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# SOCIAL PROTECTION IN NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION REGIONAL TRENDS

Social Protection and Rural Development in the NENA Region  
*Regional Initiative on Small-scale Family Farming*



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*Regional Initiative on Small-scale Family Farming*

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## PREFACE

Social protection is increasingly becoming recognized as an important strategy for poverty reduction and resilience building, while enhancing food and nutrition security. Evidence emerging out of Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, shows that social protection programmes are generating a broad range of social and economic impacts, contributing to the overall transition from extreme poverty and subsistence farming to sustainable livelihoods.

The 2015 edition of FAO's State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA, 2015) report highlighted the important role social protection plays not only in allowing poor families to access more and better food, but also in enhancing their fundamental economic potential. SOFA further concluded that strengthened coherence and synergies between social protection and agricultural interventions would also help to maximize these impacts and ultimately help to break crippling intergenerational cycles of poverty.

For the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region, these linkages are critical. Social protection can contribute to addressing the range of vulnerabilities affecting rural, small scale farmers, such as dependency on imported food, high population growth, the strain over basic social and productive services due to migratory flows as well as increasing vulnerability to natural disasters and the negative effects of climate change.

The NENA region has a diverse landscape in terms of social protection. Programmes range from government-led social assistance to vulnerable groups, subsidies in food and contributory social security and insurance schemes, to informal social protection systems based on religious and cultural traditions. However, efforts to strengthen linkages between social protection and the agricultural sector in NENA need to be further explored by all stakeholders involved in strengthening social protection within member states.

This study assesses the current support that national governments in NENA are providing in relation to social protection and agricultural policies in the context of rural development. Based on the limited available regional literature, the study identifies gaps in social protection coverage for the agricultural sector and explores how to enhance linkages and coordination among social protection and agricultural interventions.

This report is a first step in promoting universal Social Protection Systems in the NENA Region, advocating for the expansion of such systems into rural areas and agricultural sectors.

FAO aims to promote linkages between social protection and agriculture, food security, nutrition, natural resource management, decent and sustainable rural employment and resilience building. FAO's commitment to contribute to the global and regional social protection agendas is reflected in its work throughout the NENA Region.

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# INTRODUCTION

## EXPLORING LINKAGES BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

The eradication of extreme poverty features at the top of development agendas especially as it has been identified as the greatest global challenge facing the world today. A prominent ethos and approach which supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the objective of “*leave no one behind*” based on the principle that no goal should be considered to have been met unless it has been fulfilled for people everywhere. This concept refers to the fact that, around the world the poorest and most vulnerable people still have unequal access to basic services and rights including social protection. Today, more than 70 percent of the world’s population do not have access to adequate social protection most of them living in rural areas<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, 93 percent of people living in extreme poverty are in countries that are either fragile or vulnerable to environmental risks. This is not only a humanitarian crisis it is also a crisis of development<sup>2</sup>. And it is precisely in the context of protracted crises and emergencies where there are the greatest challenges to effective reach and coverage. Informed by the 2030 Agenda, the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) was held in 2016 and this summit put people at the centre of the development agenda, recognizing fully the need for peaceful and inclusive societies for development. The WHS was part of a series of landmark decisions taken since 2015 that collectively defined a new global approach to sustainable development – an approach which reflected a global commitment to reduce poverty, placing universal access to social protection at the core of such achievements.

Today half of the world’s population is excluded from social protection systems (FAO, 2015). Most of the food-insecure, undernourished, shock-prone, vulnerable populations lack **social protection coverage** (FAO, 2015). Moreover, these vulnerable households are mostly found in rural areas, where access to social protection and other benefits is even more difficult. Without access to tools and instruments for risk-mitigation or risk-sharing, poor rural families may be forced in to non-sustainable coping mechanisms such as selling off their assets, shifting to less risky but lower yielding crops, or removing their children from school to work, which is likely to weaken future livelihood prospects. There is a clear and crucial need to forge links and promote greater policy coherence and synergies between social protection, food security, agricultural development, resilience and rural poverty reduction.

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<sup>1</sup> ILO World Social Protection Report, 2015

<sup>2</sup> FAO Position Paper for the World Humanitarian Summit, 2016.

**Box 1. Social Protection Definition for FAO**

In its support to Member States, FAO adopts a comprehensive outlook on the potential of social protection, encompassing all four of its functions. As discussed by the 2015 State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)<sup>3</sup>:

*“Social protection can play a protective role in providing means (cash or in-kind) to access food and mitigate the impact of shocks. It can have a preventive function in averting deeper deprivation by strengthening resilience against shocks [and stresses] and preventing loss of incomes and assets. It can support the accumulation of resources to sustain livelihoods (e.g. through asset transfers and public works). Social protection can also play a promotive function by directly supporting investments in human resources (nutrition, health, education and skills development) and by reducing liquidity constraints and income insecurity to induce investments in farm and non-farm activities. It can also have a transformative function in the lives of the poor through reorienting their focus beyond day-to-day survival towards investments for future, by shifting power relations within households (as social protection can empower women) and by strengthening the capabilities and capacities of those living in poverty to empower themselves.”*

Source: The FAO's Social Protection Framework, 2016.

Recent literature suggests that eradicating poverty and hunger in a sustainable manner will require investments mostly in rural areas, as well as a commitment to social protection for those living in poverty<sup>4</sup>. For the millions of rural households that are relying on agriculture for their livelihoods, critical productivity constraints are evidenced by the lack of access to resources and productive assets, imperfect or fragile market access and constant exposure to various risks. For those same households, social protection benefits can help alleviate critical credit, savings and liquidity constraints, provide much needed greater certainty for households to manage covariate risks while enabling them to engage in more profitable agricultural activities.<sup>5</sup> Agricultural policies and social protection programmes can help smallholder farmers manage risk by stimulating farm output, income and overall welfare<sup>6</sup>.

However, despite having significant positive impacts, social protection alone cannot sustainably eradicate issues of poverty and underdevelopment, hence the need for complementary interventions. Social protection programmes can provide initial levels of income security and asset protection that enable the lifting of the socially excluded out of poverty. But the promotion of income-generating activities and decent employment are also key for sustainable livelihoods. Moreover, agricultural policies can also increase the productive impacts of social protection by influencing expected returns to investments in agriculture (Tirivayi, Knowles & Davis, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> FAO. (2015) The State of Food and Agriculture. Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty available at [www.fao.org/3/a-i4910e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4910e.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> FAO. Achieving Zero Hunger: The Critical Role of Investments in Social Protection and Agriculture, 2015.

<sup>5</sup> FAO, IFAD and WFP. Achieving Zero Hunger: the critical role of investments in social protection and agriculture, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> FAO. Information Note - Recognizing linkages between Social Protection and Agriculture.

FAO's engagement in social protection is based on evidence that social protection plays a critical role in maximizing food and nutrition security and rural development outcomes. FAO advocates for the expansion of social protection coverage to effectively reach the rural poor in all agricultural subsectors, while maximizing the operational linkages between social protection and agriculture (FAO, 2016).

FAO's responsibility and value added lies at the interface of social protection, food and nutrition security, agriculture and sustainable livelihoods. Thus, the core of its work on social protection focuses on supporting governments and other partners to maximize synergies between social protection and agricultural, food security and nutrition policies in an articulated well defined strategy for rural development. Moreover, FAO has strong commitment to also enhance the role of social protection for resilience building, including in humanitarian, fragile and protracted settings. Social protection interventions are an essential element of FAO's "*twin-track*" approach to reduce hunger and poverty by focusing on both short and long-term interventions. Social protection can establish a bridge between the two tracks because it helps households to overcome immediate risks such as a lack of direct access to food or means to buy it (short-term intervention), as well as supporting the increase in agricultural productivity for these same households, improving their livelihoods, food and nutritional security at the same time promoting social inclusion (long-term intervention).

Bearing in mind the potential of social protection for poverty reduction and especially with an emphasis on rural poverty reduction, this document aims to provide an overview of social protection in the Near East and North African countries and to shed light on regional trends that could guide FAO's regional work in social protection.

## A GLANCE AT THE NENA REGION

Across the Near East and North Africa (NENA)<sup>7</sup> countries, social protection has been traditionally associated with a high proportion of social spending used primarily for providing subsidies which fundamentally lack effectiveness for sustainable poverty reduction. The recent inclusion of other forms of social protection can be evidenced by the number of countries investing in cash transfers schemes, as seen in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan, West Bank and Gaza, and the willingness to reform programmes with universal scope such as the food subsidies systems in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan and Iraq<sup>8</sup>. More recently, the need for social inclusion and a 'new contract' between NENA states and citizens is now at the forefront of many governments in the region<sup>9</sup>.

