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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 quarterly 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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Democracy and Governance

Oil Curse in Yemen: The Role of Institutions and Policy

This paper examines the effects of the “Natural Resources Curse” (NRC) phenomenon in Yemen. It highlights the NRC symptoms that adversely affect Yemen and other Arab countries that have a high dependency on revenue obtained from oil production. This paper specifically presents the NRC-related issues that affect Yemen’s economic, social and political structures and their impact on the country’s poor development performance. The report demonstrates that the cyclical policies applied by the government have worsened the negative effect of oil on the economy. This article concludes that countercyclical rule-based economic policies, coupled with increased transparency, can mitigate the NRC effects in Yemen.

This paper is useful for policy-makers in oil producing countries in the region to understand common NRC-related issues and to improve economic policies development. It recommends increasing the transparency of institutions managing oil wealth to eliminate NRC and other negative symptoms involved. This work is an installment in the Economic Research Forum working paper series, published in July 2012 as part of the Research Initiative on Arab Development (RIAD).

<http://www.erf.org.eg/CMS/uploads/pdf/694.pdf>

Al-Iriani, Mahmoud. (2012) “Oil Curse in Yemen: The Role of Institutions and Policy.” Economic Research Forum. Working Paper No. 694. Web. September 2012.

A Decade of Struggling Reform Efforts in Jordan: The Resilience of the Rentier System

This report reviews King Abdullah II’s various initiatives to realize political reform in Jordan and highlights the obstacles that have prevented some of his initiatives from gaining momentum. The author argues that the political establishment in Jordan, embodied in a class of political elite who benefit from the deeply entrenched rentier system, limit King Abdullah II’s efforts for reform.

Having served as Jordan’s foreign minister and deputy prime minister, the author Marwan Muasher provides an unique “insider’s view” of the Jordanian political system. Although the paper focuses on Jordan, it gives examples of specific proposed reform programs with timelines, and performance indicators. The report provides a concise reference for policymakers and donor strategists to plan for gradual reform processes that can have more sustainable results.

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/jordan_reform.pdf

Muasher, Marwan. (2011) “A Decade of Struggling Reform Efforts in Jordan: The Resilience of the Rentier System.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace - Middle East. Web. May 2011.

Morocco: Gender and the Transitional Justice Process

This report describes Morocco's application of transitional justice mechanisms, focusing on the country's response to violations of women's rights that occurred during periods of political instability. The Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) is extensively reviewed in this report as they are involved in implementing transitional justice in Morocco. The report finds that the gender approach was not initially prioritized in IER objectives, but was adopted and institutionalized afterwards in the Commission's final report; it also emphasizes the urgent need to further consolidate gender issues in transitional justice mechanisms in Morocco, and to include the gender perspective explicitly and systematically in any transitional justice mechanism.

The report can serve as a reference for policy-makers and gender specialists in countries contemplating truth and reconciliation mechanisms or similar bodies. The author, Julie Guillerot, is from the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and co-authors, Naima Benwakrim, Maria Ezzaouini and Widad Bouab, are members of the Marrakesh office of the Democratic Association of Moroccan Women (ADFM).

http://foundationforfuture.org/en/Portals/0/PDFs/Morocco%20long_report_A4-EN-web.pdf

Guillerot, J., Benwakrim, N., Bouab, W. and Ezzaouini, M. (2011) "Morocco: Gender and the Transitional Justice Process." International Center for Transitional Justice. Web. September 2012.

Fractured Walls, New Horizons: Human Rights in the Arab Region

This report analyzes the status of human rights in the Arab world in 2011 and assesses the extent to which the Arab Spring improved the state of human rights and liberties. This report finds that many countries witnessed a degree of progress regarding legislative and institutional reforms. However, based on an analysis of human rights violations across the region, the report concludes that overall the Arab Spring did not greatly improve the status of human rights. The report details the positive and negative consequences of the Arab Spring for democracy, including constitutional and legislative reforms, gross violations of human rights and the uncertain status of human rights defenders.

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights' fourth Annual Report, this study evaluates the status of human rights in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen. The report is of value to researchers and policymakers looking to inform the debate over the true consequences of the recent and dramatic political transitions in the region.

<http://www.cihrs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/the-report-e.pdf>

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. (2012) "Fractured Walls, New Horizons: Human Rights in the Arab Region." Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. Web. June 2012.



Civil Movements: The Impact of Facebook and Twitter

This report analyzes data on Twitter and Facebook users in all 22 Arab countries, as well as Iran, Israel and Turkey. It studies the role that social media played in the civil movements and that swept across the region in 2011. This paper also explores the use of social networking services in governance, social inclusion and entrepreneurship promotion and is part of a larger research initiative focusing on social engagement through Information and Communication Technology. The study finds that the Middle East contributed the largest amount of new Facebook users, 677 million as of April 2011. It concludes by arguing that social media will continue to play a major role in the Arab countries' political, social and economic developments.

