainly for education development actors in Iraq as a basis for understanding the challenges of girls' education in a conflict area and methods to combat these challenges. This study was implemented by experts from UNICEF Iraq.

http://www.ungei.org/resources/files/full_report_iraq_2010.pdf

United Nations Children's Fund. (2010). *A Situational Analysis Girls Education in Iraq*. Web. 19 March 2012.



An Exploratory Study on Child Domestic Workers in Egypt

This study investigates the situation of child domestic workers in Egypt. It seeks to shed light on the pervasiveness of child labor and describe the conditions faced by working children. The authors examine child trafficking and the recruitment process through which Egyptian children become domestic workers, attitudes toward and stigma attached to child workers, gender roles and other factors influencing the living conditions of child workers. The report also considers as tools to improve these conditions. The researchers used participant observation, case studies, in-depth interviews and content analysis. Specific recommendations are made for government child protection agencies, the Ministry of Education, NGOs, employers of child workers and families of child workers.

This study provides information that can be used by international organizations, child labor activists, and policy makers interested in enhancing the life conditions of children in Egypt. It was commissioned by "Terre des homes" with funding from the Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt and carried out by the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo.

<http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/cmrs/Documents/Child%20Domestic%20Workers%20Report.pdf>

Ahmed, Yasmine M., and Ray Jureidini. "An Exploratory Study on Child Domestic Workers in Egypt." The Center For Migration And Refugee Studies, June 2010. Web. 19 March 2012.