An analysis over time of budgets allocated to social protection in the region, reveals that in the NENA countries, social protection has been incorporated in to development plans that

<sup>7</sup> The NENA Region for FAO incorporates Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, U.A.E, West Bank & Gaza Strip and Yemen.

<sup>8</sup> IMF. Subsidy Reform in the Middle East and North Africa, 2014.

<sup>9</sup> African Union Technical Discussion Paper, on "Children and Social Protection Systems: Building the African Agenda," prepared jointly by the African Union Commission and UNICEF, 2014.

support employment creation and income generation. At the same time, social protection programmes were represented by subsidies and developed mostly with the aim of stabilizing consumption against shocks and high prices. It is no coincidence that the subsidies programme was substantially scaled up after the global food crisis in 2007/08.

The context of high poverty stricken households and rising unemployment may have been relevant drivers of investments in social protection. In recent decades, NENA countries have seen stagnated levels of economic growth at two percent per annum since 1990; whilst unemployment rates still stand at 15 percent – the highest regional average in the world. As a consequence, poverty remains high (IDS, 2015) whereas expenditure on social protection programmes has remained at an average of four percent from 2000 to 2012 in most countries in the region (Ramadan, 2015). The interrelated potential between social protection and agricultural development is great in NENA as 70 percent of the poor are estimated to live in rural areas (World Bank, 2014).

Social development across the NENA region is impacted by crises caused by natural or man-made shocks. The escalation of political crisis affecting countries in the NENA region since the Arab spring has generated a surge in refugees and IDPs, who typically lose both their economic and social assets, and who tend to exacerbate existing social and economic vulnerabilities in the countries receiving them. It is difficult for some governments to incorporate the new influx of vulnerable populations into their nationally financed social protection schemes, and so it also creates additional strains for host communities, especially in relation to generating employment, food security and agricultural production.

The increase in the region's vulnerability can be associated with further common threats that affect rural livelihoods, food and nutritional security and agricultural productivity including: (i) dependency on imported food, as the NENA region imports at least 50 percent of all food consumed and the region is also the largest importer of cereal in the world (FAO, 2008; World Bank, 2009); (ii) high population growth and (iii) increasing vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change. Being a region battling with many highly water-stressed areas, food production self-sufficiency for NENA is also a current real challenge. The potential damage from drought is also very significant, given that most people living in rural areas derive their livelihoods from pastoralism and rain-fed agriculture which are both extremely climate-sensitive (IDS, 2015).

The agricultural sector in NENA countries is dominated by small-scale agriculture (80 percent of the production), of which the largest sector is family farming. Smallholder family farmers are also the poorest households in all member states and agricultural activities are the main source of income (CIRAD/FAO, 2016). Investments in sustainable development of small-scale agriculture have the potential to create decent jobs for women and men in rural areas, boost local economies and lift entire communities out of poverty. According to the World Bank, promoting family and smallholder farming activities in NENA could also have the benefit of reaching the poorest communities of people that are often excluded from social protection programmes, as it is further explained.

The challenges for social protection and poverty reduction in the region are multifold. Firstly, coverage is low and uneven (Jawad, 2014) especially in the rural areas where social protection systems are failing to reach all households with no access to social security and basic entitlements such as pensions and health insurance, mainly due to a limited formalization of the agricultural sector. Secondly the relationship between formal, semi-formal and informal social protection is complex in the NENA region. ‘Informal’ social protection describes support within extended families and communities, such as remittances; ‘Semi-formal’ social protection describes institutions that operate outside of government that are financed by members’ contributions such as mutual funds organizations. It is also worth noting that because of the centrality of religious institutions in social, cultural and political life, the boundaries between state and non-state provision of social protection are fluid in the region. The *Zakat*, for example, is a major source of redistributive social transfers and faith-based organizations deliver significant safety nets to people in this region. In this sense, the provision of social protection programmes is fragmented, and different ministries and organizations are implementing programmes that lack a common system or a coordinated approach. This is further exacerbated in countries like Lebanon or Jordan for instance, where it is possible to find a parallel structure providing emergency and humanitarian assistance usually funded by external donors, with no link to national programmes. A better coordination of social protection interventions from national governments could be key to improve the quality of programmes provided and to promote greater impacts on poverty reduction overall. Thirdly and lastly, historically, the subsidies mechanism is highly costly and regressive, and not considered the most efficient tool for helping the poorest households across NENA (Gutner, 2002).

## METHODOLOGY

This Regional overview is a desk-based research tool and uses recent policy and programme documentation, high level strategic policy statements, impact evaluations, as well as academic databases and sources of grey literature to gather major aspects of the full range of social protection policies and programmes now existing in the region. There has been a limitation to finding data on the impact of more recent programmes, such as cash transfers and the general literature about social protection in the region is still very limited.



## CHAPTER 1

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT: ECONOMIES, DEMOGRAPHICS AND POVERTY

Despite the great diversity across countries in the NENA region, the similarities amongst them deserve mentioning. The economies of the NENA countries are facing several challenges, particularly in the last years. Economic growth has stagnated at two percent annually since 1990 and unemployment now stands around 15 percent, the highest regional average in the world. A significant aspect of the unemployment levels refers in particular to the high numbers of unemployed youth and women, as female participation in formal employment is extremely low (Jawad, 2014).

The economic development varies greatly among the countries with the Gulf nations (GCC) holding the highest GDP per capita. The regional average stays around 8 104 USD for 2006 (UNDP, 2016), whilst the GCC has an average of 42 000 USD (2011 to 2015).

Table 1. **GDP per capita in NENA countries between 2011 to 2015**

Country	GDP p.c.	Country	GDP p.c.	Country	GDP p.c.
Algeria	5 484.1	Lebanon	10 057.9	Sudan	1 875.8
Bahrain	24 855.2	Libya	6 573.4	Syria	N/A
Egypt	3 365.7	Mauritania	1 275.0	Tunisia	4 420.7
Iran	5 442.9	Morocco	3 190.3	UAE	43 962.7
Iraq	6 420.1	Oman	19 309.6	WBGS	2 965.9
Jordan	5 422.6	Qatar	96 732.4	Yemen	N/A
Kuwait	43 593.7	Saudi	24 406.5		

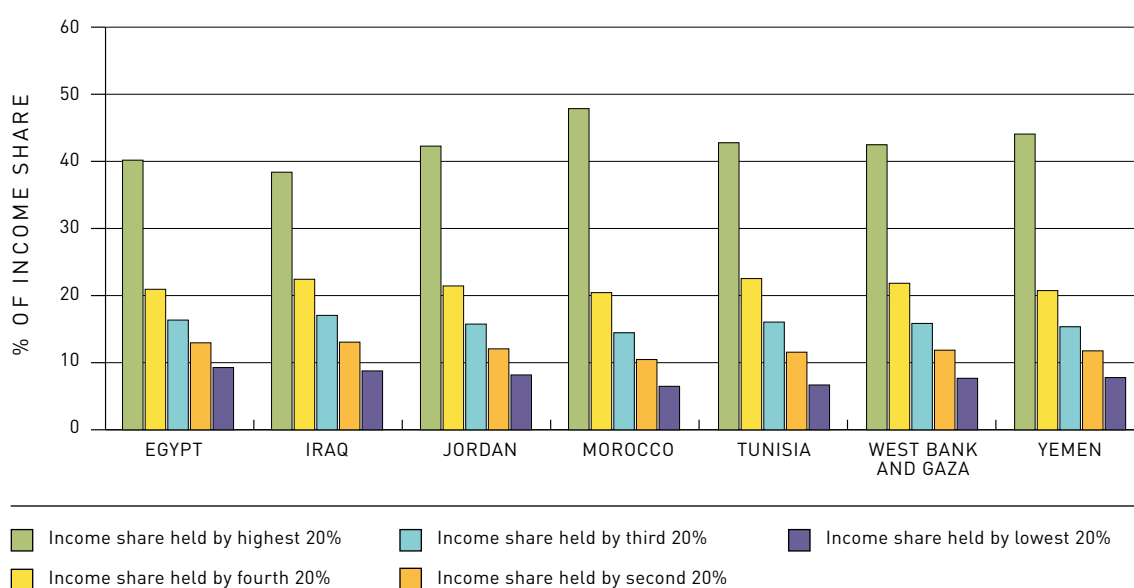
Source: World Bank Data. Retrieved 2016.