Produced by the Dubai School of Government's Governance and Innovation Program, the Arab Social Media Report aims to create a better understanding of the impact of social media on development and growth in the Arab region. No development actor will doubt that social media have played a key role in recent events in the region; this report can help decision-makers see more precisely how the private, public and non-profit sectors have made use of this important tool in the last year.

http://www.dsg.ae/en/Publication/Pdf_En/DSG_Arab_Social_Media_Report_No_2.pdf

"Civil Movements: The Impact of Facebook and Twitter." Dubai School of Government. Arab Social Media Report. I (2). Web. May 2011.

Natural Resource Management:

Water Reuse in the Arab World from Principle to Practice

This report provides an overview of the major water resource issues affecting the Arab World. It highlights the economic dimensions of water reuse including the high cost of wastewater treatment and conveyance infrastructure as well as the current lack of financial incentives. It also presents several case studies showcasing successful water reuse in agriculture, long-term cost recovery and best practices in national water reuse strategies. It concludes with nine key recommendations for resource policy makers, including: greater exploration, adoption of efficient technologies, improved monitoring mechanisms and stronger water use regulation.

Based on the views of leading water experts in the Middle East, this paper fosters information sharing and aims to improve water policy development and interventions. This report was produced by the World Bank, Arab Water Council, the Islamic Development Bank and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture.

<http://water.worldbank.org/sites/water.worldbank.org/files/publication/Water-Reuse-Arab-World-From-Principle%20-Practice.pdf>

World Bank, Arab Water Council, the Islamic Development Bank and the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture. (2011) Water Reuse in the Arab World from Principle to Practice. Expert Consultation on Wastewater Management in the Arab World, Summary of Proceedings.

Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disasters Preparedness in the Coastal Cities of North Africa

This report summarizes the findings of an environmental vulnerability study in four North African cities; Alexandria (Egypt), Casablanca and Sale (Morocco) and Tunis (Tunisia). The study compares relative exposure to natural disasters and anticipated changes in weather patterns in order to evaluate the risks and potential losses within each city. The study finds that there has been a measurable increase in natural disasters and associated risks are predicted to increase over the coming years. In response to these findings, adaptation and resilience plans are developed for each city.

This report contributes to a better understanding of the risks facing coastal urban cities and contributes to the formation of adaptive responses. Led by the World Bank and the Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration, the report findings can help minimize the loss associated with disasters and provide an important tool for donors, decision makers and governments when developing natural disaster response policy.

http://arabworld.worldbank.org/content/dam/awi/pdf/Cities_Synthesis_ReportEngJune%201.pdf

The World Bank and Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration. (2011) Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disasters Preparedness in the Coastal Cities of North Africa. Summary of the Regional Study.

Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region: A Methodological Framework for Pursuing an Integrated Assessment

This working paper explores cutting edge methods to measure the impact of climate change in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This paper focuses on understanding the short and longer term implications of changing weather patterns on the region's water supplies and socio-economic situation. In order to develop and improve climate change policy, this report recommends the adaption of an integrated assessment methodology which creates assessments of socio-economic vulnerability and identifies potential crisis zones by using climate change and models of hydrological impact.

This paper is published by the United Nations – Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) who is leading efforts to measure the effects of climate change on regional water supplies. This paper presents new and unique approaches to regional climate modeling for use by MENA policy makers and climate researchers alike.

http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_SDPD_11_I_e.pdf

UN-ESCWA. (2011) Assessing the Impact of Climate Change on water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region: A Methodological Framework for Pursuing an Integrated Assessment. UN-ESCWA, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division.

Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions of Renewable vs. Nuclear Energy in North Africa

This article explores the technical and environmental merits of alternative energy sources and analyses the complex political dynamics driving energy production. Specifically, the report focuses on nuclear energy versus renewable energy in terms of socio-economic viability and the competing domestic and geopolitical interests across North Africa. The authors also discuss the political and economic differences between net importers and net exporters of energy and the implications for the development of alternative energies. The author argues that North African countries should invest more in renewable energy generation, specifically solar power, where the region has some promising ownership over technologies.

This article offers an important political context to discussions about energy policy and appropriate energy mixes within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It targets regional audiences including donors, researchers and development practitioners. The article is authored by economists from the American University in Beirut and appears in the international peer-reviewed journal Energy Policy.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S030142151100005X>

Marktanner, M. and Salman, L. (2011) Economic and Geopolitical Dimensions of Renewable vs. Nuclear Energy in North Africa. Energy Policy. 39(8): 4479-4489.

Energy Subsidies in the Arab World

Energy subsidies are a controversial element of energy policy throughout the Middle East. This United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) study considers the rationale for and against energy subsidies and looks at their impact on efficiency, equity, macro-economics and the environment. Different models for subsidy reform are discussed with the conclusion that their removal may not be feasible in the immediate term from a social and political viewpoint. Nevertheless the study suggests a medium- to long-term reform process that incorporates adequate compensation for poor populations combined with high levels of communication and transparency.

This paper provides a useful overview of the energy subsidy debate and summarizes the elements that are necessary for successful reform. It includes case studies from Egypt and Jordan and lessons learned from Yemen and Iran. This publication is part of the Arab Human Development Report Research Paper Series. The authors, Bassam Fattouh and Laura El-Katiri, are from the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies.

