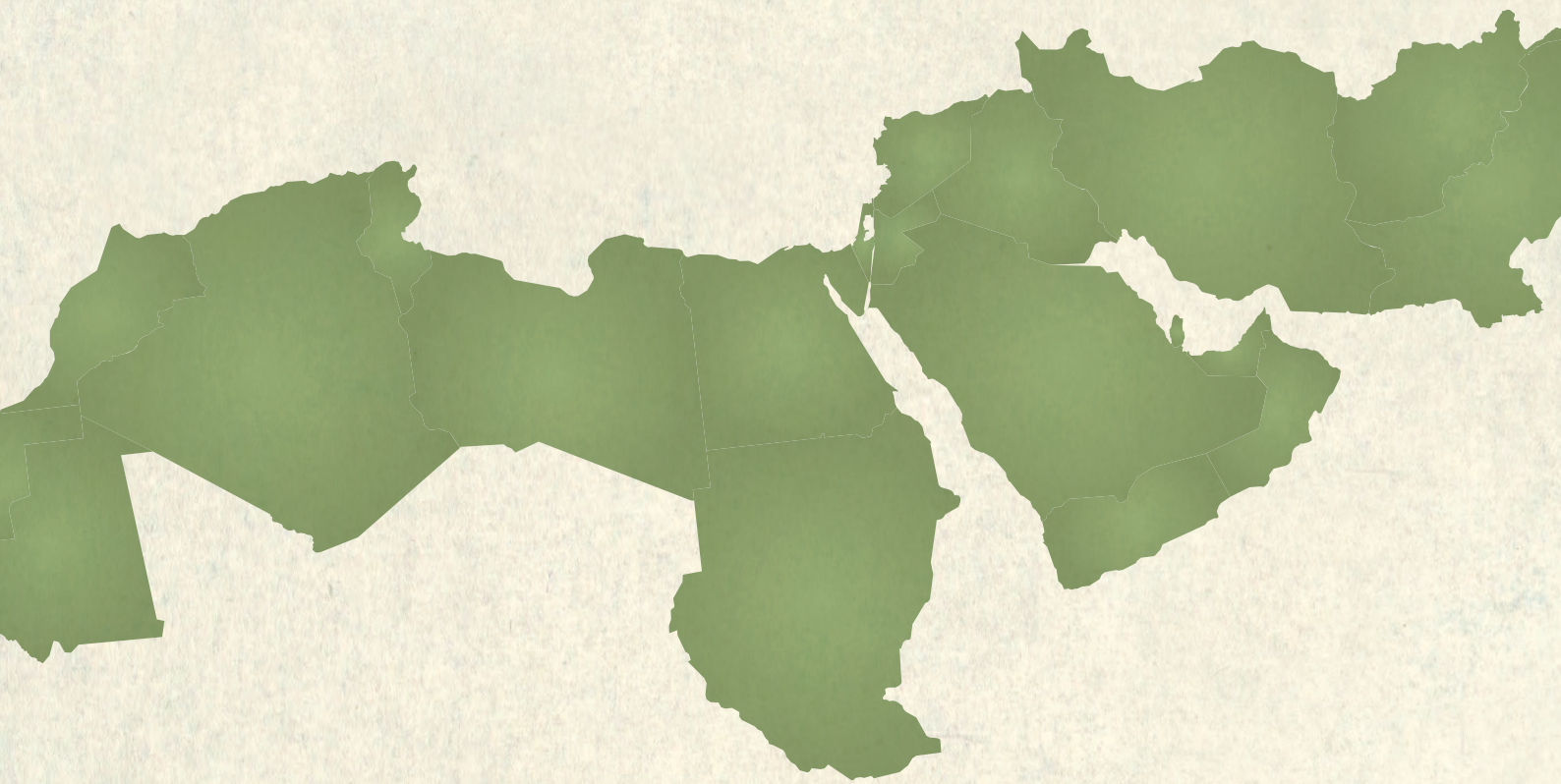


DOHA EVIDENCE SYMPOSIUM

Increasing Youth Productivity in the Middle East and North Africa

*hosted by Georgetown University
School of Foreign Service in Qatar*

MARCH 6-8, 2014



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Foreign Service in Qatar

ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL
Poverty Action Lab

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO ACTION



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Young People...Enterprise...Employment...



