

Appendix 4 – Some information about the participants

Noha El-Mikawy:

Senior Research Fellow Center for Development Research (ZEF) University of Bonn

Brief Description of Work:

Research center and doctoral program in development studies. Work on joint projects in an interdisciplinary manner.

Main Research Interests:

Trade, Eco-labelling, Macroeconomics of developing countries, natural resource management, social services for the poor, governance & rule of law, conflict prevention, biodiversity and ecological sustainability

Research to Policy Connection:

Research is often funded by government ministries with a mandate in developing countries. How direct is the research's influence on government policy is not easy to tell. Whenever a direct relationship existed, there was successful public feasibility and public relations campaigns to simplify and broadcast research results. This is not always the case though. It is very much person dependent. Our institution does not have a mature PR department. Our institution has an internal struggle among those who want to maintain a scientific image and those who want to engage in policy advocacy. The former group fears the latter detracts from scientific vigor / neutrality.

Questionnaire Score: A: 36; B: 32; C: 35; D: 47

Brahim Mansour

Professor of Economics (Faculty of Law and Economics)

Background Information

Professor of economics at Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakesh) and leader of the Moroccan GDN-BRP Team working on "Bridging Research and Policy in Morocco: Analytical and Empirical Approaches". I am also the leader of the Moroccan team working on "Understanding Reforms: The Case of Morocco Since Early 1980s" (Global Development Network).

Please, note also that I have conducted a country-case study on BRP on the theme "Why the Moroccan Government Does not use Reliable Research When Implementing Fiscal Policy reforms?: The Driving Role of Governance and Interest Group Pressures" (see www.gdnet.org).

My research interests are as follows: public finance, governance, institutions, macroeconomics, financial markets, development.

Influencing Policy Through Research: Experiences, Difficulties and Hopes

To better understand obstacles to the bridging of research and policy, it would be important to study it in terms of supply of and demand for research. While the quality of research supply matters for uptake of research by policy-makers, there are also hostilities to the consumption of research from decision-makers themselves. Among reasons of these hostilities, one can mention the cultural gap between researchers and policy-makers. In this sense, the two communities of researchers and policy-makers tend to live in two different worlds and to conduct a 'debate of hollows'. Moreover, phenomena like bad governance and interest group pressures prevent policy-makers from using relevant policy research. According to our interviews with certain collaborators of policy-makers in Morocco, decision-makers are interested in solving 'day-to-day' issues not to consume research which is conducted mainly to solve long-run problems. Among interviewed persons, there are those who think that theory and sophisticated empirical models are not helpful to solve policy problems at the stages of problem definition, design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

In spite of these obstacles to the uptake of research by policy-makers, researchers should work in favor of communicating their work to policy circles. Research should be produced and communicated in a more digestible way to facilitate its comprehension and consumption by policy-makers. According to our modest experience in this area, we often simplify our analytical and empirical works, especially in public finance, to reach a wide audience. To achieve this objective, we often use radio and newspapers. We think that these communication channels are preferred. Our articles in scientific reviews are necessary to exchange ideas with academicians. Published sophisticated analytical and empirical works are however less helpful to reach policy-makers.

We hope that researchers in Morocco and the MENA Region in general will devote additional efforts to the communication of their research works in a more digestible way so as the gap between research and policy-making can be bridged. We hope also that policy-makers in the region will tend to listen to researchers and to use relevant policy research. Cooperation between 'in-house' research units within ministerial departments and 'external' research institutes is highly recommended. Such cooperation has to foster links between public policies and reliable research for purposes of development and poverty alleviation.

Questionnaire Score: A: 26; B: 32; C: 48; D: 44

Marwan A. Kardoosh

Economic Consultant The Higher Council for Science & Technology

Description of work:

The conduct of in-depth research on the Jordanian economy (at both its macro and micro levels) and society with emphasis on critical issues that are of interest to policy makers in the public sector, businessmen and investors in the private sector, or the concerned public at large.

Description of research interest:

I am mainly interested in issues related to trade and labor.

An example of research-policy interaction:

I was recently contracted by the Higher Council for Science & Technology to produce a "Jordan Country Report" (a la the Economist Intelligence Unit). If there is one conclusion to be derived from this experience, it is that: whenever the report indicated flaws in economic policy, government officials were lukewarm towards any change. In fact, I clearly remember getting into an argument with the governor of the Central of Jordan on how dare the report question the government's monetary policy. In particular, the governor expressed his concern that the report called on the government to rethink its pegging of the national currency against the US dollar, in the wake of rising exports to the US. Incidentally, the World Bank Jordan country desk made a similar plea a few weeks later...

As a researcher I can also tell that in this part of the world, it is not always possible to document all of the findings, let alone present it to government officials whose status and authority are linked to the continuation of the status quo. I've also had at times to tone down some of the findings, so as not to draw unnecessary heat from other branches of government.

Questionnaire Score: A: 23; B: 50; C: 35; D: 42

Charles D Adwan

Executive Director, The Lebanese Transparency Association

Description of work:

The organization functions both as a think-tank and as an advocacy NGO. In addition to awareness raising, through holding conferences and seminars, we issue publications that focused

and targeted at specific themes that serve specific reform interests on our agenda. Recently we have engaged in lobbying efforts to pass an Access to Information law.

Main Research Interests:

My main research interests are: good governance, reform, transparency and accountability. Although these summarize my main research tendencies in the past few years, I have also worked on broader issues such as democracy, civil society, development, and youth political empowerment.

For lack of time, I will not be able to give an elaborate description of some cases where our research has influenced policy, but I can list two examples where, conducting research and publicizing it regularly on access to information led public officials to prepare a draft law on the issue and to respond to Civil Society's pressure to contribute to the law. Another example is when research and publications on decentralization and democracy led to the establishment of a large nation-wide campaign to hold municipal elections in Lebanon after delays of over 35 years. Elections were held after a year of campaigning and lobbying. I am also involved in an action-research network project, ARABGOVNET, that had been dormant for a while.

Questionnaire Score: A: 33; B: 29; C: 46; D: 42

Mouna Cherkaoui

Professor Faculté des Sciences Juridiques Economiques et Sociales,

Questionnaire Score: A: 46; B: 25; C: 29; D: 50

Nader Habibi

Economist, Middle East and Africa Service

Questionnaire Score: A: 37; B: 39; C: 36; D: 47

Abdel Hameed Bashir

Questionnaire Score: A: 33; B: 22; C: 45; D: 50

Kitty Chan

Economist, USDA Economics Research Institute

Questionnaire Score:

A: 38; B: 22; C: 39; D: 51