Oil and natural resources are key to the economies of many NENA countries despite the special attempts of the GCC to diversify their economies within the last decade. Agriculture and services are also the main sectors for the region and in the poorest member states rely on agricultural activities to generate economic revenues. Most recently, investments in the agricultural sector have been in decline and the funding generally diverted to services and industry (CIRAD/FAO, 2016). A large number of countries in the region depend on the oil industry as their main economic sector (Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, U.A.E. and Yemen), therefore, the recent drop in the oil prices negatively impacts their economies which will face some challenges next year as predictions are that oil prices will remain weak (Khokhar, 2015).

Unemployment is another important problem affecting the NENA countries economically and socially. Since these populations tend to be young in terms of age, with one quarter to one third being under 15 years old (IDS, 2015), the rates of youth unemployment also worry national policy makers. According to ILO estimates, unemployment among NENA youth aged between 15 and 24 years reached 27 percent in 2014, close to double the global average of 14 percent and more than double the region's overall unemployment rate of 12 percent. The failure of NENA countries to diversify their economies sufficiently to absorb large numbers of job-seekers is one of the challenges mostly falling on to the shoulders of the youth. Impacts of such scenario are seen within rural to urban migration patterns which largely transformed the majority of the NENA states into highly urbanized societies. Fundamentally, this rural-urban dichotomy enhances poverty and inequality and has implications too for social protection needs and adequate forms of social protection instruments which becomes vital to the survival of these fragile economies.

Having said this, poverty rates in the region have been falling in the last decades. The poverty headcount ratio of people living on less than 1.90USD a day (based on 2011 PPP), fell from six percent in 1990 to 2.7 percent in 2008 (World Bank data, 2016). However, poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon and has strong social and economic dimensions. In this sense, the economic vulnerability - defined as people who live just above the poverty line and are at risk of falling into poverty in case of an idiosyncratic shock (*e.g.* illness) or a covariate shock (*e.g.* food price inflation) - is still very high in the NENA region. It is estimated that 15 to 17 percent of people in Egypt, Iraq and Yemen for example, have “*consumption levels that are no more than 0.50 USD per day above the poverty line, and between 2005 and 2008, 55 percent of Egyptians experienced at least one episode of poverty or near-poverty*” (Silva *et al.*, 2012). Inequality plays an important role in the equation as well and the income levels in member countries are fairly unequally distributed, as figure 1 below shows:

Figure 1. **Distribution of income or consumption per quintile**



Source: World Bank Poverty and Equity database, 2016.



Food insecurity is an important element in the socio economic vulnerability of NENA populations. Apart from the general insecurity conditions created by war, civil unrest and economic sanctions, the agro-ecology of the region is highly water-stressed with little arable land and food production is a major challenge for most countries. The agricultural sector makes a relatively small contribution to the GDP of the region, currently contributing on average, 14 percent of the GDP<sup>10</sup> (NERC 33 FAO, 2016). The dependency on food imports also presents risks to national food security because it affects the widespread availability of basic foods and increases the risk of inflation, either by an external shock or by internal vulnerability to numerous shocks. The latter scenario is likely to increase in the future as droughts are frequent and are expected to surge, and crop yields are projected to decline by 30 percent, due to the effects of climate change (Jobbins and Henley, 2015).

The risk of food insecurity is even higher for countries that have fiscal deficits and high food import requirements such as Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and the Gaza Strip, among others. The conventional answer from NENA governments has been to increase or to introduce general food price subsidies that have proven to be economically unsustainable and not efficiently targeted and effectively managed (Harrigan, 2011). This equation of food insecurity (high food dependency along with fiscal deficits) has shown a sharp increase especially after the global food crisis of 2008 (IDS, 2015). Along with the rise of food insecurity, the NENA region is the

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<sup>10</sup> Excluding the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

only region in the world where malnutrition rates are also rising with an additional spike in rates during 2008 (Marcus and Perezniето, 2011). Additionally, the high rates of child stunting and wasting, the NENA countries often suffer from a '*double burden*' of malnutrition due to the equal high rates related to obesity. Egypt has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world - 48 percent (WHO). And it is this combination of a high prevalence of malnutrition, high obesity levels, a significant risk of food insecurity and income inequality in NENA that calls for a social protection approach that not only addresses income redistribution, but an approach that examines food production and agricultural practices, access to food and at the same time can consider nutrition-sensitive interventions.

The NENA region is also particularly vulnerable to effects of climate change. It is one of the world's most water-scarce and dry regions and it is highly dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture and crops (World Bank). According to the latest IPCC assessment<sup>11</sup>, the climate is predicted to become even hotter and drier in most of the countries in the NENA region. What's more, it is estimated that an additional 80-100 million people living there will be exposed to water stress by 2025, which is likely to result in increased pressure on groundwater resources and agriculture. Income and employment may be lost as a result of more frequent droughts in rural areas, which would see increasing poverty levels throughout the region (IPCC and World Bank).

In the face of it all, FAO recognizes that scaling up cash based programming, risk informed and shock-responsive social protection systems are strategic priorities in particular to improve food security and nutrition and to protect households and their assets, as well as to increase income of the most vulnerable population (FAO, 2016).

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<sup>11</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

## CHAPTER 2

# SOCIAL PROTECTION TRENDS IN THE NENA REGION

The formal recognition of poverty as an issue impeding sustainable economic growth, came to the NENA countries only in the 1990s (Jawad, 2011; Khalidi-Beyhum, 2003) and in the 2000s when the interest in social protection policies in view of human development actually grew, in large part under the influence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 UN development agenda (UN/LAS, 2013). This policy shift, at first, reflects the efforts to overcome the idea of '*growth above all*', a common ideology that led to a greater increase in poverty levels and inequality rates around the globe. More specifically in NENA countries, the popular uprisings were, in part, an effect of the protracted nature of socio economic problems being experienced in the region and they shifted so called policy makers attention to the urgent need for social justice and inclusive economic growth.

But what does social protection mean in the context of NENA countries and how is it to be framed? To answer these questions, this section intends to briefly draw from Rana Jawad's<sup>12</sup> work and focuses on trends within three aspects: i) institutions providing social protection; ii) the rationale for social protection; and iii) policy instruments.

## INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING SOCIAL PROTECTION

The general pattern in the NENA region is that state institutions oversee social insurance systems that are related to formal employment, in particular of public sector workers who are the only ones receiving benefits (Jawad, 2015). In most countries the benefits of social insurance do not reach agricultural and informal workers, which count for a relevant part of the work force. This is the case in Sudan, Lebanon and Egypt, for instance. Women are also largely unrecognized in their contribution to agriculture and their roles within the sector are not well documented as most often, they are informal working arrangements (FAO, 2011).

The nuclear and extended families in NENA countries are also key to the role of social support, specifically within social assistance. The family institution is normally the source of financial support and it is not uncommon to find similar support in communities and within certain kinds of societies. In this sense, by far most significant source of social protection for vulnerable populations, particularly those employed in the informal sector, are religious-based

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<sup>12</sup> Rana Jawad, Social Protection and Social Policy Systems in the MENA Region: Emerging Trends. 2015, UNDESA.



welfare organizations (Jawad, 2009). The reliance of informal networks of social assistance that are based on mutual trust and have a strong sense of community, is very present in all countries in the region. Religious groups tend to rely on religiously-based fundraising activities, such as paying the *zakat* and helping the most vulnerable groups of society such as orphans, elderly and the disabled.

In NENA countries, social protection has typically been written into national development plans in support of employment creation and income generation, while safety nets (subsidies) stabilize consumption against shocks and high prices. Most countries in the NENA region do not have a National Social Protection Strategy, but social protection is typically mentioned in national policies and plans, and social protection programmes are usually administered by social sector ministries such as Social Affairs.<sup>13</sup> Here is a regional snapshot:

- Egypt: spends a sizeable proportion of its annual budget on social protection programmes, mainly through consumer subsidies, which are highly fragmented and have limited impact on poverty. In July 2014, the Egyptian government launched a social protection reform plan, including gradual liberalization of energy prices over a period of five to ten years. Part of the saving from the fuel subsidy is being invested in the reform and expansion of social safety nets.
- Jordan: There is no national policy for social protection in Jordan, where the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) is the key state actor in the area of social protection.
- Lebanon: There are the Social Action Plan of 2007 and the National Social Development Strategy of 2010, both of which reflect strong social protection features, although there is not yet a National Social Protection Strategy.
- West Bank and Gaza Strip: The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) approved a Social Protection Strategy in 2010. The Strategy has been developed jointly with international organizations who are also key donors to Palestinians.
- Sudan: There is no national social protection strategy in Sudan, but social protection is embedded within major policy documents such as the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (IPRSP) and the 25-year National Development Plan (2007–25), as well as annual budget framework papers.
- Tunisia: In 2014 Tunisia hosted a ‘National Conference on Social Protection’ and the government later developed a strategic vision for the period 2015–25 that sets out the new development policy including reforms to the social protection system.