DOHA EVIDENCE SYMPOSIUM: Increasing Youth Productivity in the Middle East and North Africa

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Unemployment, underemployment, and vulnerable employment have created a massive strain on labour markets around the globe. For youth, it is a particular burden. While official unemployment rates can be as high as 40 percent in some Middle East and North Africa countries, this is only the tip of the iceberg. Amongst economically active youth, many are in unproductive jobs: low earnings, high levels of insecurity, limited chances for advancement, and a lack of social protection. As adolescence is a critical period for developing skills, youth unemployment of this magnitude has significant implications for the future of the global economy. To combat this problem, governments across the world are seeking evidence on how to improve the employment situation of youth. While the evidence base is weak, results from experimental research on youth interventions are beginning to emerge.

The three-day symposium brings together top policy makers and practitioners with academics and researchers to present and discuss the evidence base for “what works” in increasing the employment and productivity of youth. Discus-sants will share recent findings of impact evaluations from the Middle East and North Africa region and other developing regions. Participants will also be introduced to evidence from systematic and literature reviews which are important for evidence based policy creation. The symposium will also offer teachings on impact evaluation methods to promote this vital instrument in policy development.

The Evidence Symposium is a joint activity of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (the Taqueem Fund and the ACI II on Youth Employment), Silatech, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and the Arab Urban Development Institute. Technical support will be provided by the World Bank, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and other academic institutions. These initiatives support randomized evaluations and results measurement of policies and interventions to promote integration of youth into the labor force and to foster entrepreneurship.

Objectives

1. Communicate findings and recommendations from recently completed impact evaluations on youth employment, entrepreneurship and productivity.
2. Provide an overview of impact evaluation and its importance for policymaking and program design, as well as basic training on impact evaluation methods and techniques including randomized control trials.
3. Catalyze new partnerships amongst donors, implementers, and researchers with the goal of advancing our knowledge of what works, and what does not, in promoting employment and entrepreneurship for disadvantaged young people.

Outcomes

1. An updated assessment of the evidence gap and an agenda to advance evaluation research on youth employment issues of the MENA region;
2. A compendium of case studies detailing lessons learned from development partners on implementing monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures;
3. A series of concept notes proposing new impact evaluation partnerships amongst researchers, policy makers and practitioners;
4. The introduction of an impact evaluation “Advisory Council” for the region responsible for leading and updating research priorities.

Participants

- **Policy Makers:** Senior Government officials from Labour and Youth Ministries, international institutions and other development institutions. Officials should be involved with employment legislation and policy making with current involvement in impact evaluation.
- **Implementers:** Organizations providing job market services (e.g., counseling, placement assistance, training) and entrepreneurship support (e.g., access to credit, mentoring, training) to young people. Implementers should have an interest in collaborating on an impact evaluation and be of sufficient scale for a rigorous impact evaluation, which typically would require several hundred beneficiaries.
- **Researchers:** University academic, evaluation investigators, affiliates of J-PAL and other invited researchers who study youth employment and entrepreneurship and share impact evaluation results and develop new partnerships with implementers.

