

RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON
Conflicts, Governance and Post-Conflict Economic Agenda in War Afflicted
Arab Countries

DATE: 5-8 NOVEMBER, 2018

LOCATION: KENZI TOWER HOTEL,
TWIN CENTER, BOULEVARD MOHAMED ZERKTOUNI
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

CONTEXT

More than seven years have passed since the initial eruption of the Arab uprisings. The civil wars generated in their wake in Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Yemen have resulted in untold destruction and suffering, including massive internal and external displacement, and the reversal of years of economic development and social cohesion.

Looking forward, it is important to understand the ongoing dynamics that led these countries to where they now stand and the policies that best serve the objectives of peace-building and sustained development in the post-conflict phase.

With this in mind, the Economic Research Forum (ERF) launched a new multi-year research program on *Conflict, Peace building and Post Conflict Transition in War Afflicted Arab Countries* to help enhance the indigenous capacity for undertaking policy-oriented research in these countries as well as in the MENA region at large. In turn, this initiative should promote constructive knowledge-based policy dialogue among stakeholders in these conflict-afflicted societies, and, help them build consensus around national post-conflict development and state-building agendas.

In this context, ERF launched a call for papers to identify and select potential researchers, mainly drawn from, but not confined to, the four countries in question, which would constitute the core network for this new research theme. The research workshop will feature presentations of thematic papers, prepared by leading experts on topics of direct relevance to the current call, as well as additional presentations on related topics to be considered in subsequent phases of the research project. Additionally, the workshop will provide a platform for the presentation of nine selected proposals which will constitute the project's first batch of research papers to be followed by planned future calls on related structured projects.

The workshop will address several conflict related issues including causes of conflict, transition from war to peace and the post-conflict economic agenda. These topics will be discussed in light of literature findings and available data. Grasping the causes of conflict is the first and most essential step towards understanding the requisites for a peaceful transition and solid rebuilding. Economic, political, and social literature has extensively explored various reasons for the uprisings and the descent into civil war, including political and economic grievance, social discord, loot motives, and even climate change. While there is no doubt that the conflicts cannot be pinpointed to one particular cause, it is important

to provide evidence for the most pertinent root of conflict to move forward with the other topics. Transition to peace is at the cornerstone of post-conflict development. Studying countries that have faced similar ordeals could be beneficial in mapping out realistic scenarios for future conflict prevention such as power sharing arrangements.

Finally, the post-conflict economic agenda is one of the most concrete issues that this workshop will tackle. This will include assessing the damage that the conflicts have created, in terms of economic cost and human cost as well. The focus will be on women and children, as the literature seems to suggest that the burden of post Arab Spring civil wars have been much more devastating for the civilian population than previous conflicts in Africa, Central Europe and Latin America. The post-conflict economic agenda should be framed around the overarching objective of rebuilding economic governance institutions in order to enhance social cohesion and address the grievances that led to the conflicts in the first place. It is pertinent to stress that equitable and sustainable post-conflict growth can only be achieved in a context of an explicit development strategy that targets such grievances.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop aims to identify frontier policy-oriented research issues and methodologies in the region and enable cross fertilization and networking of international scholars and researchers abroad and in the Arab region in order to create a sub-network of researchers and a database of resource persons and institutions working on this theme.

AGENDA

The workshop will bring together around 50 participants over the course of three and a half days. Each session is structured so that ample time is left for an open discussion.



DAY ONE 5 NOVEMBER, 2018

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00-9:15 OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

Ibrahim Elbadawi, Economic Research Forum (ERF)
Samir Makdisi, American University of Beirut and ERF

9:15-11:00 SESSION 1: WHY CONFLICTS AND CIVIL WARS HAPPEN

The merits of the various hypotheses presented by the literature on the causes of conflict will be discussed, including contrasting loot vs grievance motives as well as considering further factors associated with sub-national and communal violence.

Moderator: *Noha EL Mikawy, Ford Foundation*

Speaker: *Cristina Bodea, Michigan State University*

Lead Comments: *Tilman Brück, International Security and Development Center*

Open Discussion

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:00 SESSION 2: HOW TO REBUILD POLITICAL GOVERNANCE FOR PEACE-BUILDING

Realistic scenarios of political governance building in each context will be mapped out, pinpointing the most favorable scenarios for inclusive, sustainable peace.

Moderator: *Shahrokh Fardoust, College of William and Mary*

Speaker: *Nicholas Sambanis, University of Pennsylvania*

Lead Comments: *Noha EL Mikawy, Ford Foundation*

Open Discussion

13:00-14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30-16:00 **SESSION 3: HOW A POST-CONFLICT ECONOMIC AGENDA CAN BE DESIGNED: OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS**

A viable economic agenda for societies emerging from conflicts must first and foremost aim at addressing socio-economic grievances as well as conflict-enabling factors, such as the presence of a large pool of uneducated young men. Moreover, such an agenda must also ignite and sustain widely diversified economic growth.