Institutions that deliver social protection can be divided between the state (government agencies) and non-state actors, where non-state actors include the market (e.g. private insurance), the family (e.g. remittances), religious institutions as well as international agencies and NGOs. The non-state actors play an important role in the provision of social protection and the role of governments has never been greater, as social protection is increasingly

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<sup>13</sup> IDS, 2015.

recognized as a powerful policy instrument to promote both social and economic development in many countries of the NENA region, but fragmentation of the programmes is one of the challenges that the region continues to face.

## RATIONALE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

Midgely (2013) argues that the rationale for social protection in the NENA region vary according to the types of institutions discussed above and can be classified as i) having political functions and enhancing State legitimacy ii) welfare functions to promote equality and wealth distribution and iii) economic functions which aims to develop human capital and productive capacities to support economic growth.

National Development Plans of the NENA region indicate that the economic function of social protection is prioritized against its social, protective and equality functions. For example, Jordan and Kuwait foresee that economic growth through income-generating opportunities will be achieved with investments in the private sector (Jawad, 2015). Sudan is another example in which its National Development Strategy aims to develop the agricultural sector through big scale models, and that incentivizes the creation of jobs within the industry sector. At the same time, the political functions of social protection become evident in the NENA countries when governments upscale social assistance services like food subsidies in response to protests or the food crisis. The bread riots in Egypt and Syria were followed by an increase in food subsidies and the social assistance benefits distributed nationwide. Moreover, in Egypt, the food subsidies have a strong history of a social contract, in that it is perceived by the population as an entitlement rather than a temporary solution for a shortage of food (Gutner, 2002).

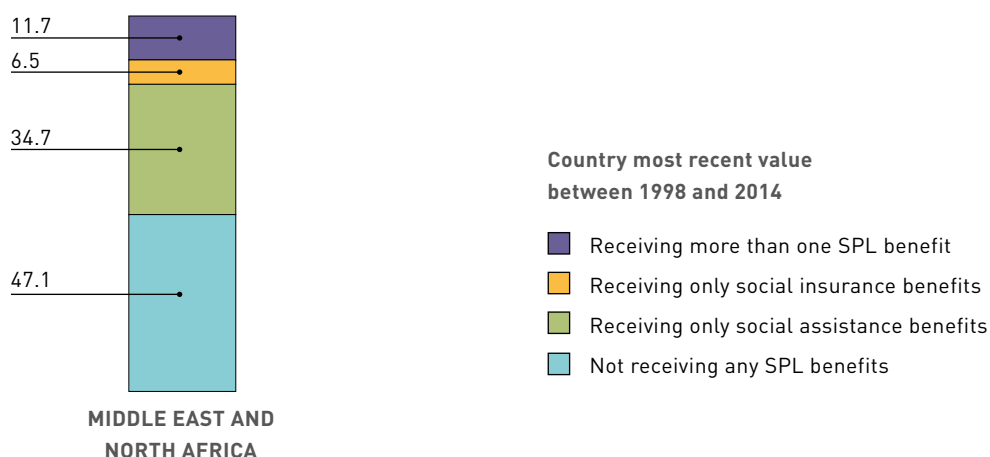
## POLICY MECHANISMS AND INSTRUMENTS

It is more accurate to say that, in the NENA region, countries have social protection strategies in place in lieu of concrete social policies. Most of the social protection interventions can be found under National Poverty Reduction Strategies. The emphasis on private sector investment and employment based social insurance in the NENA countries is also made clearer when we look at what kinds of social security legislation and social assistance programmes are in place. There is a trend in the region towards contribution-based social insurance systems that leaves out sectors that are not formalized as is often the case in agriculture. In Lebanon, for example, the National Social Security Fund is ruled by a Labour Law (1974) that does not include agricultural workers as the agricultural sector is not yet formalized under the law. The same is the case in Egypt. Increases in social assistance have followed the same patterns in order to address the multiple vulnerabilities created by poverty and a lack of social security to the majority of the population.

All countries have in place some type of public social protection systems that combine labor market programmes, social insurance and social assistance. State-provided benefits tend to be universal social schemes in the form of subsidies or contributory-based through social

security benefits and pensions. However, it is estimated by the World Bank (in Silva *et al.*, 2012) that only one-third of the population in NENA countries are enrolled in any formal social security schemes. The figure 2 below provides an overall picture of social protection and labour coverage in the region.

Figure 2. **Coverage of Social Protection and Labour in Total Population of the NENA region (%)**

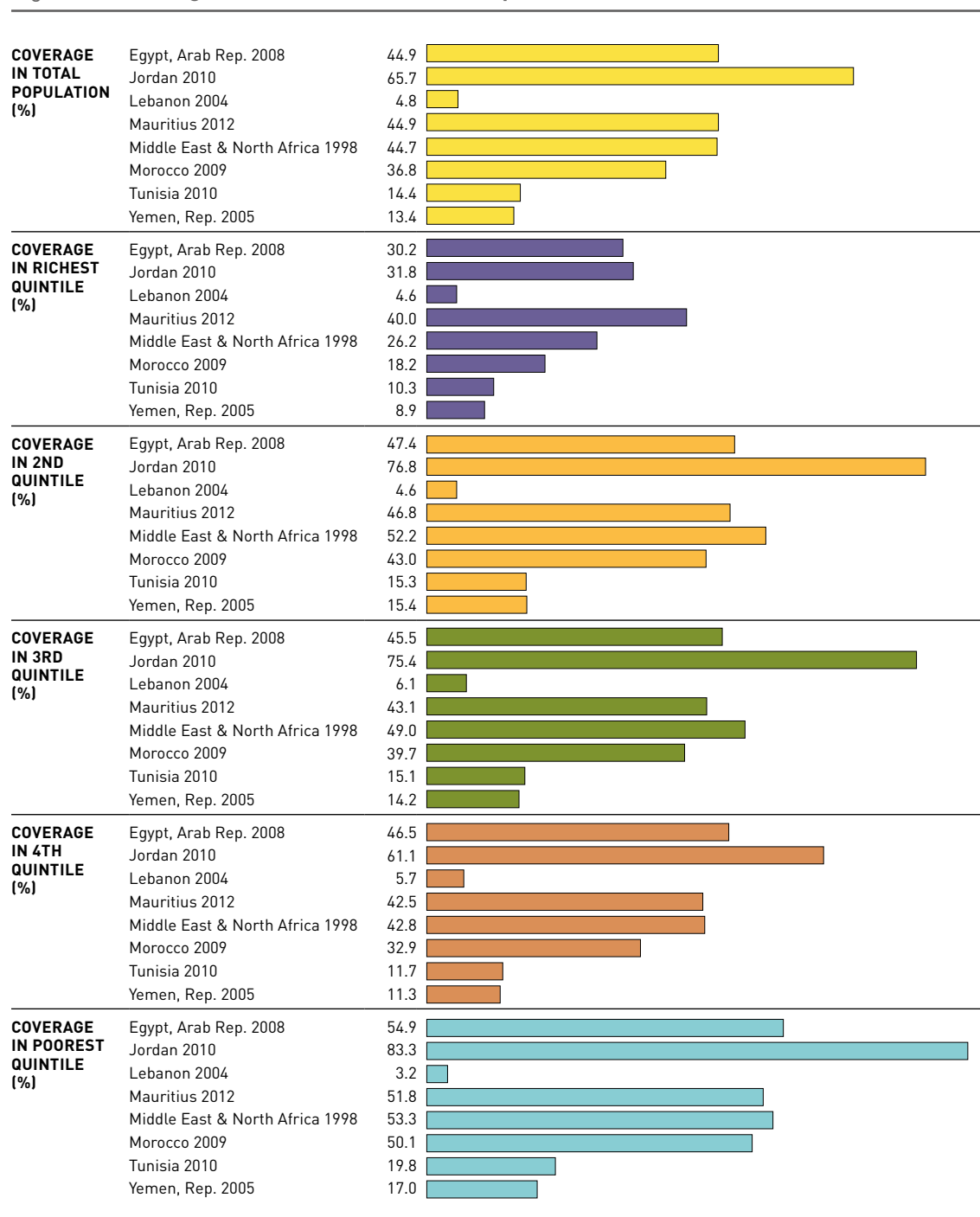


Source: ASPIRE, World Bank, 2016.

