



ECONOMIC
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منتدى
البحوث
الاقتصادية

Rethinking Inequality in Arab States

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Outline

I- Context: objectives and target audience

II- Research methodology and data sources.

III- Outline

1. The four basic questions

1. Why are we doing this report and who are our audience?
2. What kind of inequality are we interested in and why?
3. Inequality between whom?

1.1 Why are we doing this report and who are our audience?

1: Normative reasons: equity as end goal.

2: Economic policy: Redistribution positively influences growth if economy is wage led (Kalecki and Taylor).

3: Social policy: health and education goals at the national level are often very sensitive to the inclusion of marginalized and deprived groups (rural areas, particular ethnic groups, poorest households, etc).

1.1 Why are we doing this report and who are our audience?

1. Growing appetite for the subject after the Arab spring. Growing recognition that inequality affects political stability and thus growth sustainability. Policy makers are demanding solutions to poverty (which necessarily means more work on inequality). Students are demanding explanations and academics and think tanks don't have much to work with.
2. Still many gaps on what we know about the level of inequality in Arab States Many people are less deprived than their parents in health and education but inequality may have increased as not all groups may have improved at the same rate and some groups may have even deteriorated.
3. In an oil-led rentier political economy inequality analysis is always key.

1.1 Why are we doing this report and who are our audience?

The three objectives of this report are:

1. Provide analysis of inequality following the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report (ESCWA et al 2017) and evaluate the change in inequality since the early 2000s thus inform SDG 10 at its nexus with other goals.
2. Construct a narrative of the drivers and consequences of inequality focusing on three entry points: social policy, employment, macroeconomic policies and governance frameworks
3. Chart out remedial policy actions (including concrete areas of policy research and XB projects).

1.1 Why are we doing this report and who are our audience?

Primary target audience:

The primary audience are policy makers in social and economic decision-making circles (ministries of labor, planning, social affairs and finance) but also influencers below

Additional target audiences:

The wider circle of researchers involved in political economy (political science experts and students) and NGOs involved in social policy research and think tanks that have influence over decision makers (UN, World Bank, regional and global think tank institutions such as the Essam Fares (AUB), Fikr Institute, Chatham House, Carnigie and Ford Foundation, etc

1.2 What kind of inequality and why?

1. Outcomes versus opportunities?

Both are important (Atkinson, 2015)

2. Unidimensional (money metric) versus multidimensional (health, education and living conditions)?

We already know quite a lot on money metric inequality but also data access is problematic

1.3 Inequality between whom?

1. Rich and poor
2. Spatial (subnational such as rural versus urban).
3. Educated and non-educated household heads.
4. Men and women.
5. Large and small households.

Or between household holding a combination of these characteristics.

2. Data sources and harmonization

1. Data sources
2. Two methodological issues regarding harmonization

2.1 Data Sources:

24 Household surveys from 2000 to 2015

- The data draws on non-income household surveys from the Demographic and Health Surveys (**DHS**), Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (**MICS**) and Pan Arab Project for Family Health (**PAPFAM**).
- The surveys collect information on a wide range of monitoring and impact evaluation indicators in the areas of population, health, and nutrition and other socio-economic characteristics.
- Although the surveys do not collect information on household consumption/expenditure, information on the household's ownership of selected assets, such as televisions and bicycles; materials used for housing construction; and types of water access and sanitation facilities is collected and used to construct the wealth index.

2.1 Data Sources:

24 Household surveys from 2000 to 2015

Country	Baseline Survey	End-line Survey
Algeria	PAPFAM 2002	MICS 2012
Comoros	MICS 2000	MICS 2012
Egypt	DHS 2000	DHS 2014
Iraq	MICS 2000	MICS 2011
Jordan	DHS 2002	DHS 2012
Libya	PAPFAM 2007	PAPFAM 2014
Mauritania	DHS 2007	MICS 2015
Morocco	DHS 2003	PAPFAM 2011
Palestine	PAPFAM 2006	MICS 2014
Sudan	MICS 2000	MICS 2014
Tunisia	PAPFAM 2001	MICS 2011
Yemen	PAPFAM 2003	DHS 2012

2.1 Availability of Indicators - Health

	DZ	KM	EG	IQ	JO	LY	MRT	MAR	PS	SD	TN	YE
Child Health												
Immunization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2003	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mortality Rates	✓	2012	✓	2011	✓	✓	2011	2003	✓	2014	✓	✓
Nutrition Indicator	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2012	✓
Living Standards												
Overcrowding (MDG Definition)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Safe Drinking Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	•	•
Access to Improved Sanitation	✓	•	✓	✓	•	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	✓
Assets (Definition Arab MPI)	✓	✓	✓	2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓: Available across two points in time. Year: Available in this year only.: • Indicator is only partly available. Na: not available at all.												

2.1 Availability of Indicators – Reproductive Health

	DZ	KM	EG	IQ	JO	LY	MRT	MAR	PS	SD	TN	YE
Maternal Health												
Skilled attendance at birth	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2011	✓	2014	✓	✓
Antenatal Care	✓	•	✓	•	✓	✓	2015	✓	✓	2014	✓	✓
FGM	na	na	✓	2011	na	2014	✓	2011	na	✓	na	✓
Age at first pregnancy	✓	2012	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early Marriage	✓	2012	✓	2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2014	✓	✓
Anthropometrics Women	2002	2012	✓	na	✓	na	na	2003	na	na	na	✓
✓: Available across two points in time. Year: Available in this year only.: • Indicator is only partly available. Na: not available at all.												

2.1 Availability of Indicators – Education and Economic activity

	DZ	KM	EG	IQ	JO	LY	MRT	MAR	PS	SD	TN	YE
Education and Employment/Child Labor												
Education Indicators	✓	●	✓	✓	✓	●	✓	●	✓	✓	2011	✓
Child Labor	2012	✓	✓	✓	na	2007	✓	na	2006	✓	2011	na
Occupation 15+ (all household members)	✓	na	2002	na	✓	✓	2011	✓	Na	na	2002	✓
Work Status/Occupation of Women	✓	2012	✓	na	✓	✓	na	✓	Na	na	2002	✓
✓: Available across two points in time. Year: Available in this year only.: ● Indicator is only partly available. Na: not available at all.												

2.2 Harmonization of Surveys & Availability of the Wealth Index

- The 24 surveys were harmonized to assure comparability of the indicators across the different survey types, e.g. reference periods for the maternal health indicators were adjusted, the same reference population for child nutrition indicators was used, etc.
- A wealth index, i.e. a proxy for the socio-economic status of the household, is available for 20 surveys. However, as the wealth index is constructed as a relative index within each country at the time of the survey, cross-country and trend analysis is limited.

3. Outline

Introduction

Chapter 1: A survey of outcome inequality in nutrition, health and living conditions

Chapter 2: A survey of outcome inequality in education and employment

Chapter 3: Inequality in opportunities in health

Chapter 4: Inequality in opportunities in education

Chapter 5: Gender Inequality

Chapter 6: Inequality drivers Social Policies

Chapter 7: Inequality Drivers: The role of Economic Policies

Chapter 8: Political Economy Considerations



THANK YOU!

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