Moderator: *Khaled Abu Ismail, ESCWA*

Speaker: *Raimundo Soto, Catholic University of Chile*

Lead Comments: *Jaime de Melo, University of Geneva*

Open discussion

19:00-21:00 **DINNER**

DAY TWO **6 NOVEMBER, 2018**

9:00-11:00 **SESSION 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Moderator: *Nicholas Sambanis, University of Pennsylvania*

Speakers: *Donghyun Cho, University of Pennsylvania*
Anna Schultz, University of Pennsylvania

Comments: *Raimundo Soto, Catholic University of Chile*

Open Discussion

11:00-11:30 **BREAK**

11:30-14:00 **SESSION 5: ESTIMATING THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COST OF CIVIL WARS**

This session will quantify the economic cost of conflict, including damage to the economy, loss of physical and human-capital as well as weakened institutions. In addition to reviewing the evidence on the human cost of civil wars, the session will cover three approaches for estimating the economic cost of conflicts, including growth model estimation, micro-sectoral and satellite data-based approaches.

Moderator: *Mouna Cherkaoui, University of Rabat*

Speakers: *Ibrahim Elbadawi Economic Research Forum (ERF)*
Estimating the Economic and Human Cost of Civil Wars

Ahmad Sheikh Ebid, ESCWA
Physical Capital Depletion

Semih Tümen, TED University
Satellite data-based estimation of growth collapse in Syria

Open Discussion

14:00-15:30 **LUNCH**

15:30-18:00 **SESSION 6: THREE CASE STUDY PROPOSALS: CAUSES, GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC AGENDA (IRAQ, LIBYA AND YEMEN)**

This session will feature presentations of four core submissions that address three topics of causes, governance and post-conflict economic agenda.

Moderator: *Ibrahim Elbadawi*, Economic Research Forum (ERF)

Speakers: *Mahmoud El Iraini*, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
Bassam Yousif, Indiana State University
Amal Hamada, Cairo University

Lead Comments: *Raimundo Soto*, Catholic University of Chile
Mouna Cherkaoui, University of Rabat

Open Discussion

DAY THREE 7 NOVEMBER, 2018

9:00-11:00 SESSION 7: THREE CASE STUDY PROPOSALS: CAUSES, GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC AGENDA (SYRIA)

This session will feature presentations of three core submissions that address the three topics of causes governance and post-conflict agenda.

Moderator: *Raed Safadi*, Dubai Economic Department

Speakers: *Ali Fakih*, Lebanese American University
Ahmad Sheikh Ebid, ESCWA
Nader Kabbani, Brookings Institution

Lead Comments: *Samir Makdisi*, American University of Beirut and ERF
Khaled Abu Ismail, ESCWA

Open Discussion

11:00-11:30 BREAK

11:30- 13:30 SESSION 8: BURDEN OF CONFLICTS ON POPULATIONS AND HOUSEHOLDS

This session discusses measuring violence at the micro-HH level, analyzing its burden on HH and communities as well as assessing how HH and communities are developing their responsive coping and defense mechanisms.

Moderator: *Bassam Yousif*, Indiana State University

Speakers: *Tilman Brück*, International Security and Development Center
Measuring Violent Conflicts in Micro Level Surveys

Debarati Guha-Sapir, Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), Catholic University of Louvain
The Burden of Conflicts on Women and Children

Mohamed Abdel Jelil, World Bank
The Middle Class and the Syrian Civil War

Open Discussion

13:30-15:00 LUNCH

15:00-17:30 SESSION 9: REFUGEES AND REPATRIATION: WHO THEY ARE, AND HOW AND WHY THEY SHOULD BE REPATRIATED

This session includes discussion of factors that determine refugee return, including: their main concerns and conditions as well as methods of gathering information. It will also tackle the question of sustainable return pertaining to the welfare of the refugees themselves and how best their labor and human capital could be deployed in support of post-conflict economic development efforts. Special focus will be paid to issues facing women and children.

Moderator: *Irfan Al Hasani*, Dubai Department of Economic Development

Speakers: *Alma Boustati*, SOAS, University of London
*An Overview of Data and the Received Literature with
Emphasis on the Impact on Women and Children*

Roger Albinyana, European Institute of the Mediterranean
*Political Aspects of Refugees, Repartition and
Reconstruction: A European Perspective*

Janette Uhlmann, Center for Mediterranean Integration,
World Bank
Impact of refugees on host municipalities

Open discussion



DAY FOUR 8 NOVEMBER, 2018

9:00-11:30 SESSION 10: THE ROLE OF NEIGHBORS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN CONFLICTS AND PEACE IN THE ARAB WORLD

This session explores how these factors might either contribute to fanning the flames of conflicts or become catalysts for peace-building and transition from war to peace.

Moderator: *Nader Kabbani*, Brookings Institution

Speakers: *Shahrokh Fardoust*, College of William and Mary
The Role of Neighbors in War and Peace-Making in the Arab World

Jaime de Melo, University of Geneva
Climate Change, Conflict and Migratory Pressures to the OECD Countries

Open discussion

11:30-12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00-13:30 SESSION 11: ROUNDTABLE -THE PEACE-BUILDING ROLES OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENTS AND DIPLOMACY

Moderator: *Hanan Morsy*, The African Development Bank

Speakers: *Alaa El Hadidi*, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs
Diplomacy and Peace Building in the Arab world

Bassma Kodmani, Arab Reform Initiative
Role of International Actors in Conflict Settlement

Open Discussion

13:30-14:00 CLOSING SESSION

Ibrahim Elbadawi, Economic Research Forum (ERF)
Samir Makdisi, American University of Beirut and ERF

14:00-15:30 LUNCH