Social assistance forms a large part of the social protection programmes offered in the NENA countries. Of these, universal subsidies as food subsidies are the most frequent ones and the debate around their efficiency is pointing to the need for reforming those systems to implement better targeted social assistance programmes. The figures below show the coverage from social assistance in the five quintiles of a few countries in the region. It should be noted that, because social assistance programmes in the NENA countries are often the subsidies that are universally accessed by all the population, the coverage does not differ much from the poorest to the richest, lacking efficiency then as a poverty reduction tool.

The social protection systems in NENA are still largely excluding and function more as a reactionary mechanism than to actual socio economic transformations within the societies. The evident shortcomings of the coverage of social protection in the NENA countries shows that national governments are still spending significant amounts on subsidies that function as immediate poverty alleviation policies but do not lead to long term economic and social investments or that tend to address the poorest people (IMF, 2014). At the same time, the social insurance comprising pensions and health insurance are available on a contributory basis to formal sector employees, which are more likely to be working age males living in the urban areas.

Figure 3. Coverage of social assistance in five quintiles



Source: ASPIRE World Bank, 2016.

## CHAPTER 3

# SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN THE NENA REGION

While the bulk of direct subsidies are directly captured by top earners, the bottom and poorest quintiles do, somehow benefit from the indirect subsidy. Still, lifting of subsidies has greater negative impacts upon poorer households in relative terms (ILO, 2015). Recently some countries in the region have embarked on reforming their subsidies systems coupled with the creation and expansion of income transfer programmes to help households cope with the anticipated negative impacts on their overall welfare. In this sense, most of those countries are implementing social assistance programmes that are combined with a gradual reform of general price subsidies with the intention to improve efficiency and to create fiscal space for their financing. Table 2 below summarizes current cash transfers in the region:

Table 2. **Summary of Cash Transfers Programmes in the NENA Region**

Country	Programme	Type
Egypt	Takaful and Karama	CCT
Iraq	Social Protection System	UCT
Jordan	NAF – National Aid Fund	CCT
Lebanon	NPTP	UCT
Mauritania	Social Transfer Programme	UCT
Morocco	Tayssir	CCT
Sudan	Social Safety Net Project	UCT
Tunisia	Programmes des familles necessiteuses	UCT
West Bank and Gaza	Palestinian National Cash Transfer Program (PNCTP)	UCT
Yemen	Social Welfare Fund	UCT

Source: World Bank data and IDS, 2016.

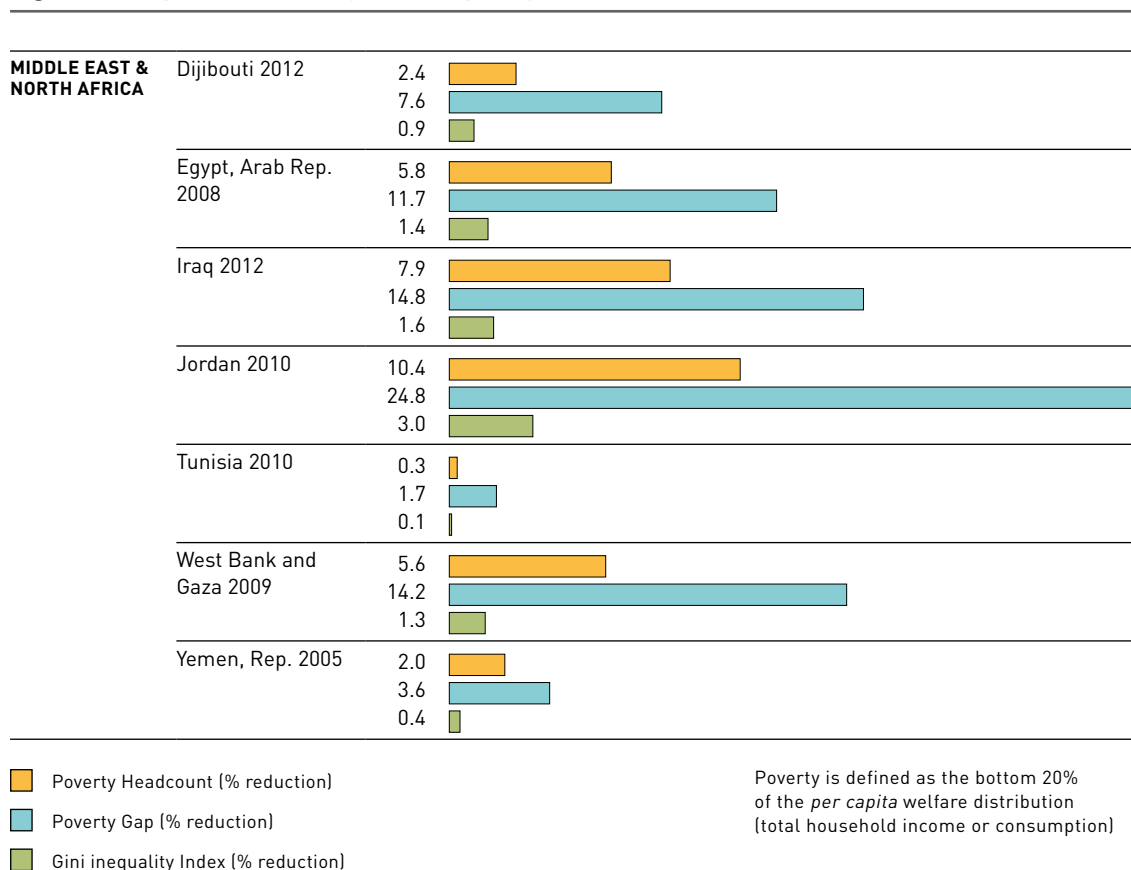
The cash transfer programmes are still relatively recent introductions to the NENA region. Most of the programmes are also still in pilot phases and not reaching large amounts of the populations. Jordan's National Aid Fund for example reaches only 16.5 percent of the poorest quintile (Silva *et al.*, 2012). The total coverage of social assistance for the poorest quintile in Jordan is 83.5 percent, due in large part to the role of subsidies. At the same time, coverage for the two richest quintiles is 61.1 percent and 31.8 percent respectively. This shows room



for improvement particularly in targeting social assistance that, with subsidies, addresses both the richest and poorest households in Jordan. On average, in the NENA region only a quarter of non-subsidy social assistance beneficiaries come from the poorest quintile (Jawad, 2015).

Some of the programmes such as the Social Welfare Fund (SWF) in Yemen<sup>14</sup> have shown a progressive benefit but not in significant poverty reduction numbers (Silva *et al.*, 2012). Because it is linked to education, impact evaluation analysis showed that the school dropout rates decreased by 57 percent and the rate of return to school by dropouts rose by 37 percent. It is important to mention that, between 2009 and 2012 the total budget of the programme also rose from 10 to 62 million USD (Silva *et al.*, 2012). In terms of inequality, and the impact on the poverty gap, the social assistance programmes in Jordan, Iraq and West Bank and Gaza seem to have a noticeable effect, as shown in figure 1. Subsidies may play a role, but because they are universally available their cost might hinder investments in more poverty efficient programmes. The recent reforms of subsidies systems in the region shows that NENA countries are gradually implementing programmes that are more considerate of poverty's multi-dimensional structure.

Figure 4. Impacts on Poverty and Inequality Reduction of All Social Assistance (%)



Source: ASPIRE World Bank, 2016.

