

**ERF POLICY CONFERENCE ON
CONFLICT, POST-CONFLICT AND RECONSTRUCTION IN CONFLICT-AFFLICTED ARAB COUNTRIES
JUNE 21-22, 2022**

CONTEXT AND CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

More than ten 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 in 2017 a multi-year research program on *Conflict, Peace Building and Post Conflict Transition in War-Afflicted Arab Countries* to help enhancing the indigenous capacity for undertaking policy-oriented research in these countries as well as in the MENA region at large. In turn, this project aimed at promoting constructive knowledge-based policy dialogue among stakeholders in these conflict-afflicted societies, and helping them build consensus around national post-conflict development and state-building agendas.

In this context, ERF completed four important and timely projects under this program, with a fifth in the process of being finished, involving more than 60 researchers and experts from the region and outside. The first one tackled the aftershock of the Arab uprisings, in terms of the reconstruction process and the achievement of national peace and democratic change. This component, led by Samir Makdisi and Raimundo Soto, produced nine papers covering the MENA region as well as four case studies (Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Iraq). The second component, which focused on micro-level analyses of the impact of conflict on lives and livelihoods in MENA, was directed by Tilman Bruck. The third project, headed by Semih Tumen, shed light on the foundations of the post conflict growth agenda in MENA region. The fourth completed project, managed by Ahmad Ghoneim, tried to understand the relationship between economic interdependency and conflict. [All papers of the completed projects were published and are available on the ERF website.](#) The fifth on-going project is managed by Samir Makdisi and Raimundo Soto and critically examines the conditions for a sustained political and economic transformation in countries emerging from civil conflicts.

This multi-year project was made possible by the generous contributions of the Ford Foundation.

The conference aims at providing a platform for the dissemination of results of the four completed components and discussing the impact of these results on public policies with decision-makers and experts from academia, international organizations, civil society and the private sector.

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AGENDA

Day One: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

03:00-03:15 Welcoming Remarks

Ibrahim Elbadawi (*Economic Research Forum*)

Samir Makdisi (*American University of Beirut and ERF*)

03:15-04:10 Session 1. The Micro-Level Analysis of Conflict in MENA

Moderator: Nisreen Salti (*American University of Beirut and ERF*)

Speaker: Tilman Bruck, *The Impact of Conflict on Lives and Livelihoods in the MENA Region* (30 min)

Lead Commentator: Nader Kabbani (*Doha Brookings Institute and ERF*) (15 min)

Q&A (10 min)

04:10-05:05 Session 2. Post Conflict Growth in MENA

Moderator: Ibrahim Elbadawi (*ERF*)

Speaker: Chahir Zaki, *Foundations for Post-Conflict Growth Agenda in MENA* (30 min)

Lead Commentator: Bassam Yousif (*Indiana State University*) (15 min)

Q&A (10 min)

Day Two: Wednesday, June 22, 2022

03:00-03:55 Session 3. Regional Cooperation and Conflict in MENA

Moderator: Katarzyna W. Sidło (*Center for Social and Economic Research*)

Speaker: Ahmed Ghoneim, *Economic Interdependency and Conflict in MENA* (30 min)

Lead Commentator: Lahcen Achy (*International Monetary Fund*) (15 min)

Q&A (10 min)

03:55-04:50 Session 4: Regional Experiences and Lessons Learned

Moderator: Adeel Malik (*University of Oxford*)

Speakers: Raimundo Soto, *The Aftermath of the Arab uprisings: reconstruction, peace and democratic change* (30 min)

Lead Commentator: Noha El-Mikawy (*Ford Foundation and ERF*) (15 min)

Q&A (10 min)

04:50-05:35 Closing Session: Presentation of the project on sustained political and economic transformation

Moderator: Samir Makdisi (*American University of Beirut and ERF*)

Speakers: Raimundo Soto (*Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and ERF*) (10 min)

Chahir Zaki (*Cairo University and ERF*) (10 min)

Shantayan Devarajan (*Georgetown University*) (10 min)

Q&A (15 min)