Plenary sessions will have Arabic/English interpretation

Thursday, March 6

8:30 AM–9:00 AM	Registration / Check-in				
9:00 AM–9:30 AM	Opening and Welcoming Remarks (<i>Plenary Session</i>) Moderator				
	Azita Berar Awad <i>ILO</i>	Tarik Yousef <i>Silatech</i>	Abdulsalam Alsulaiman <i>Arab Urban Development Institute</i>	John Crist <i>Georgetown University</i>	
9:30 AM–10:00 AM	Overview of the Evidence Base on Youth Employment (<i>Plenary Panel Session</i>) The panel session will introduce the evidence base on youth employment in the MENA region and why it is important to close the evidence gap				
	Moderator: Susana Puerto <i>ILO</i>	Bruno Crépon <i>ENSAE and Ecole Polytechnique</i>	Jochen Kluge <i>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and RWI</i>		
10:00 AM–10:30 AM	Coffee Break				
10:30 AM–11:15 AM	Why Impact Evaluation? (<i>Plenary Session</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why evaluate?• The importance of impact evaluations (examples)• How to implement an impact evaluation? (research team vs. implementing partner) Nathan Fiala, <i>DIW</i>				
11:15 AM–12:30 PM	Theme 1: Evidence on Effects of Labour Market Training (<i>Plenary Session</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life Skills, Employability and Training for Disadvantaged Youth: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation Design (Dominican Republic)• Subsidizing Vocational Training for Disadvantaged Youth in Developing Countries: Evidence from a Randomized Trial (Colombia)• MEDA Maroc’s “100 Hours to Success” Program (Morocco)• Can arts-based interventions enhance labor market earnings among youth? (Brazil)				
	Moderator: Drew Gardiner <i>ILO</i>	Adriana Kugler <i>Georgetown University</i>	Bibiana Taboada <i>Inter-American Development Bank</i>	Paul Dyer <i>Silatech</i>	Jochen Kluge <i>Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and RWI</i>
12:30 PM–2:00 PM	Lunch				
2:00 PM–2:15 PM	Introduction to Matchmaking (<i>Plenary Session</i>) Researchers and practitioners are introduced to their moderators and the requirements of group work Tiantian White, <i>J-PAL</i>				
2:15 PM–3:30 PM	"Egg-timer" Presentations by Researchers and Practitioners (<i>Plenary Session</i>) Short presentations by practitioners on their projects and by researchers on their research interests. 5 minutes each with Q&A. Moderators: Shawn Powers and Tiantian White, <i>J-PAL</i>				
3:30 PM–4:00 PM	Coffee Break				
4:00 PM–5:30 PM	Matchmaking Consultation Session (<i>Breakout</i>) Researchers and implementing partners will be matched in groups based on previously stated interests and meeting requests Moderator: Shawn Powers and Tiantian White, <i>J-PAL</i>				
Participants who are not involved in the matchmaking session will receive a tour of Education City					
5:30 PM–6:00 PM	Debrief and End of Day 1 Moderator				

Friday, March 7

9:00 AM–9:10 AM	Introduction to Day 2 (Plenary Session) Moderator
9:10 AM–10:30 AM	Theme 2: Evidence of Effects of Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Programmes (Plenary Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Money Transfers to Disadvantaged Youth (France)• Empowering Adolescent Girls: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial (Uganda)• Start Your Business: Stimulating Microenterprise Growth (Uganda)

Moderator: Lucia Sanchez
Innovations for Poverty Action

Bruno Crépon
ENSAE and Ecole Polytechnique

Imran Rasul
University College London

Nathan Fiala
German Institute for Economic Research

10:30 AM–11:00 AM **Coffee Break**

11:00 AM–12:00 PM **Matchmaking Consultation (Breakout)**

Researchers and implementing partners will be matched in groups based on participants' interests and meeting requests expressed on Day 1

Moderators: Shawn Powers and Tiantian White, *J-PAL*

Participants who are not involved in the matchmaking session participate in an impact evaluation case study

11:30 AM–1:30 PM **Lunch and Friday Prayer (Buses available to attend prayer)**

1:30 PM–3:15 PM	Theme 2: Evidence of Effects of Self-Employment and Entrepreneurship Programmes (Plenary Session) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluating the Impact of Entrepreneurship Education (Egypt)• Entrepreneurship Training and Self-Employment Among University Graduates: Evidence from a Randomized Trial (Tunisia)• Impact Evaluation of Al-Amal Microfinance Bank's Youth Loan Programme (Yemen)
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Moderator: Nader Kabbani
Silatech

Bastien Michel
Aarhus University and TrygFonden's Centre

Mahdi Barouni
University of Burgundy

Raj Desai
Georgetown University

3:15 PM–3:45 PM **Coffee Break**

3:45 PM–5:30 PM **Policymaker Panel: Feedback to Research Results (Plenary Panel Session)**

What are the conditions of evidence informing policy? What is missing from the research? What are the challenges in drawing on the evidence?