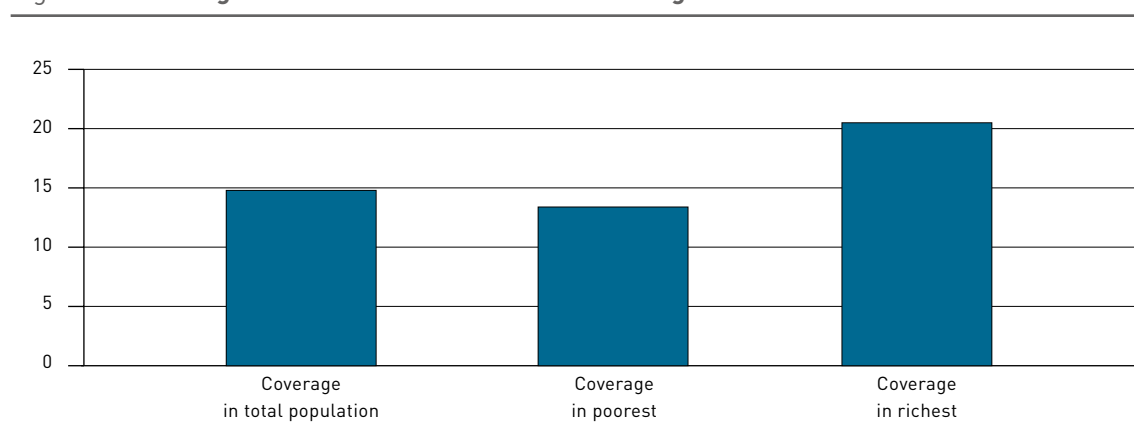
<sup>14</sup> Note that the evaluation of the SWF happened before the recent uprisings in Yemen. Currently, it is not possible to determine what is the benefit incidence of the programme.

## CHAPTER 4

# SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMMES IN THE NENA REGION

All NENA countries run social security funds for civil servants and formal sector workers, which are usually co-financed by contributions from employers, employees and the government. Compensations often cover pensions, occupational safety and health (OSH), sickness cover and maternity leave.

Figure 5. **Coverage of Social Insurance in the NENA Region**



Source: Data from ASPIRE World Bank, 2016.

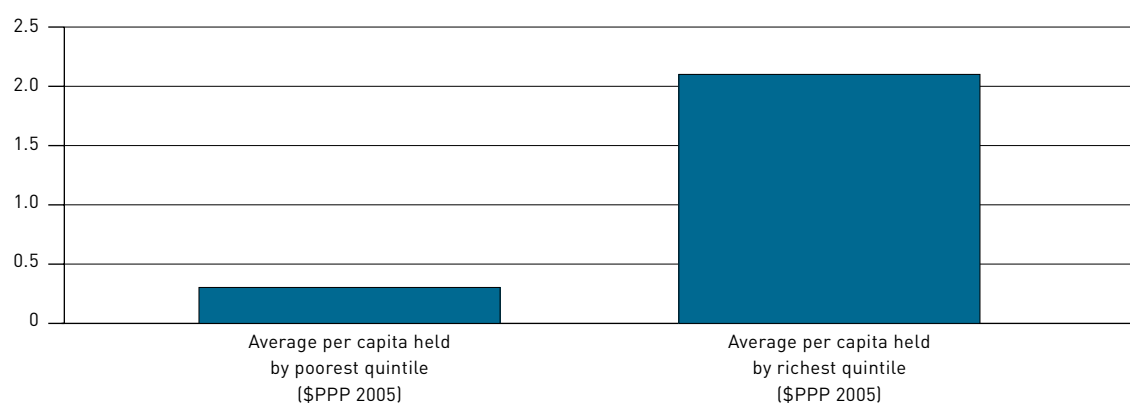
Coverage of these social insurance scheme is limited (most working-age adults do not have formal jobs, for example) and generally not pro-poor as figure 5 above shows.

There is a similar picture in terms of social security resources and skewed benefits toward the middle class with formal employment with substantial social spending ranging between seven percent and 13 percent, according to the IMF (cited in Loewe, 2013). Yet, there are significant gaps in coverage in which the largest excluded groups are agricultural workers and migrants (ESCWA, 2013). Some countries like Egypt and Tunisia either offer special schemes to farmers and agricultural workers (IDS, 2016) or are currently holding draft laws to include farmers within the Labor Legislation, such as Lebanon and Egypt, but with no certainty of when it will be amended in to law.

At the same time there is a high level of informality in all countries. About 67 percent of the labour force do not contribute to social insurance schemes. In Jordan about 50 percent of the labour force did not contribute to social insurance schemes in 2010; Morocco presented around 70 percent in 2011 and Tunisia 45 percent in 2008 (ESCWA, 2013). Informality is especially found within the agricultural sector and among rural workers. The accurate size of the informal sector in the region is difficult to ascertain but certainly accounts for the larger part of the labour force.

Because the coverage and capita transferred to the poorer people is much lower, redistribution of wealth is also marginal. Figure 6 below shows the difference between capita transferred through social insurance between the richest and poorest quintiles of the NENA countries between 1998 and 2014:

Figure 6. **Benefit level**



Source: Data from ASPIRE World Bank, 2016.

In this sense, the social insurance and pension schemes are failing to reduce income differences in the NENA region as they often benefit the middle and upper classes whilst excluding rural populations and urban informal workers (Jawad, 2015). A similar picture is found within health insurance in which coverage and redistribution are limited. All countries have universal public health systems (with the exception of Lebanon that heavily relies on private health providers) but social health insurance has been developed in most countries designed and focused on employees of the public and formal private sectors. In Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia these insurances operate health care facilities for their members (Jawad, 2015), which results in an unequal coverage especially in terms of gender - men are more often covered by health insurance than women.

## CHAPTER 5

# EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR MARKET IN THE NENA REGION: THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Achieving the objectives of poverty reduction/eradication depends crucially on the expansion of productive and decent employment in the NENA countries. The creation of jobs and provision of social services are vital for the region's sustainable economic growth. There are many challenges related to both the demand and supply side of the labour market in the region, including education constraints, labour market mismatches, large public sectors and other factors that are not pertinent to this section. However, absorbing the high labour demand could be done through further investments in high labour-intensive sectors such as the agricultural sector. The evidence shows, though, that among the largest agricultural countries – Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco – the value added of agricultural production to the GDP slightly decreased since 1996. Tunisia went from 9.1 (1996 to 2000) to 8.8 percent (2011-2015) whereas Egypt reduced from 14.5 to 11.1 percent and Morocco from 14.2 to 13 percent for the same period (World Bank Database, 2016). Overall the share of GDP coming from agriculture remained on similar levels for the period aforementioned in the NENA countries, but considering that most of these countries are food dependent and suffer high levels of unemployment, investments in such a labor-intensive sector could have done much more for the region. Added to this 43 percent of the population in NENA lives in the rural areas (World Bank Rural Development Database, 2016). By affording rural families sufficient income to meet their food and nutritional needs through promoting employment, especially rural areas, NENA countries can strengthen the direct links to food security and economic stability.

Almost by definition agriculture is the single largest source of employment for rural populations - employing an estimated 70 percent of the region's rural labour force<sup>15</sup> as table 3 shows:

Table 3. **Percent of workforce employed in agriculture**

	Year	% Employment in Agriculture
Sudan	2011	44.6
Morocco	2012	39.2
Egypt	2013	28
Yemen	2010	24.7
Iraq	2008	23.4
Iran	2014	17.9
Tunisia	2014	14.8
Syria	2011	13.2
Algeria	2011	10.8
Lebanon	2009	6
Libya	2004	5
Oman	2010	5.2
Saudi Arabia	2013	4.9
United Arab Emirates	2009	3.8
Jordan	2014	1.8
Qatar	2013	1.4
Bahrain	2010	1.1
NENA Average		15.65

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI) Database, 2016.

Still, constraints involving agriculture and labour in NENA are multiple. There are difficulties to access financial services for this sector as lines of credits to agriculture are generally very low when compared to credit extended to the rest of the economy (NERC 33 FAO, 2016).

Agriculture labour laws are generally designed to protect waged agricultural workers. This excludes seasonal, casual and piece-meal workers that are either indigenous or migrant. The table in the annex shows the most relevant laws that address decent rural employment across NENA countries. The majority of NENA countries, however, have no legal framework to protect the rights of agriculture workers. Among Gulf countries, the absence of this legislation

<sup>15</sup> Sadek *et al.*, 2011.





could be attributed to the very small role played by agriculture in their economies.<sup>16</sup> At the same time, small-scale farmers and small-scale land owners working within the framework of family farmers are also often excluded from labor legislation or do not receive the myriad of agricultural-related benefits offered by many national governments in the region. And this fundamental reality affects almost all women working in agriculture as well (FAO, 2011).

In terms of enforcement, only three countries in the NENA region (Egypt, Morocco and Syria) have ratified the ILO's Agriculture Labour Inspection Convention (No. 129). The Convention ensures that signatories establish and maintain a system of labour inspection in agriculture that monitors compliance with legal provisions relating to working conditions and the rights of workers.