<http://www.arab-hdr.org/publications/other/ahdrps/Energy%20Subsidies-Bassam%20Fattouh-Final.pdf>

Fattouh, B. and El-Katiri, L. (2012). Energy Subsidies in the Arab World. UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. Arab Human Development Report Research Paper Series.

Youth Engagement and Development

Research and Research Methods for Youth Practitioners

This book outlines methods of research design, practice and dissemination for youth practitioners. It also includes approaches to evidence-based practice for youth research. Thorough analysis is given to the role of researchers and practitioners, the ethical context of youth research and key methodologies. This book also presents principal strategies for youth work, including qualitative and quantitative research methods and analysis. The book concludes by explaining the implications and benefits of youth research using case studies and suggestions for further reading.

A practical guide to research methods, this book is a thorough tool for youth practitioners. The authors are lecturers in universities in the United Kingdom and experts in youth work, policy and research.

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415571036>

Bradford, S. and Cullen, F. (2011) "Research and Research Methods for Youth Practitioners." Routledge.

The Arab World's Education Report Card: School Climate and Citizenship Skills

This report addresses the challenges facing Arab youth in attaining an education. It analyzes the 'school climate' as a key factor affecting the quality of youth education and citizenship skills. School climate includes the school's safety, teaching and learning capabilities, the institutional environment and interpersonal relations. The report measures these four main characteristics across the Arab world and concludes that generally school climates in the region are negative, limiting youth's education. As a result, the report proposes a number of reforms to enhance the Arab world's education systems, such as improving school safety, teachers' working conditions, students' learning methods, learning resources, and parental involvement.

This report is a comprehensive evaluation of the Arab world's education system and derives its findings from international tests used to measure school climate characteristics. The report can be used by education and youth professionals to compare lessons learned and to gain ideas for improvement from across the region. The author, a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center, is a specialist in education reforms in the region.

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/school_climate.pdf

Faour, Muhammad. (2012) "The Arab World's Education Report Card: School Climate and Citizenship Skills." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Web. Sept 2012.

The Political Empowerment for Youth

This training manual provides a range of exercises and programs on democracy-building and democratic practices for youth. The workshop models included in the manual are based on best practices in increasing the political awareness and empowerment of Yemeni youth. They include methods to introduce concepts of political participation, to enhance participation through understanding rights and duties and mechanisms for youth to become empowered members of society. Also included is a summary of skills for political and civic empowerment.

This manual is available in Arabic for development practitioners in the Middle East and North Africa region to enhance youth political participation. It provides essential exercises, handouts, and ready materials to conduct workshops on varied political topics, including good governance, human rights and citizenship concepts. The workshop exercises are supported by tools to help practitioners achieve the objectives of youth empowerment and participation.

<http://www.maktabatmepi.org/content/political-empowerment-youth-yemen>

Yemeni National Forum for Human Rights. (2011) "The Political Empowerment for Youth." The National Forum for Human Rights and Foundation for the Future. Web. Sept 2012.

Women's Citizenship Rights in Lebanon

This article addresses the laws regarding women's personal and citizenship rights in Lebanon, including the controversial statute making a Lebanese woman married to a foreigner unable to transfer her citizenship to their children. This article explores the international conventions that relate to women's citizenship rights, their ratification status in Lebanon and how they translate into domestic policies. The article highlights the necessary steps to eliminate the obstacles to women's citizenship rights, including legal reform and the role of civil society.

This article relies on the legal frameworks provided in the UN international conventions related to women, as well as Lebanese domestic laws. It is useful for gender experts wanting to enhance their legal knowledge of the challenges facing women's citizenship rights in Lebanon.

http://www.aub.edu.lb/ifi/public_policy/rapp/Documents/working_paper_series/20120504ifi_rapp_hrp_wps08_womens_citizenship_rights_in_lebanon_english.pdf

Mansour, Maya W. and Abou Aad, Sarah G. (2012) "Women's Citizenship Rights in Lebanon?" Working Paper Series #8. Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs, the American University of Beirut. Web: Sept 2012.

The School-to-Work Transition of Jordanian Youth

Based on the findings of the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey 2010, this report analyzes the transition of Jordanian youth from school to work. It tackles three main points: the socio-demographic characteristics of Jordanian youth; youth's transition from education to employment; and the effects of labor market transitions on youth. It finds that young Jordanians are relatively immobile, and rarely change their employment status. Also, the segmentation between informal and formal employment sectors means that youth engaged in informal work are less likely to find jobs in the formal sector which provides employment contracts and social security benefits to the employees. Women are generally inactive or unemployed, though those who are highly educated may work in formal employment (public or private).

A comprehensive resource for youth experts, this article addresses the major changes Jordanian youth have experienced in the labor market, and builds its analysis on the results of the Jordan Labor Market Panel Survey conducted in 2010. . The publisher, the Economic Research Forum, promotes economic research to improve sustainable development in the region.

<http://www.erf.org.eg/CMS/uploads/pdf/686.pdf>

Amer, Mona. (2012) "The School-to-Work Transition of Jordanian Youth." Working Paper Series No. 686. Economic Research Forum. Web: September 2012.