Moderator: Megan Lloyd-Laney
CommsConsult

Maisoon Al-Amarneh
Labour Policy Analyst, Economic and Social Council, Jordan

Oussama Ghneim
Head of TVET, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Lebanon

Abdulkarim Alnujaidi
Executive Deputy Director General, Human Resources Development Fund, Saudi Arabia

Ahmed Al-Mekhlafi
Director General of Labour Market Information, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, Yemen

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM **Debrief and End of Day 2** | Moderator

7:00 PM– 9:30 PM **Group Dinner: Mamig Restaurant, Katara, www.mamigdoha.com**

Saturday, March 8

9:00 AM–9:10 AM	Introduction to Day 3 (<i>Plenary Session</i>) Moderator						
9:10 AM–10:30 AM	Keynote Speech: Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion for Youth: Results from Three Randomized Evaluations Dean Karlan is the President and Co-founder of Innovations for Poverty Action. His research focuses on microeconomic issues of financial decision-making, specifically employing randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to examine what works and what does not and why with respect to interventions and businesses intended to address problems in society.						
10:30 AM–12:00 PM	Matchmaking Consultation (<i>Breakout</i>) Researchers and implementing partners will be matched in groups based on participants’ interests and meeting requests expressed on Day 1 and Day 2 Moderators: Shawn Powers and Tiantian White, <i>J-PAL</i>						
<div>Participants who are not involved in the matchmaking session participate in a World Café</div>							
12:00 PM–1:30 PM	Lunch						
1:30 PM–2:30 PM	Theme 3: Evidence of Effects of Wage Subsidy <i>(Plenary Session)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wage subsidies to address youth unemployment: Evidence from a randomised control trial (South Africa)• Facilitating youth’s entry into the labour market: training, wage subsidies, and intermediation services, 2nd follow-up survey (Jordan) <table><tr><td>Moderator: Susana Puerto <i>ILO</i></td><td>Neil Rankin <i>Stellenbosch University</i></td><td>Nour Shammout <i>World Bank</i></td></tr></table>			Moderator: Susana Puerto <i>ILO</i>	Neil Rankin <i>Stellenbosch University</i>	Nour Shammout <i>World Bank</i>	
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2:30 PM–3:30 PM	Theme 4: Employment Intensive Public Works Programmes <i>(Plenary Session)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Works as a Safety Net: Design, Evidence, and Implementation• Sustainability in Public Works <table><tr><td>Moderator: Susana Puerto <i>ILO</i></td><td>Kalanidhi Subbarao <i>Consultant</i></td><td>Mito Tsukamoto <i>ILO</i></td></tr></table>			Moderator: Susana Puerto <i>ILO</i>	Kalanidhi Subbarao <i>Consultant</i>	Mito Tsukamoto <i>ILO</i>	
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3:30 PM–4:00 PM	Coffee Break						
4:00 PM–4:30 PM	Researchers Panel: The Way Forward for Results Measurement in Youth Productivity Programmes <i>(Plenary Panel Session)</i> <table><tr><td>Moderator: Drew Gardiner <i>ILO</i></td><td>Dean Karlan <i>Yale and IPA</i></td><td>Bruno Crépon <i>ENSAE and Ecole Polytechnique</i></td><td>Tarik Yousef <i>Silatech</i></td></tr></table>			Moderator: Drew Gardiner <i>ILO</i>	Dean Karlan <i>Yale and IPA</i>	Bruno Crépon <i>ENSAE and Ecole Polytechnique</i>	Tarik Yousef <i>Silatech</i>
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4:30 PM– 5:00PM	Evaluation and closing Moderator						