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<sup>16</sup> Agriculture is not excluded from the provisions of the general labour law in both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

## CHAPTER 6

# IMPACT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE NENA REGION

Most countries in the region have a social protection system that, although often fragmented, comprises three major components of social insurance, social assistance and informal or semi-formal social protection interventions. The quality and provision of the programmes vary a lot across the region, and certainly there is scope for improvement specifically as it relates to coordination, coverage, targeting and data management.

The current status of social protection systems in the NENA region can present some challenges including:

- Benefits provided through social security funds are not available to some key sectors like agriculture that continues to be informal
- Lack of universal health coverage or provision of health care to the poorest households by the State. Expenditures in to private health care systems are often identified as the main expenditure in the total household spending
- The long term reliance on short-term assistance either through food or fuel subsidies or in-kind transfers. This has started to change recently.

In addition, a large section of the population remains outside of the social protection framework and they can be classified as: unemployed men and women, female households responsible for dependents, informal rural workers, self-employed workers, street children and children involved in child labor.

Targeted cash transfers programmes that are broadly recognize as offering better efficiency toward fighting poverty and inequality reduction, have not yet been extensively evaluated in the region. However, the few in existence presented an overall positive impact and trends in various aspects. A summary of the main findings of four programmes will follow:

The Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme (PNCTP)<sup>17</sup>, Morocco's Tayssir Cash Transfer,<sup>18</sup> the Programme d'Aide Aux Familles Nécessiteuses (PNAFN) from Tunisia<sup>19</sup> and the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Programme of the Lebanese Cash Consortium (LCC)<sup>20</sup>.

- PNCTP: The programme is administrated by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). Beneficiaries are selected according to a consumption-based PMT that estimates the welfare of applicants. Eligible households receive between (US\$ 195-468) per quarter to bridge the poverty gap. Beneficiaries are also entitled to other state-provided assistance such as health insurance, food support and free schooling/school fee waivers. The programme was not designed with a child focus but the impact evaluation looked into the impact of the grant that would meet children's needs, principally related to food but also schooling and clothing. It has been proven that the programme does address the basic needs of children because it *"contributes to meeting many essential household needs that affect children directly, and contributes to improving their emotional and mental wellbeing in an extremely pressured and challenging situation"* (UNICEF and ODI, 2014). However, the amount of cash given was identified as being too little to make a significant contribution to children's physical and emotional well-being in the long term, or to function as a catalyst element that could lead to other and more income-generating activities or even to produce enough impact in the levels of education that could make the programme more transformational. This issue of limited income opportunities still push many children into work and also keep adults in a cycle of poverty. Still, beneficiaries expressed that they would be much worse off without the cash transfer and parents reported being more hopeful about their children's future. However, the effect of benefitting households spending more money on education for their children was small and did not continue over time. This was related to the benefit amount that should, as per study, account for variation in the cost of education, geographically and over time.
- PNAFN: In 2007 the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS) launched a program intended to aid children from poor and disadvantaged families to receive schooling. The program provides monthly financial assistance for educating children in families that are benefiting from Tunisia's Programme National d'Aide aux Familles Nécessiteuses (PNAFN). Until 2014, the programme covered around 80,000 children. The evaluation looked into the grant and its impact. There has been some indication of positive effects on household investments in education and potentially, in the children's educational outcomes. In simple comparisons, beneficiary households indicated lower educational expenditures and poorer educational outcomes than non-beneficiary comparison households.

<sup>17</sup> Perezniето *et al.* "Effects of the Palestinian National Cash Transfer Programme on children and adolescents: A mixed methods analysis", ODI and UNICEF, 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Benhanssine *et al.* "Cash Transfer for Education in Morocco", World Bank and Jpal, 2010.

<sup>19</sup> Ostermann *et al.*, " *Evaluation of the education benefit program of PNAFN in Tunisia EVALUATION REPORT*", 2014.

<sup>20</sup> Battistin, F. , " *Impact Evaluation of the Multipurpose Cash Assistance Programme* " , American University of Beirut, 2016.



- LCC: The Lebanon Cash Consortium (LCC) brings together six international NGOs to provide a monthly transfer to economically vulnerable Syrian households in Lebanon, whose eligibility is done through PMT methods. The study conducted by the UK Aid agencies and the European Union aimed to measure the impact of the transfer in overall physical and material wellbeing of beneficiaries. According to the study, the LCC multipurpose cash aid appears to be effective as a modality to deliver supplementary assistance because it is versatile. It increased refugees' 'consumption of living essentials and has an impact of 32 percent more money being spent on food items by the households. The support the LCC seems to be providing a reduction in the vulnerability of beneficiaries, on several different levels. Households receiving LCC are more likely to count on work as their main source of income (Battistin, 2016). The programme is particularly effective to address access barriers in situations where markets are functioning and are more elastic to demand increases, such as that of food items.
- Tayssir: The programme made cash payments to parents in communities with children aged six to 15. Parents had to formally enroll each of their children into the program. The pilot took place in 318 rural primary school sectors, each of which included two school communities, in the poorest areas within five of Morocco's sixteen regions. The Tayssir transfers have two versions: a conditional cash transfers (CCT) and an unconditional one (UCT). Our evaluation found that the programme greatly increased school participation under all versions of the program, with the UCT having slightly larger impacts.

Social Protection suffers from a proliferation of interventions and of actors, with some overlapping making it difficult to conduct assessments of each programmes' impact in the NENA region (ODI, 2011).



## CHAPTER 7

# CONCLUDING REMARKS

The NENA countries are in no way an exception to global trends in social protection. The region provides programmes that are similar to other parts of the world, ranging from cash transfers and social assistance to contributory social insurance schemes. However, continuous reliance on universal food and fuel subsidies is still a characteristic of the NENA region. It is possible then to conclude that social protection is in fact an important policy area but still most resources are spent on the regressive subsidies.

The region presents a complex range of social protection programmes that are a mix between formal and informal/semi-informal. In middle income countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon, most social protection is domestically financed and state-provided, even if donors support only part of the activities. Donors do play a more significant role in lower-income economies in countries such as Yemen, West Bank & Gaza Strip and Sudan which also receive significant social protection support from civil society organizations. This is especially true in emergency and humanitarian settings in which the provision of social protection services is almost wholly funded by donors and through systems that are parallel to governments and have no links with national programmes. This is the case in Lebanon and Jordan, for instance, in which the humanitarian framework supporting the high influx of refugees (mostly from Syria) is collated with the national government and financed by external parties. Similar situations can be found in Iraq and Yemen as well.

Coverage of social protection is another key challenge. The higher income countries in the Gulf generally provide free universal medical care, education and work training programmes with social security benefits available to all citizens, but which normally excludes migrants or refugees. In fact, only 30 to 40 percent of the NENA populations are covered by formal social protection systems (Jawad, 2015). Informal workers are also excluded from most forms of social security in the region, as the previous sections showed. Agricultural workers and farmers are particularly vulnerable as they are often not well covered by social assistance or health programmes which are easier to access in urban areas.

Fundamentally the agricultural sector locks a potential for poverty reduction in the region. Many countries in NENA have a combination of high (youth) unemployment and seasonal hunger with high risks from the constant effects of climate change. Governments need to design interventions to simultaneously address household food insecurity and support linkages to labour markets, partly through public works programmes that may contribute to resilience-building efforts by engaging the labour force in infrastructure-related projects.

This can then help reduce specific disaster risks by supporting diversification and adaptation of livelihoods to better withstand relevant shocks and stresses. Several NENA governments have developed social protection strategies, but most countries display a lack of coordination between agriculture, food security and social protection policies and programmes, although there are strong synergies between these policy domains (IDS, 2015).

Some of the main challenges to expanding and strengthening social protection in the region include the following:

- **Political context:** despite their regressive impact, the removal of subsidies is greatly linked to social tensions and new sources of vulnerabilities for people.
- **Fragmentation:** fragmented activities and the absence of coordination within and between government institutions weakens the social protection sector. The Ministries of Agriculture and Labour are not always involved in social protection strategies and there is a fragmentation in the provision of services. No country has a social registry in place to avoid duplication of benefits and often programmes and targets overlap.
- **Financial barriers:** fiscal space is not the biggest challenge for NENA to increase targeted and efficient social protection but most of the spending remains consumed by subsidies.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** M&E is not a common practice and evaluations are seldom available. This means that not enough relevant data is being generated or captured to strengthen the social protection landscape in the region and not enough evaluation systems are in place to measure the impact of interventions.

