Youth Population & Employment in the Middle East & North Africa

PRESENTATION BY FARZANEH ROUDI OF THE POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU

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Distribution of Youth Population Ages 15-24 in the Middle East and North Africa, 2010

Notes: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as defined in this report includes Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Some of the country boundaries shown are undetermined or in dispute.

Median Age in MENA Countries, 2010

- Qatar: 32
- UAE: 30
- Bahrain: 30
- Yemen: 17
- Palestine: 18
- Algeria: 26
- Iraq: 28
- Jordan: 21
- Syria: 21
- Kuwait: 28
- Lebanon: 29
- Tunisia: 29
- Turkey: 28
- Oman: 26
- Libya: 26
- Saudi Arabia: 26
- Morocco: 26
- Iran: 27
- Tunisia: 26
- Turkey: 28
- Kuwait: 28
- Lebanon: 29
- Bahrain: 30
- UAE: 30
- Qatar: 32

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Youth Population Growth in MENA

Ages 15 to 24, in million

- 1980: 44.6 million
- 2010: 88.1 million
- 2040: 92.7 million
MENA’s Population Age Distribution
MENA’s Youth Bulge: A Demographic Opportunity or Challenge?
Unemployment Is a Youth Phenomenon

- In Jordan in 2007, three-quarters of the unemployed were below age 30.

- In Egypt in 2006, well over 80 percent of the unemployed were below age 30, and 82 percent of the unemployed had never worked before.
School-to-Work Transition in Tunisia

- 30% of university graduates find employment in 6 to 12 months from their graduation.

- 39% and 24% are still unemployed 18 months and 3 years after their graduation, respectively.
2009 National Youth Survey in Egypt

- 70% of the unemployed said that they were jobless because there was simply no work available.

- More than 40% thought personal connections were more important than personal skills in securing a job.
Education Has Improved

- Between 1980 and 2000, on average, MENA countries spent 5 percent of their GDP on education—higher than any other developing region.

- School enrollments have increased remarkably at all levels of education—for girls in particular.
## Countries Grouped by % of Their 15-to-24-Year-Old-Females Who Are Literate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>65% to 84%</th>
<th>85% to 94%</th>
<th>95+%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Libya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
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<td>Lebanon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The data are for years from 2005 to 2008.
## Countries Grouped by Ratio of Number of Females to 100 Males Enrolled in Secondary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>90 to 99</th>
<th>100+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Libya</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
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<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Countries with Ratios Less Than 90
- Turkey (89)
- Morocco (86)
- Saudi Arabia (85)
- Iraq (67)
- Yemen (49)

The data are for years from 2005 to 2008.
Countries Grouped by Ratio of Number of Females to 100 Males Enrolled in Tertiary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>75&gt;</th>
<th>75 to 90</th>
<th>100+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq  (59)</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen  (42)</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>UAE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The data are for years from 2005 to 2008. No country falls between 90 and 99. No data available for Syria.
Youth Unemployment Is The Highest in MENA

Percent of labor force ages 15 to 24 in 2009

- East Asia: 9
- South Asia: 10
- SS Africa: 12
- WORLD: 13
- South-East Asia: 15
- Latin America: 16
- Dev. Economies: 18
- Middle East: 23
- North Africa: 24
Youth Labor Force Participation Is The Lowest in MENA

Percent of youth ages 15 to 24 in 2009

- East Asia: 59
- SS Africa: 58
- South-East Asia: 52
- Latin America: 52
- WORLD: 51
- Dev. Economies: 50
- South Asia: 47
- North Africa: 38
- Middle East: 36
Youth Unemployment Rates by Sex

Percent of labor force ages 15 to 24

Data refer to 2009, except for Algeria and Tunisia, which are for 2004.
### Unemployment Rates by Sex and Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percent of labor force ages 15 - 64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria 2004</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain 2009</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran 2004</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait 2004</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco 2004</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia 2009</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia 2004</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey 2009</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE 2004</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percent Change in the Number of Youth, 2010-2040

-41 Iran
-24 Lebanon
-27 Oman
-20 Tunisia
-16 Algeria
-13 Morocco
-13 UAE
-10 Turkey
Qatar 3
Libya 4
Bahrain 7
Jordan 10
Egypt 10
Syria 14
Saudi Arabia 22
Kuwait 30
Palestinian Territory 80
Yemen 87
Iraq 107