THE LIST OF PAPERS

CONFLICT, PEACE BUILDING AND POST CONFLICT TRANSITION IN WAR AFFLICTED ARAB COUNTRIES

[Investigating The Libyan Conflict and Peace-Building Process: Past Causes and Future Prospects](#)

Amal Hamada, Melike Sökmen, and Chahir Zaki

[Economic Agenda for Post-Conflict Reconstruction](#)

Samir Makdisi and Raimundo Soto

[Power-Sharing and Peace-Building](#)

Nicholas Sambanis

[Conflict, Peace-Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Yemen](#)

Mahmoud Al-Iriani, Hiba Hassan and Irene Martinez

[Ethnic Divisions and The Onset of Civil Wars in Syria](#)

Salaheddin Abosedra, Ali Fakih, and Nathir Haimoun

[Conflict, Institutions and the Iraqi Economy, 2003- 2018](#)

Bassam Yousif, Rabeh Morrar, and Omar El-Joumayle

[Scenario-Based Forecast for Post-Conflict's Growth in Syria](#)

Mouyad Alsamara, Zouhair Mrabet, and Ahmad Shikh Ebid

FOUNDATIONS FOR POST CONFLICT GROWTH AGENDA

[Measuring the Economic Cost of Conflict in Afflicted Arab Countries](#)

Semih Tumen and Elif Semra Ceylan

[Immigration and Inter-Regional Job Mobility: Evidence from Syrian Refugees in Turkey](#)

Yusuf Emre Akgündüz, Altan Aldan and Yusuf Kenan Bagır

[Armed Conflict and Household Source of Water](#)

George Naufal, Michael Malcolm and Vidya Diwakar

[Can Unconditional Cash Transfers Mitigate the Impact of Armed Conflict on Child Nutrition in Yemen?](#)

Olivier Ecker and Jean-François Maystadt

[Geographical Exposure to Conflicts and Firm Performance: Evidence from the MENA Region](#)

Daniel Mirza, Rita Der Sarkisian, and Chahir Zaki

THE MICRO-LEVEL ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF VIOLENT CONFLICT ON LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE MENA REGION

[Money Matters: The impact of cash transfers on Syrian refugee children in Lebanon](#)

Wael Moussa, Nisreen Salti, Jad Chaaban, Hala Ghattas, Alexandra Irani, Zeina Jamaluddine, and Rima Al Mokdad

[Children of war: conflict and child welfare in Iraq](#)

Reham Rizk and Colette Salemi

[Terrorism, Mental Health, Risky Behaviors and Human Capital: Evidence from Iraq](#)

Ahmed Elsayed

[Violent Conflict and Vaccinations: Evidence from Iraq](#)

Georges Naufal, Vidya Diwakar, and Michael Malcolm

[The impact of the large-scale migration on the unmet healthcare needs of the native-born population in a host country: Evidence from Turkey](#)

Hüseyin İkizler, Emre Yüksel and Hüsniye Burçin İkizler

[Inequality of Opportunities in Access to Basic Services among Children in Host Communities in Jordan and Lebanon: A Comparative Analysis](#)

Hatem Jemmali

[Are Syrians refugees earn less than natives and other migrants in Jordan: Evidence from distributional analysis of wage differentials](#)

Hatem Jemmali

[The Impact of Syrian Conflict and the Refugee Crisis on Labour Market Outcomes of Host Countries](#)

Eleftherios Giovanis and Oznur Ozdamar

[Exposure to Political Conflict and Student Behavior: Evidence from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#)

Belal Fallah and Sameh Hallaq

ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCY AND CONFLICT:

[What does the literature tell us on the relationship between economic interdependence and conflict management](#)

Katarzyna Sidło

[Investigating the impact of enhanced economic interdependence on conflict management](#)

Mohamed Ali Marouani and Gunes Asik

[Sanctions, wars and MENA Trade](#)

Khalid Sekkat

[The Relationship between Economic Interdependence and Conflict Prevention: An Institutional Perspective](#)

Ibrahim Saif