Specifically looking at food prices and economic shocks – the NENA region lacks functional early warning systems that can anticipate price spikes in food<sup>21</sup> which has had, and will most likely continue to greatly impact vulnerable groups, particularly in rural areas. It exposes too the lack of complementarity among programmes that address employment and social benefits as two distinct and non-exchangeable areas.

There are a number of entry points for strengthening linkages between agricultural and social protection in an integrated way. First, it is important to consider social protection beyond social assistance so as to be able to develop programmes that can be sustainable and income generating. This is especially needed in the content of NENA countries where unemployment is high in rural areas that are consequently the poorest areas. Second, multilateral agencies should support governments to strengthen their capacity to design tailored and effective programmes that reach needed households within their socioeconomic vulnerabilities and productivity constraints. Instead, fragmented programmes and policies are still preventing a more coherent approach to social protection and poverty reduction. And third, more evidence of impact from social protection programmes is needed to support policy makers and direct programmes to become more efficient.

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<sup>21</sup> ODI, 2015.



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## ANNEX 1

# LABOUR LAWS GOVERNING AGRICULTURE WORKERS IN NENA

	LABOUR LAWS FOR AGRICULTURE WORKERS
Algeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrêté du 25 mai 1996 fixant les modalités d'inscription des agriculteurs, de tenue des registres y afférents et le modèle de la carte professionnelle d'agriculteur. Adoption: 1996-05-25</li> <li>• Loi no 87-19 du 8 décembre 1987 déterminant le mode d'exploitation des terres agricoles du domaine national et fixant les droits et obligations des producteurs. Adoption: 1987-12-08</li> <li>• Décret no 84-157 du 23 juin 1984 modifiant le décret no 71-77 portant organisation d'un régime de prestations familiales en agriculture. 1984-06-23</li> <li>• Décret no 82-119 du 27 mars 1982 modifiant le décret no 71-77 du 5 avril 1971 portant organisation d'un régime de prestations familiales en agriculture. 1982-03-27</li> <li>• Décret no 74-95 du 1er mai 1974 modifiant le décret no 71-77 du 5 avril 1971 portant organisation d'un régime de prestations familiales en agriculture. 1974-05-01</li> <li>• Décret no 73-98 du 25 juillet 1973 modifiant le décret no 71-77 portant organisation d'un régime de prestations familiales en agriculture. Adoption: 1973-07-25</li> <li>• Ordonnance no 72-64 du 2 décembre 1972 portant institution de la mutualité agricole. Adoption: 1972-12-02</li> <li>• Ordonnance no 71-14 du 5 avril 1971 relative à l'organisation d'un nouveau régime d'assurances sociales agricoles. Adoption: 1971-04-05</li> <li>• Décret no 71-70 du 5 avril 1971 relatif aux modalités d'application des assurances maladie et invalidité dans le secteur agricole. Adoption: 1971-04-05</li> <li>• Décret no 71-72 du 5 avril 1971 relatif aux modalités d'application de l'assurance-maternité dans le secteur agricole. Adoption: 1971-04-05</li> <li>• Décret no 71-74 du 9 avril 1971 relatif aux modalités d'application de l'allocation aux vieux travailleurs dans le secteur agricole. Adoption: 1971-04-05</li> <li>• Décret no 71-77 du 5 avril 1971 portant organisation d'un régime de prestations familiales en agriculture. Adoption: 1971-04-05</li> </ul>
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law No. 127 of 2014 Regulating Health Insurance for Farmers and Agricultural Workers. Adoption: 2014-09-17</li> <li>• Law No. 112 of 1980 on comprehensive social insurance</li> </ul>
Iran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation to apply sections 85 and 86 of the Labour Code. Adoption: 1993-08-02   Date of entry into force: 1996-08-04</li> <li>• Regulations respecting holidays and leave pay for agricultural workers employed on piece work. Adoption: 1976-12-23</li> <li>• Agricultural Labour Act (03/07/1353) Adoption: 1934-10-12</li> </ul>
Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Workers Categories who are subject to the Provisions of the Labour Law, Regulation No. (4) Of the Year 2003. Adoption: 2003-01-16</li> <li>• Agricultural Engineers Pension and Benefits Scheme Regulations No. 3 of 2001. Adoption: 2001-01-31</li> </ul>

<b>Lebanon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Décret n° 59/1 de 2005 réglementant l'importation, l'enregistrement et l'utilisation de pesticides agricoles au Liban. Adoption: 2005</li> <li>• Loi no 8/74 du 25 mars 1974 faisant bénéficier les ouvriers agricoles de la loi relative à la sécurité</li> </ul>
<b>Morocco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrêté du ministre de l'Emploi et de la Formation professionnelle n° 340-05 du 9 février 2005 fixant les durées journalières de la répartition, par périodes, de la durée normale du travail dans les activités agricoles. Adoption: 2005-02-09</li> <li>• Dahir no 1-82-178 du 8 avril 1981 portant promulgation de la loi no 26-79 étendant le régime de sécurité sociale aux employeurs et travailleurs des exploitants agricoles, forestières et de leur dépendances. Adoption: 1981-04-08</li> <li>• Arrêté no 614-75 du 4 septembre 1975 modifiant l'arrêté no 462-73 du 24 avril 1973 pris en application du dahir portant loi no 1-72-219 du 24 avril 1973, déterminant les conditions d'emploi et de rémunération des salariés agricoles. Adoption: 1975-09-04</li> <li>• Décret n° 2-74-526 du 6 février 1975 fixant les modalités de notification au salarié agricole de son licenciement pour faute grave et la liste indicative des faits constituant des fautes graves. Adoption: 1975-02-06</li> <li>• Dahir du 24 avril 1973 portant loi no 1-72-219 déterminant les conditions d'emploi et de rémunération des salariés agricoles. Adoption: 1973-04-24</li> <li>• Dahir du 24 mars 1931 relatif à l'extension aux exploitations forestières des dispositions du dahir du 25 juin 1927 sur les accidents du travail. [tel que modifié en dernier lieu par le dahir du 16 avril 1951] Adoption: 1931-03-24</li> </ul>
<b>Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peasants' Organizations Act of 1976. Adoption: 1976</li> </ul>
<b>Syria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Decree No. 914/2009 on the duties of employers in the agricultural sector to guarantee the safety of their workers. Adoption: 2009-01-28</li> <li>• Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Decree No. 913/2009 on restricting the working hours of agricultural workers. Adoption: 2009-01-28</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Decree No. 661, concerning the seasonal status of workers picking fruit and vegetables. Adoption: 2007-04-29</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Decree No. 974 on the Conditions of Home Workers in the Agriculture Sector. Adoption: 2006-05-07</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Decree No. 977 concerning Conditions for Providing Housing for Agriculture Workers. Adoption: 2006-05-07</li> <li>• The Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs Decree. No 981 On Working Hours in the Agricultural Sector. Adoption: 2006-05-07</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Decree No. 979 on the Obligation of the Employer to have a Nurse for Every 50 Workers in the Agriculture Sector. 2006-05-07</li> <li>• Law No. 56 of 2004 regulating the agricultural relationships. Adoption: 2004-12-29</li> </ul>
<b>Tunisia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Décret n° 2014-2908 du 11 août 2014, fixant le salaire minimum agricole garanti. Adoption: 2014-08-11</li> <li>• Décret no 89-1552 portant octroi d'une indemnité spéciale au profit des travailleurs payés au salaire minimum agricole garanti. Adoption: 1989-10-06</li> <li>• Loi no 89-73, modifiant et complétant la loi no 81-6 du 12 février 1981, organisant les régimes de sécurité sociale dans le secteur agricole. Adoption: 1989-09-02</li> <li>• Décret no 82-1360 relatif à la sécurité sociale des exploitants et travailleurs indépendants dans l'agriculture. Adoption: 1982-10-21</li> <li>• Décret no 81-224 fixant la répartition des cotisations de sécurité sociale dans le secteur agricole et réglant les modalités de leur versement. Adoption: 1981-02-24</li> <li>• Loi no 81-6 organisant les régimes de sécurité sociale dans le secteur agricole. - Version consolidée. Adoption: 1981-02-12</li> <li>• Décret no 71-163 relatif à la rémunération des travailleurs agricoles. Adoption: 1971-05-03</li> <li>• Décret no 71-8 réglant les modalités de versement des contributions aux régimes d'assurances sociales agricoles. Adoption: 1971-01-11</li> </ul>

Source: ILO NATLEX Database. Retrieved and consolidated by Abulfotuh, Dalia. 2016.



## **SOCIAL PROTECTION IN NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION**

### **REGIONAL TRENDS**



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